

The Auxiliary Pulse

Winter - 2022



President's Message - Linda Wolff

Happy New Year!!

I hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday season. It is my greatest hope that 2022 will bring more health and happiness than we experienced in 2021.

Things are constantly changing at Tri-City Medical Center. As the Auxiliary, we are trying to do our best to keep up with new regulations and protocols to help provide necessary support. This can be quite challenging. With the new state mandates in place, Covid boosters are now required of hospital personnel.



At a special Auxiliary Board meeting on January 12, it was passed that ALL volunteers must show proof of Covid vaccine booster. Records of this are being kept in Employee Health. If you have received your booster shot and wish to be on campus at the hospital, you must email a photocopy of your Covid card with proof of booster to employeehealth@tcmc.com. If you do not have email, you may bring your card to Employee Health to be recorded. You will then be placed on the active volunteer list. No volunteer is allowed on campus without recorded proof of booster. We hope to be getting new badges for those volunteers that have been cleared to work.

In the near future, you will be receiving your dues envelope and letter of explanation in the mail. We did not collect dues last year because of the long period of absence from duties due to Covid. This year, dues will remain \$15 for active volunteers and are due by March 1st. Once again, proof of your booster recorded in Employee Health is required to be an active member.



Susan Harris

Having been the Volunteer Coordinator for the Covid Vaccine Clinic for the first part of last year and knowing what goes into that, I want to thank Susan Harris for her efforts and coordination of the Covid Booster Clinic that is currently underway at Tri-City Medical Center. She is doing a wonderful job of meeting the needs of staff and community. Thanks also to the volunteers who have stepped up to help in this effort as well!

I also want to thank all Board members, Chairpersons, and volunteers who have so diligently worked and remained flexible during all the changes. It is a pleasure working with all of you! May 2022 allow us to move beyond Covid and back into what we do best, supporting the hospital along with enjoying Auxiliary events and spending time with each other.

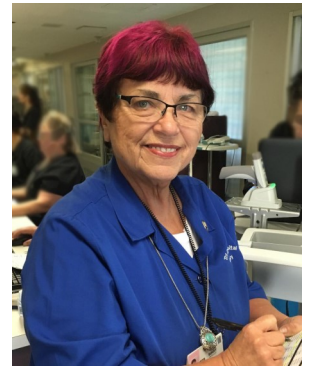
~ Linda



Chair's Corner

By Bunny McElliott, Second Vice President

Happy New Year! How exciting to have been back at Tri City Medical as Auxiliary for more than half of 2021! It has been heartwarming to hear so many TCMC staff affirm our return with comments like, "It lifts our spirits to see you"... "you bring 'light' back"... "you bring happy back." This is thanks to the great dedication of each department, those back, and those waiting to return fully. All of you volunteers giving time and offering a caring presence to all who enter TCMC are very visible and most appreciated. Thank you for your valued service.



Our Department Chairs have been busy attending refreshers, organizing, and training new and returning Auxilians. A huge undertaking was updating each department's Service Agreements and Rules and Procedures. The Chairpersons of departments yet to open are chomping at the bit to get their groups back in action, yet still were busy updating and organizing.

We are hoping this coming year will bring all departments back, safely and with sufficient staffing. Currently open departments include Clerical, Courtesy Shuttle, Escort, Gift Shop, Imaging, Information Desk, Registration, Surgery, and Workshop. The next departments to open, Pet Therapy and ICU, will hopefully be back in action soon.

Of course, the biggest deciding factor for departments returning is how Covid is acting in the hospital and community. Fingers are crossed to get Advocates, Greeters, Emergency, Wellness Center, High School Volunteers, and Laboratory departments back to work soon. In the meantime, we are grateful for those Auxilians who are working in open departments while waiting for their previous placements to open up!

On a side note, many thanks for the awesome privilege of being named the North County Philanthropy Volunteer of the Year for Tri City Hospital Auxiliary. I am humbled and proud to volunteer at TCMC and to work with so many incredible TCH Auxilians. You are all heroes in my book!



Current Office Hours

As we continue to bring back departments and add new volunteers, many of us will want access to the Auxiliary office. As of this publication, our Auxiliary Office is not yet open every weekday. Here is the current Auxiliary office hour schedule:

Monday through Wednesday - 8:30am to 4:00pm

Thursday - 8:30am to Noon

Friday - Noon to 4:00pm

Saturday & Sunday - Closed



Department Spotlight



This edition we are pleased to spotlight our **Workshop** and **Courtesy Shuttle** departments.

Workshop - by Dorothy Indieri

Workshop, with its talented crafters, makes wonderful gifts for our patients. Back at work since June, these “sew sisters” keep busy making fun felt toys and stretchy caterpillars to comfort patients, little and big, in ER or Registration. Seasonal tray cards that brighten patients’ dinner trays are made for each month.

Workshop also makes “Lovey” dolls for babies in the NICU. They are cuddled by the mom and left (with her scent) for the babies when they have to stay a bit longer in the hospital.



Workshop makes 50 red fleece stockings decorated with green felt holly, the letters “TCMC” and the numerals of the current year, for the babies born in December. For the first baby of the New Year they make a special white stocking with a large #1, a little knit white cap and a beautiful crocheted blanket.

We thank our Workshop volunteers for the comfort they bring patients and for helping make TCMC a special place for healing.

Courtesy Shuttle - by Dave McCarthy

Courtesy Shuttle, with its two extended length golf carts, is an important service at Tri-City Medical Center offered by the Auxiliary. Drivers transport patients and visitors from various parking lots to destinations all around the campus.

One of the early departments to reopen, Courtesy Shuttle was a big part of the Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic effort last year. Since then, the number of people requiring the shuttle has dwindled, however, they continue to serve about 275 visitors per week.

Rita Gross, Courtesy Shuttle Chair for many years, recently stepped down. The new department Chair, Dave McCarthy, is no stranger to delivering people to hospitals. He volunteered as an ambulance driver in an earlier time in his native New England. We can assume that Courtesy Shuttle at TCMC is less stressful work.





Celebrating Our Volunteer of the Year

The November 5, 2021 Volunteer of the Year Event sponsored by the North County Philanthropy Council was held “virtually,” which is to say many of us watched it on television. Unfortunately limited by the Pandemic, TCMC 2021 Volunteer of the Year Bunny McElliott shared the day with friends and family. We thought you might enjoy a few pictures.

Bunny’s Family



L to R: Bunny, Robyn Mier (daughter), Kitty Koss (sister), Terry & Clark Novak (sister and brother-in-law).

Past Volunteers of the Year



L to R: Donna McConnell (2020), Bunny McElliott (2021), Connie Jones (2019).

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TRI-CITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NAMES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



The Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary has named Bunny McElliott as the 2021 Volunteer of the Year.

Bunny joined the Hospital Auxiliary in 2013 but her history with the hospital goes back much further. In fact, Bunny served as a Candy Stripper at Tri-City Hospital when she was in high school—a position that prepared her for one of her current roles as Coordinator for the Auxiliary’s High School Volunteer Program.

Bunny also served in the critical role of heading up the phone bank team for TCMC’s COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Bunny and her team volunteered more than 850 hours over several months. This phone bank helped facilitate appointments for community members who were having difficulty accessing or using technology.

Additionally, Bunny serves as a Volunteer Patient Advocate, is current Second Vice President and is a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Bunny McElliott, TCHA 2021 Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Bunny for this well deserved recognition!

From TCMC `newsletter, Heart of Tri-City.



Post-Holiday Shopping Anyone?

With the gifts opened and the decorations put away, this might be the perfect time to think about that cute bit of decoration or charming knickknack for the house. Gift Shop Manager Carole Vance has done a great job of adding new and attractive items.

As if all that wonderful merchandise wasn’t enough, Auxilians get a 20% discount on many items. Once you are back in your Department, be sure to tell the Medical Center staff that the Gift Shop is open for business with cute items and great prices.

As you may know, the profits from the Gift Shop make it possible for the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary to give an annual gift to the hospital. In 2019, the last full year before the Pandemic, your Auxiliary donated \$70,000. Let’s keep up the good work!





Passings

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of three dedicated Auxiliary members since our last edition. We all join in remembering their contributions and honoring their service.

Sandy Tucker



Sandy joined the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary in October of 2010. Her love of life led her to an obvious choice of departments, Women’s and Newborn Services, formerly known as Maternal Child Care, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In 2011 she became Chair of these two departments, holding that position until the Covid-19 outbreak. Sandy also chaired the Junior Volunteer Program for 3 years.

A natural leader, Sandy joined the Auxiliary Board of Directors as Second Vice President in 2013 and served as President from July 2014 to June 2016. A

Patron Life Member, Sandy recorded nearly 5,500 hours of service.

Judy Caine

Joining in May of 2010, Judy was a Patron Life Member logging nearly 5,800 hours of service. Her primary department was the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Her interest in computers led her to volunteer her help with both the VOLTRAK system and the new Auxiliary website. Judy served three years on the Auxiliary Board of Directors from 2013 through 2016.



Moira McLaren

Known for her delightful Scottish brogue, Moira McLaren served the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary for 40 years, having joined in May of 1981. During that time, Moira accumulated 13,520 hours and was awarded Life Membership for her exemplary service. Working at the Information Desk, Moira was remembered fondly as a “germ monitor” well before Covid-19, always keeping her area spotless.



Recognizing Service



As most of us know, we work with some pretty dedicated people at the hospital. This includes staff as well as our fellow Auxilians. The next time you are at the hospital, be on the lookout for staff members wearing the special badge like the one shown to the left. TCMC is making it a point to recognizing its staff members who served in our nation’s military. When you see someone sporting this badge, know that this is former military.



Thank you, Rita Gross

After an incredible run at the helm of TCH Auxiliary Courtesy Shuttle, Rita Gross has passed the torch as Chairperson. During her six years as Courtesy Shuttle Chair, Rita made sure her department was both well run and a welcoming face for visitors, patients, and staff.

Courtesy Shuttle was a critical part of our highly successful Vaccine Clinics effort in 2021. The early vaccine patients were mostly elderly or infirmed. Rita's ability to quickly bring back her drivers and keep the carts operating epitomized our Auxiliary motto of *Care-Serve-Belong*.

Rita leaves her department in good hands and with a forward-looking plan. Dave McCarthy has already stepped up as Chair, submitting an interesting Department Spotlight. Before leaving, Rita developed a maintenance plan for our shuttle carts that will be working its way through the TCMC operations planning process. Regular maintenance will help assure that those needing assistance to our door will continue to be well served.

Rita, you will be missed. Thank you for all you did to serve the TCMC community through the Courtesy Shuttle department. Enjoy retirement!

Editor's Note: In preparing this article we discovered that Rita was also very good at avoiding our cameras. Unfortunately, we don't have a photo to share.



Elections

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, thank you for being a part of Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary family. We will soon conduct elections for our 2022-23 Board of Directors. The Auxiliary Board of Directors consists of fifteen members. New Directors are elected for a one-year term and returning Directors seek a three-year term. The Gift Shop Manager and Treasurer are elected for one-year terms.



Many current eligible Board members are seeking reelection; however, additional nominations and volunteers are needed and very welcome. Please consider bringing your talents and expertise to our Board. Applications are located in the Auxiliary office and found on Page 7 of this *Auxiliary Pulse*. Please return your application to the Auxiliary office or email it to janepalm43@gmail.com **no later than February 23, 2022**.

The ballots will be mailed on April 4, 2022. When completing your ballot, you may also use the blank space provided for a write-in candidate. The last date to vote will be April 23, 2022. A ballot box will be provided in the Auxiliary Office.

Jane Palmiotti
Parliamentarian



TRI-CITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
Board of Directors
Nomination Application

I hereby give my permission to the Nominating Committee to place my name in nomination for a one-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary for its 2022-23 term. I understand that, in accordance with the By-Laws, if I fail to attend three or more Board meetings in any year without approval of the President of the Board, I may be asked to resign from the Board.

(Name) (Signature) (Date)

AUXILIARY CONTRIBUTIONS

- 1. Date you joined the Auxiliary _____
- 2. Booster Vaccine Date (required) _____
- 3. Departments or Administrative services in which you worked

- 4. _____ Chair
- 5. _____ Co-Chair
- 6. _____ Assistant Chair

Committees

Additional services, responsibilities, assignments

If necessary, please use back of application for additional information.
Email this application to janepalm43@gmail.com or bring to Auxiliary office on or before February 23, 2022.



Welcome New Members

With recruitment of new members a top priority we are very pleased to recognize and welcome our latest additions to the team. We are very happy to have 19 new Auxilians since our return the middle of 2021. We thank them for their service and look forward to many years working together.

Clerical

Luna Azul Chacon Roman

Escort

Kimberly Gross

Cheryl McGrady

Kyra Miller

Judith Ruvalcaba

Information Desk

Jasdeep Kaur

Imaging Department

Peggy Burruss

Nelly Carespe

Gift Shop

Lilly Crouch

Julianne Garon

Janet Hale

Kym Page

Kaylien Santiago-Badillo

Jieun Seo

Registration

Sharon Mijares

Surgery

Chandler Law

Candice Yoneyama

Courtesy Shuttle

Alexis Renwanz

Thomas Streeter



Holiday Cheer

In case you missed it, the Tri-City Medical Center lobby was once again given special holiday flair thanks to Lynn Fisher and her helpers from the hospital maintenance staff. We thought we would end this edition with a few photos and a much deserved “Thanks” to Lynn for all she does to keep the holidays cheery. The fireplace, however, is courtesy of Photoshop - we thought it would add to the holiday ambience.



TRI-CITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

4002 Vista Way Oceanside CA, 92056

T: 760-940-3125

E: auxiliary@tcmc.com

www.tricityhospitalauxiliary.org