

## **WEST RIVER HEALTH SERVICES AUXILIARY**

The Hettinger Hospital Guild was organized on October 5, 1949, with Mrs. Ray Clark as President, an office she held continually until January 1961. It was agreed at the first meeting that \$1 annual dues were to be charged for each membership.

The first project was the purchase of materials and the sewing of drapes for patient rooms. The group also spent many hours preparing the hospital for opening day.

This began an endless list of gifts to the hospital by the Guild for items needed in all departments of the facility. Some of the more expensive equipment the Guild sponsored, in part or wholly paid for, were an X-ray machine and X-ray screen, oxygen tents, Electrocardiograph and resuscitator. They also paid for the digging of supplemental water well. Money for lab equipment was donated in memory of President Selma Gabreth; a cardio scope; a \$1,000 isolate for premature babies and \$2,500 was given to the hospital for projects during the 60's.

The Guild presented a gift to the first baby born in the hospital and has continued this practice each year. A \$50 savings bond is now given to the first baby born during Hospital Week.

After thirteen years of being the Hospital Guild, the organization changed its name in 1963 to the Auxiliary when joining the state organization.

In 1962, the Auxiliary president was Ardis Skaarvold. Other Presidents included Helen Amsden, Evelyn Haag, Selma Galbreth, Bea West, Susie Melby and Lillian Stenberg. Those were very productive years for the Auxiliary, with a membership growth of 96 new members recorded.

During that time, the Auxiliary asked other organizations in the area to join them in their fund raising efforts. Nine organizations helped with bazaars, carnivals, talent shows, rummage sales, teas, serving lunch at community auctions and ice cream socials.

There was a sewing committee, which was kept busy making dozens of towels, potholders, sterilization covers, slippers and other supplies. Mrs. Lena (Dabu) Springer was chairperson of this committee.

The "famous knives" currently sold by the Auxiliary were first ordered in 1966 and continue to be a great source of revenue.

Another project started in 1967 was making caps for newborn babies. A cap was given to every baby born in the hospital until the late 90's.

The 1970's were busy years for the Hospital Auxiliary. The largest one-time event and the highest revenue for a project was when 220 people participated in the "Hee Haw Show" starring the Toastmaster Club and the Hee Haw Gang MCs. Edith Wothe was president at that time.

Cherry Giese, Lizzie Anderson, Marian Retzer, Halfrid Knudson and Carolyn VanWyk were also presidents during the 70's.

Remodeling and an addition to the hospital found the Auxiliary busy with refreshments and acting as tour guides in May 1970. The Howell Addition was dedicated in 1975 at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hospital. This addition brought forth a new look in the lobby. New furniture was given as well as drapes and other accessories in honor of the anniversary.

In 1977, the Auxiliary contracted to put televisions in each patient room. Many raffles began during this year. The annual Plant Transplant Sale was started and continues today thanks to the efforts of our current active members, especially Jan Sailer, the organizer.

From 1981 to January 2008, Eva Knutson was president of the Auxiliary. In 2003, she received the Good Neighbor Award from the North Dakota Rural Health Association, for her many years as president of the Auxiliary.

West River Health Services Foundation became active in the Auxiliary in the mid 90's and since that time Cindy Del Olson has been liaison between the Auxiliary and staff of the hospital.

From 1949 to 2006, the Auxiliary contributed over \$145,000 to support the needs of the hospital and community. With a contribution of \$500 donated to Partners in Health.

In 2006, the baby born during hospital week was a little girl "Laela Jensen" to Tonya and Greg Jensen of Hettinger and her big sister Ella. Laela was given a \$50 savings bond.

Two scholarships were awarded this year – one to Whitney Ham of Hettinger in physical therapy and the other to Ashley Nielsen of New England in biology/pre-medicine. Scholarships were changed this year from giving five \$200 scholarships to two \$500 scholarships.

In **2007** the first baby was to Colt Lewis to Randy and Heidi Kopren, Bison, SD

Scholarships went to Eric Seamands, Hettinger in psychology/pre-med and Sarah Brentrup, New England in medical technology.

Funding requests honored this year totaled over \$5,700; consisting of flashlights for the ambulance squad, a DVD player, a new blanket warmer for X-ray, a new chair in the mammo room, a small arm procedure table for O.R., an ear wash system for the clinic (and hospital), an ice tea machine for the kitchen and a donation to Partners in Health. The Auxiliary is also supporting the Capital Campaign with a goal of \$10,000 over the next five years.

Eva Knutson announced her resignation as president of the auxiliary as of January 2008. She has been president for 26 years.

December 6, 2007 – Dee Menke opened her home for a Tea to encourage women to join and re-organize the auxiliary. A nominating committee was formed to seek new officers.

On January 12, 2008, we had a gathering at WRRMC to say "Thank you" to Eva Knutson, Helen Lewis, Carol Zimmerman and Jan Sailer. Roses were given to each individual. Borderline Singers entertained us and the many people who came to honor the women who held the

auxiliary together with very few active members enjoyed refreshments. Bricks with engraving were also given to each of the four women.

“The financial contribution from the Auxiliary is definitely important,” stated Jim Long, WRHS Administrator/CEO, “but we need to recognize the non-financial support these ladies have given for its significance as well. From the beginning of the hospital these women have been there, educating others about the needs of the health system, generating community support and offering encouragement that it could indeed be done. This region could, with everyone’s help, support a quality rural medical system that not only met local needs but also could be held out as an example of what could be done with a little hard work by a determined group of individuals. They were an important part of making it happen in the past and they are still here, supporting and encouraging, continuing to make it happen. I thank them for their many hours of contributed labor, their generous contributions and their unwavering support”.

New officers for **2008** were Stacey Sandgren – President; Mary Kilwein – Vice President; Jackie Muggerud – Secretary and Dana Andress – Treasurer. The Auxiliary met at the Methodist Church at noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. We had a lunch, rotating among the members to serve.

In **December 2008** – Stacey Sandgren resigned her position as President and moved to Wyoming. **Mary Kilwein became President and remained in that position until May of 2010.**

The Auxiliary then started meeting at the hospital classroom with lunch served from the cafeteria. A goal to keep our meetings to a maximum of 1 hour was approved. We were now having 18-20 members at each meeting.

Officers from **May 2010** through **March 2012** were Kaye McIntyre, President; Dana Andress, Vice President; Staci Miller, Secretary and Cindy Olson, Treasurer.

The following were events that occurred between **2008 through March 31, 2012**

- Two \$500 scholarships presented each year
- Savings bond presented to the 1<sup>st</sup> baby born during hospital week
- Plant sales in May
- Purchased new gift cabinet for WRHS new addition lobby. (After re-organization, it was moved to the old hospital lobby and used only for displaying decorative items). The old gift cabinet was moved to the museum and displays memorabilia in the hospital area of the museum.
- Turkey luncheon each year with raffle and cutlery sales.
- Name changed to West River Health Services Auxiliary to include Western Horizon Care Center.
- \$500 donation to Partners in Health
- Constitution re-written for updates. Fiscal year changed to coincide with WRHS. April 1 – March 31<sup>st</sup>. Election of officers will occur in March, every two years with new officers

to start on April 1<sup>st</sup>. President, Vice-President, Secretary. Treasurer will now remain constant with West River Health Services Foundation Assistant.

- Bridge-orama continued
- Donations: 2008- \$6000; 2009-\$1719. 2010-\$9933.85. Total \$173,000 through 2010, included: Nursing Home Beauty Shop & blood pressure cuff, stethoscope \$1500; Flower beds for Western Horizon Assisted Living \$300; Clinic IV Room décor \$850, Old hospital lobby furnishings and Chapel décor \$3000; Lab waiting room furniture \$1300; Swing Bed furniture & TV \$850;
- Completed our \$10,000 pledge for Capital Campaign
- Purchased three new tables towards Lutheran Church fund drive. We can use them for our needs as well and can store them at Lutheran church.
- Hosted District II Fall Seminar October 14, 2010. Very successful with 68 members from surrounding communities. Good PR.
- Donation to Susan G Koman Foundation for Breast Cancer \$750 (50% of raffle income) from quilt made by Cindy Rick Olson for the turkey luncheon raffle. "Ribbon of Roses"
- Web site creation for WRHS Auxiliary – to include picture, history and prayer.
- Auxiliary Prayer was revised and approved.
- Creation of Project Committee to reorganize our current projects. Mary Kilwein to arrange cutlery inventory and sales with Cindy Ham arranging storage.
- Membership Drive on April 12, 2011 in hospital classroom. Follow up again at Turkey Luncheon.
- Farm and Home Show – Rada Cutlery sale
- Created an Auxiliary display at Dakota Buttes Museum
- Attended State Conventions
- Reorganization of Auxiliary records into appropriate folders and placed on the "public" folder in hospital computer system. Also on flash drive to follow current officers.

Donations given to various departments in 2011 equaled \$9632 including:

Net from projects:	Plant sale	\$ 934
	Raffle	\$1426
	Turkey Luncheon:	\$2740
	Bridgorama:	255
	Rada Cutlery:	602

Total given between 1949 and 2011: \$182,6232.

Election of Officers for 2012/2013:	President:	Eve Safratowich
	Vice President:	Peggy Gunther
	Secretary:	Jackie Hedstrom

Volunteers are the only human being on the face of the earth who reflects this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patient and just plain love for one another.

"Erma Bombeck"

- The Auxiliary continues to be a very active organization and we have many volunteers throughout the organization and the community

The following projects continue as we donate approximately \$10,000 a year to various areas of WRHS, Western Horizons Assisted Living and Western Horizons Care Center.

- Annual membership drive
- Raffle
- Turkey luncheon
- Rada Cutlery sales at Farm and Home Show and on web site
- Plant sale
- Jewelry sales will be an added project this fall.

Total donations this year were \$6,895.

We took on the project of cleaning the hospital outdoor patio this spring and it was quite a project. Twelve individuals including employees and Auxiliary members spend 4 hours clearing branches, trimming trees and planting flowers. We were all very sore at the end of the day.

We continue to pursue other revenue producing projects to add to our giving efforts.

Officers FY 2013 and 2014:

President:	Eve Safratowich
Vice President:	Peggy Gunther
Secretary:	Jackie Hedstrom
Treasurer:	Jennifer Long.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2014-15**

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

The WRHS Auxiliary continues to be a viable and necessary organization within this community, however, this past year has been difficult. Illnesses, an aging population and busy schedules have taken a toll on the active membership of the Auxiliary. There are several people who show support through their paid memberships but the members who attend the meetings have decreased considerably. With an average of 6-10 members attending each meeting, it is a small group making decisions for large projects and limits the diversity of opinions needed to keep an organization energized. It is too easy to become complacent and stagnant without fresh and varied ideas added to the mix. Yet when the large projects are held, many people come forward and volunteer to help which makes the events successful. Although the donation grand total is slightly less than the \$10,000 of previous years, it is still a significant number to reach in light of the struggles the Auxiliary has gone through. Still optimism runs high. The start of the FY 15-16 year has provided bright spots and as the working season for the Auxiliary gets into full swing change for the better is in the air.

#### OFFICERS FOR FY 2015-16

President:	Peggy Gunther
Vice President:	Staci Miller
Secretary:	Tabbi Mary
Treasurer:	Jennifer Long

The following projects continue to fund the Auxiliary's ability to sponsor scholarships and give donations to the WRHS entities. The Western Horizons Care Center and West Horizons Assisted Living Center.

- RADA Cutlery sales
- Plant sale
- Auxiliary raffle
- Turkey luncheon
- Annual membership drive

Donations this year totaled \$8,900, which included three \$500 scholarships for students pursuing medical careers; \$65 to the first baby born during hospital week (the amount was increased from \$50 to \$65 to signify the 65 years of service since the Auxiliary's founding) and \$500 to Partners in Health.

2016:

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”. Elizabeth Andrew

This was, in all likelihood, going to be the last report the WRHS Auxiliary would ever make to the board....but some very good people made sure it was not! Decreased attendance at meetings and difficulty finding officers created the circumstances that caused the active membership to question whether it was time to call it quits. Much discussion took place and an open letter was sent to various WRHS facilities requesting feedback. There were several good responses and at the April meeting the consensus concluded that we continue and do more to promote the organization. The dedicated few, remain active and responsible for raising the funds that are dispersed through donation requests and scholarships and were adamant about continuing and doing whatever it takes **they have the heart!**

The following projects continue as the major fundraisers:

- RADA Cutlery sales
- Spring plant sale
- Auxiliary Raffle
- Fall Turkey luncheon
- Annual membership drive

Five members took on the special project of serving lunch for the Thunder Spirit Wind Farm blade signing dinner. They, in return, made a generous donation of \$1,000. The highlight of that day was getting to sign one of those enormous blades. A very special thank you goes to Ada Jean Cornella, Kaye McIntyre, Eva Knutson, Cindy (Del) Olson and Peggy Gunther.

Donation requests approved this fiscal year totaled \$7,539.61. In addition \$3,000 went to the MRI project; two \$500 scholarships were awarded to area students pursuing careers in the medical field; and \$65 to the first baby born during hospital week.

At the end of this fiscal year the Auxiliary pledged \$2500 to the “One Room at a Time” project to be paid during the 2016-17 FY.

OFFICERS FOR 2016-17 FY are:

- President: Peggy Gunther
- Vice President: Kathy Kennedy
- Secretary: Charlotte Lee
- Treasurer: Stacy Chadwick

We would be remiss if we did not extend a heartfelt Thank You to Jennifer Long for her many years of service to our organization both as an active member and as our Treasurer. We wish her much relaxation and fun in her retirement.

We also extend a big welcome to Matt Shahan, the new CEO for WRHS. His attendance at our meeting for the purpose of introducing himself and expressing his desire for the Auxiliary to continue was much appreciated. Our meetings are open to everyone. Feel more than welcome to join us as time permits.

Because of some re-organizing issues, the Auxiliary elected officers in 2017 instead of 2016. They are follows:

President:	Staci Miller
Vice President:	Anna Sherlock
Secretary:	Cindy Ham
Treasurer:	Stacy Chadwick

The Auxiliary also approved the option to hold five meetings per year. January April, May, September and October. It is felt that all projects with a chairperson could be managed with extra meetings as needed.

The Auxiliary Scrap Books project was discontinued and all previous binders were retired to the Dakota Buttes Museum in the WRHS exhibit area in the top section of the buffet cabinet.

The total amount of donated money from the Auxiliary since 1949 is now \$219,332. In 2017, donations will push the total over the quarter of a million dollar mark from the beginning of its existence.

This updates our history from 1949 to January 2019.

For the last 69 years, the group has contributed over \$217,999.53 and thousands of volunteer hours. Donations given to various departments in 2018 equaled \$7,074.95 including:

- Partners in Health - Foundation
- WHCC Patio-Beauty of Hettinger
- Scholarships - three \$750.00 scholarships
- Pediatrics - eight peds stethoscopes
- Hospital - two wheelchairs W/IV & O2
- Ultrasound Waiting Room - TV
- New England Clinic - chair/desk renovation
- Bowman Clinic - blinds and clinic room chairs
- Scranton Clinic - magazine racks
- WRHS Rehab - patient chairs
- Student Housing – bedding
- Laboratory – cordless handvac



*We regretfully inform you that this group will disband on October 5, 2019 on their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

*For the last 70 years, the group will have contributed over a quarter of a million dollars and thousands and thousands of volunteer hours.*