

The Auxiliary Pulse

Fall - 2021



President's Message - Linda Wolff

I hope you all had a good summer. Things aren't quite what they were before Covid hit but, hopefully, you were able to enjoy the beautiful weather and gather with friends and family.

Fall is in the air and, as we head into this time of year, it's exciting to see how the Auxiliary is returning to the hospital. Thanks to Bunny McElliott, Second VP, and the Department Chairs, we are gradually opening up the departments. Departments that are currently active are: Information Desk, Gift Shop, Escort, Registration, Surgery, Clerical, Imaging, and Shuttle. Other departments will be opening soon or when Covid protocols allow. Check out the Gift Shop! Carole does a great job of purchasing. There's something in there for everyone!!



Things seem to change daily concerning the Covid requirements. Thank you to all of you for being flexible and keeping informed. Our latest good news is that boosters are now available for our Auxiliary volunteers who received Pfizer. See the article on Page 8 for more information. Please note that boosters are not required to be considered fully vaccinated. Also, please follow the mask requirements of the hospital. No cloth masks are allowed. Since things do change so often, please read any emails that come your way from the office or volunteer mail.

I want to personally congratulate Bunny McElliot on being named Tri-City Auxiliary's Volunteer of the Year for the North County Philanthropy Council. We have many volunteers who would qualify for this honor, but no one qualifies more than Bunny. She truly puts her heart into all she does! Congratulations, Bunny! The ceremony will be a virtual ceremony again this year. Information will be coming soon on how to watch the coverage.

We look forward to the Carlsbad Street Fair on Sunday, November 11th. We will be manning a booth with TCMC. This is a great opportunity for us to hand out our new brochure and, hopefully, recruit some volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, contact Arleen McCartney.

You will also notice that there is an article on Page 6 about our Scholarship Program. After taking a year off due to Covid, we are excited to be able to award scholarships again this year to college students. You might want to consider being a donor. It's a wonderful way to honor a loved one while investing in the future of a student.

I'm looking forward to continuing this journey with you as we re-establish the Auxiliary. If I don't see you personally, may you have a very happy and safe holiday season!

~ Linda

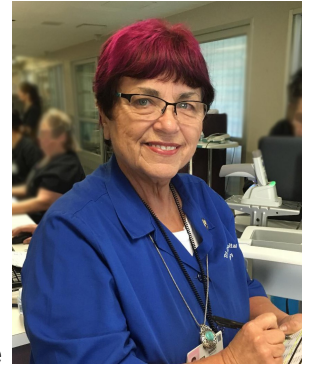


Chair's Corner

By Bunny McElliott, Second Vice President

As your Second Vice President, it is my pleasure to work with all our dedicated Department Chairs and provide this regular report.

Things are really starting to move as our Departments reopen and begin work. As of this writing Clerical, Courtesy Shuttle, Orientation, Information Desk, Patient Escort, Gift Shop, Imaging, Registration, and Surgery are all open and operating. Hopefully, the Lab and ICU departments can open in the coming months. Chris Sheets has agreed to be the new Chair of Registration. Thank you, Chris. If you are interested in joining one of the currently open Departments, contact that department Chair.



Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, we are not sure when our departments for Greeter, Emergency, Postpartum, NICU, Advocacy, Pet Therapy, and the Wellness Center will return. We will keep you posted as we know more.

By the way, we need a Chair for our Emergency Department. Please contact me if you are interested.



Board Happenings

By Liz Brayton, First Vice President



Your Board is back in action and meeting on a monthly basis. Here are the highlights of recent meetings. Joining the first Board meeting was Steve Dietlin, Tri-City Medical Center CEO. Mr. Dietlin extended the warmest welcome to the Auxiliary as we return to service. He expressed his thanks for all we do to make the Tri-City Medical Center a caring place for healing.

New Brochure – Publicity Director Suzanne Knauf, Recruitment Director Arleen McCartney, and a small committee of the Board have revised our Auxiliary brochure, focusing on new post-Covid requirements and the new website address. Stop by the Auxiliary office to see a copy for yourself.

Budget – The 2021-22 budget was developed by Treasurer Roz Bussey and approved by the Board at their September meeting. A modest surplus is expected this year.

New Members – Orientation Chair Michael Unverferth held the first new member orientation meeting since our return and added a class of eight new Auxilians. Additional classes will be held monthly.

Standing Rules Change – In September, the Board approved a proposed change to the Standing Rules. Additional information on this change is included elsewhere in *Pulse*.



Department Spotlight



As our Departments return we are happy to highlight their news and accomplishments. Here is the latest from our Information Desk and the Gift Shop.

Gift Shop – by Carole Vance

After being closed for 15 months, the Gift Shop re-opened on Sunday, August 8, 2021 with 22 very enthusiastic volunteers. We are all happy to be back supporting the hospital staff, visitors, and patients at TCMC.

We have a large variety of gift items and clothing, as well as candy and snacks to choose from. The hospital staff has been very welcoming and happy to support the Gift Shop and we greatly appreciate their business.

Our current hours are Monday thru Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:15 pm and Fridays and Sundays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We are currently closed on Saturdays. As situations allow, we hope to expand our hours and days.



Kathy Everhart and Nancy Anderson, open for business.



Information Desk – by Donna McConnell

We are so pleased that nearly everyone has returned with the exception of our High School and College student volunteers. All volunteers were very eager to return and many agreed to work different shifts, helping fill our schedule. Thank you all.



Roz Bussey and Nancy Russian keeping everyone informed.

We are now following new visitor guidelines with just two visitors allowed each day per patient and a one-hour time limit on each visit. In keeping with current visitor hours, our coverage is from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday thru Friday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and Sunday.

All Volunteers were extremely happy to be returning!



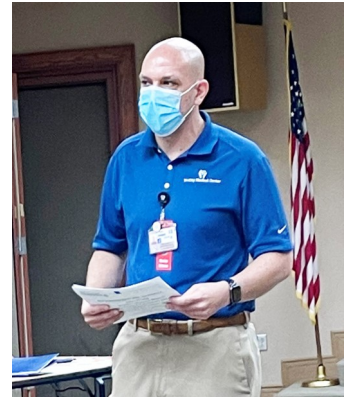
Privacy Matters

Your Board hosted a special guest at its September meeting. Roger Cortez is Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer for Tri-City Medical Center and is responsible for assuring that State and Federal rules and regulations for healthcare compliance for hospitals are followed.

One of the most important federal laws impacting hospitals, as well as our Auxiliary, is HIPAA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Passed in 1996, one of the Act's most broadly known provisions cover the protection of patient privacy.

Failure by any individual connected to a hospital to safeguard patient information can result in devastating penalties for the hospital. To avoid this, we are all reminded of the ways we can act to keep patient information private. These include:

- Never share information gained in the hospital with other people. Keep information on a “need to know” basis. What happens at TCMC, stays at TCMC.
- No Snooping – No Gossiping.
- Respect privacy of famous people. “Famous” does not only mean celebrities, but can also mean local government officials, your neighbor, or anyone you know.
- Do Not Assume. Never assume that people around the patient are aware of a medical situation. Do not talk to others about a patient.
- Be responsible on social media. No posting about what you see or what happens at TCMC.
- No photos in TCMC that might include patients or their information. Best idea is don't take pictures.



Roger Cortez
Chief Compliance Officer

If you are aware of a potential problem, contact the Office of Compliance and Privacy at (760) 940-3117 or the 24/7 Hotline (844) 521-7862. If you prefer email, their address is compliancedept@tcmc.com.



Proposed Standing Rules Change

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary has recommended and approved the following revision of the Standing Rules.

Existing

18. The President shall be given a minimum of \$100 per month for discretionary expenses.

Proposed Change

18. The annual budget will include the President's Fund of \$1,200 per year. The President may access this fund, at his/her discretion, to purchase items or services for the Auxiliary that do not fall into other budget categories. All expenditures must be supported by receipt.

Please direct any comments or questions to Jane Palmiotti, Parliamentarian, c/o the Auxiliary office.



2021 Volunteer of the Year

To be named Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year is indeed an accomplishment. We are very pleased to announce that Bunny McElliott is our 2021 recipient following Judy Howard-Jones (2018), Connie Jones (2019), and Donna McConnell (2020).

Bunny joined the Auxiliary in 2013 but her history with hospital service goes much further back. Bunny actually volunteered as a Candy Striper while in High School. This experience may actually have prepared her for one of her current assignments, Coordinator for our High School Volunteer Program.

Earlier this year the Auxiliary was called to action when TCMC began delivering Covid-19 inoculations. The effort had three components: shuttle bus



service in the parking lot, the actual clinic operations, and the all-important phone bank. The phone bank program created a critical personal link between the clinic effort and many community members unable to use computer technology to make appointments. Bunny headed this effort and her crew worked 850 hours in just a few months.



In addition to her service as High School Volunteer Coordinator, Bunny is a Volunteer Patient Advocate, a Scholarship Committee member, and our current Second Vice President.

We close this article with Bunny's own words. When asked what makes volunteering at Tri-City Medical Center worthwhile, here is what she said. "A patient couldn't find her reading glasses. She started crying when I offered her a pair to keep. She was so grateful for this small act. It shocked me that such a small thing could make someone's day. We see so many of these little, but powerful moments at TCMC...What can be more gratifying?"



Congratulations and job well done.



Ideas?

This is YOUR newsletter, so we want your ideas for articles or other items of interest. We want to know what interests you. If you have something to share, that is welcome as well. Just remember to avoid subjects that may be distressful to other readers. Drop your thoughts or suggestions in the "Pulse" box in the Auxiliary office or email them to Peterfusselman@yahoo.com.



Supporting Healthcare's Future

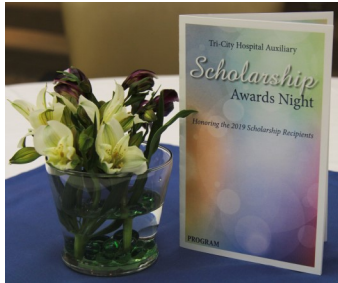
By Connie Jones,
Scholarship Committee Chair

If the current Covid crisis has taught us anything it is the value of well-trained doctors and nurses. An important part of the mission of the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary is to “assist the Medical Center in promoting the health and well-being of the community.” One way we are accomplishing this is through our TCHA Scholarship Program and its support for local students who are pursuing careers in the medical field.



Since its creation in 1973, the TCHA Scholarship Program has given scholarships worth over \$1 million to deserving local individuals seeking medical careers at MiraCosta College, Palomar College and California State University San Marcos. In addition to the general student population, TCHA scholarships are available to our Auxiliary Volunteers that are attending a college or university preparing for a career in the medical field.

Scholarship recipients and donors are recognized in the spring of each year at the Scholarship Awards Night. This is a wonderful opportunity for donors to meet the recipient of their scholarship and know firsthand how their donation is being used. The date of the 2022 Scholarship Awards Night will be announced soon.



In 2020, 75 scholarships were awarded to 96 students totaling \$75,500. Funding for these scholarships comes primarily from donations by our volunteers, the hospital and its staff, and grateful community members.

We invite you to become a Scholarship Program donor by making a gift supporting scholarships to deserving local students. Gifts of all amounts are welcome and appreciated. A gift of \$1,000 can be made to create a named scholarship honoring a loved one. Please contact Nancy Miller, Scholarship Donor Program Chair, at nmiller132@hotmail.com for more information.



Christmas in August?



Our Auxiliary Workshop elves (Destiny Ramirez, Peggy Anstey, Judy Rice) are getting a jump on the holidays working on the Christmas stockings for the December babies. To keep everyone in the proper spirit, Christmas carols were provided on Judy's cell phone.

With the holidays approaching, we will soon be decorating the hospital lobby. Keep an eye open for announcements.



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Attention College TCHA Volunteers

Included among our currently active volunteers are a number of dedicated college students, all giving freely of their time and talents to support our mission. Many of these individuals plan on careers in healthcare, continuing their service to our community.

If you are one of these dedicated individuals pursuing higher education in the medical field, the Auxiliary extends this offer to apply for one of a limited number of scholarships available for the 2022 academic year.

Applicants must have a 3.0 GPA, be currently volunteering at TCMC, and have completed a minimum of 100 hours of volunteer service to Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary by January 28, 2022. More information on other eligibility criteria, as well as the structure of scholarships, can be found in the application documents.



If you qualify and are interested in applying, please pick up a Structure and Criteria for the Student Volunteer Scholarship and Application packet found by the VOLTRAK sign-in computer at the Information Desk after November 1, 2021.

For more information contact Scholarship Committee Chair, Connie Jones at undfan@sbcglobal.net.



Flu Shots Available

Yes, flu season has returned. All employees and Auxilians will be required to get a flu shot or continue to wear a mask after the end of Covid requirements. If you decide to decline a flu shot, you must also fill out a declination form in Employee Health.

The Medical Center will again provide free flu shots. This year they will be on an appointment basis, no walk-ins. Appointments will be available from October 11 to November 30. To book an appointment you will need to use your computer and have either Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge as your browser.

To make this easier, we have created a shortened website address. Using Chrome or Edge, go to tinyurl.com/Auxflushots. Click the blue "create an account" link, fill in your information, create your own username and password. Be sure to save your username and password as you will need it for future appointments. Use this username and password to log into the system and book your appointment. Appointments are Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

For those unable to use this system, you can get the shot from your doctor and bring documentation to Employee Health or call Ana in Employee Health at (760) 940-7270 to set up an appointment.



Vaccine Clinic Returns

Now that Covid vaccine boosters are available, our Auxiliary is once again assisting TCMC efforts to serve our community. Headed this time by Susan Harris, Pet Therapy Auxiliary Volunteer, this effort began in earnest on Friday, October 1st and is expected to continue as long as booster shots are being offered at TCMC. Shots are being administered in the Assembly Rooms. Assisting Susan are several Auxilians from our initial Vaccine Clinic.

All Auxiliary members were sent an email on September 29 detailing who can get booster shots and the process for making an appointment.



Linda Wolff passes the torch, actually vaccine stickers, to Susan Harris, Chair of the Booster Vaccine Clinic.



To recap this memo, only the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for boosters. All appointments are being handled through the State website, www.myturn.ca.gov. We will keep you advised as other vaccine boosters become available.

We are advised by hospital medical staff that currently a booster shot is NOT required to be considered fully vaccinated. Please refer to the September 29 email for more information on booster availability and the appointment process.

L to R: Judy Rice, Destiny Ramirez, Susan Harris, Lynn Fisher.



Our Poet Laureate

Regular readers of *Pulse* may remember that in early 2020 BC (Before Covid) we introduced our own Poet Laureate, Geoff Armour. We are pleased to offer yet another of his whimsical poems for your pleasure.

Geoff will be returning to service when his department opens, hopefully soon.

Nice work, Geoff.



MY MATTRESS AND I

Night after night, for years on end,
My mattress has been my closest friend.
My mattress and I are cozy and pally.
There are hills on the sides -- I sleep in the valley.
Its contours reflect the first and the last of me,
It's very nearly a plaster cast of me.
I'll miss my mattress when I am gone;
It's one thing I've made an impression on.

Geoff Armour

TRI-CITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

4002 Vista Way Oceanside CA, 92056

T: 760-940-3125 E: auxiliary@tcmc.com www.tricityhospitalauxiliary.org