

## ***President's Message-***

Things have certainly changed drastically since I sat down to write my last Mur-Mur article and that is putting it mildly! Like my life, I am sure that your lives have been changed in ways you never would have, or maybe even could have, imagined.



Susan  
Bowers

Throughout the hospital and the auxiliary things are changing as well and at such a rapid pace that it's hard to keep up!

Here's what I know, at this point in time, as it relates to the auxiliary:

- All volunteer activities have been suspended until further notice
- All meetings and fundraisers have been suspended through April
- Book Bazaar donations and the Book Bazaar itself have been postponed
- Gift shops at both hospitals have been closed

By the time you read this, it's possible and probable, that things have changed again.

I know that when all of this started, many of our volunteers had conflicting thoughts and emotions about continuing their volunteer service – they were concerned about their personal health and safety, but they were also mindful of the contributions they make to the patients, the hospital and the community. As auxiliary members and volunteers, we take great pride in contributing our time, talents and resources in ways that are so essential and much appreciated. I think the announcement that all volunteer activities were suspended probably caused mixed feelings for all of us, which is understandable. We are torn between looking out for our own health and well-being, as well as that of our families, but we also don't want to neglect our responsibilities.

During this time of isolation and limited

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***In my neighborhood, one of the ways we are reaching out is through hanging paper hearts in our windows.***

*- Susan Bowers, Auxiliary President*



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activities, we may feel lost and without purpose because we aren't doing as much - especially many of the things that give us a sense of belonging and a sense of satisfaction. While we may not be able to do the things we did before, I think it's important to maintain a routine, keep busy and find things that you are able to do. I think it's also important to stay in touch. While we may not be able to get together in some of the ways we used to, we can still reach out to family, friends, neighbors and coworkers in many ways. In my neighborhood, one of the ways we are reaching out is through hanging paper hearts in our windows. It started out as something fun for the kids to look

for while they were out walking. But now I find that as I'm walking and I see the hearts, it makes me smile knowing that people are willing to do things for others.

As we move forward, anticipating the future and establishing our new "normal", I hope that you will give thanks for all those who are working tirelessly, perhaps putting themselves at risk, to care for us and for those who have taken ill. I hope you will look after those who need our help, our thoughts and our prayers. I hope that you will take care of yourselves - in mind, in body and in spirit. Be safe and be well!

*Susan Bowers, Auxiliary President*

## Update - Auxiliary & Foundation Development Manager

We would like to announce that Monica Heshmat has been hired for the Auxiliary & Foundation Development Manager position. Monica comes to us with a B.A. in Health Services Administration and has experience in volunteer services and in auxiliary management. She will be relocating from Centralia and will join us at the end of April. We'll ask Monica to share more in an upcoming Mur-Mur.

Congratulations Monica! We look forward to working with you!



## Volunteers Needed

### Siteman Cancer Center

Siteman-Shiloh is in need of volunteers to play the piano as part of their music therapy program! Studies find that music helps alleviate symptoms of anxiety, pain and fatigue in cancer patients. It can also help the heart and soul of family members, caregivers and the staff at the center.

### Belleville Memorial MRI

Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Greet patients and perform the following duties:

1. Take the patient to a changing room to change into gowns.
2. Take the patient to the room
3. Put the clean gowns away when the linen cart arrives.

If you or someone you know would be interested in one of these exciting opportunities, please contact the Auxiliary Office.

## Membership Report

### Welcome New Members:

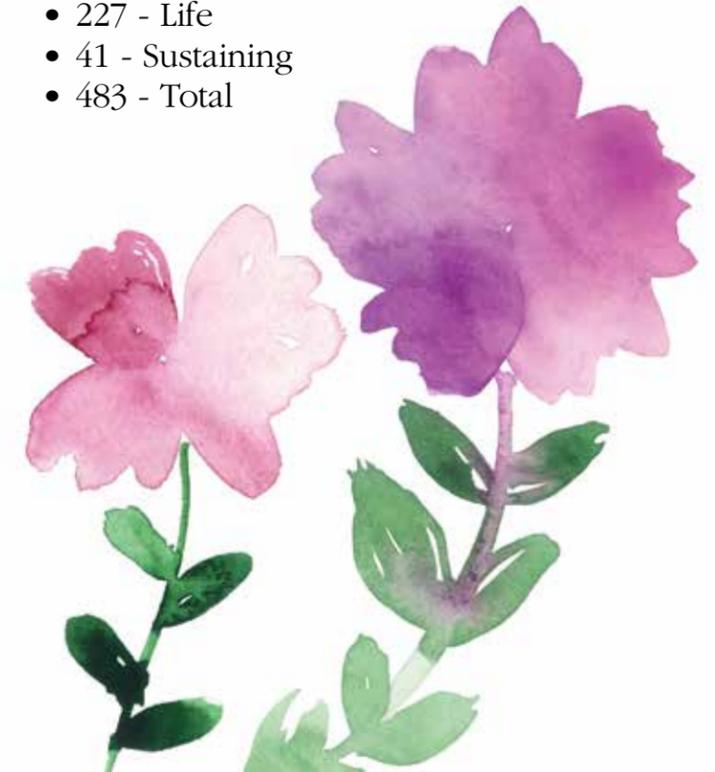
- Janis Dashner (A)-O'Fallon
- Donna Hucke (A)-Millstadt
- Audrey Partee (A)-O'Fallon
- Mary Burch (A)-Edwardsville
- Terrie Weber (A)-Belleville
- Gail Howze (A)-Caseyville

### Sympathy

With our condolences to family and friends, we acknowledge the passing of Arleen Bicklein-Life Member on March 3 as well as Evelyn Meyer, Life Member and Past President of the Auxiliary on March 20.

### Membership Numbers:

- 92 - Active
- 109 - Active/Life
- 14 - Junior
- 227 - Life
- 41 - Sustaining
- 483 - Total





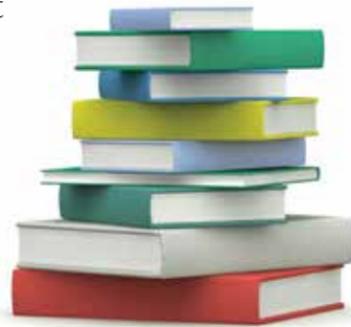
## Fundraising

### Book Bazaar Postponed

The Book Bazaar originally scheduled for April 29 through May 2 is on hold. Last month we were asking everyone to save the dates and volunteer, but unfortunately, probably about the time you received your letter about working the event, everything changed dramatically.

At this time, we do not know if it will be rescheduled or cancelled. There are many variables that come in to play with either decision. The first one being when will everyone be able to resume normal activities. We do not want to reschedule and then have to postpone again. We will keep you advised.

Stay safe and healthy!



## Gift Shop

Sixty-nine guests spent \$873.32 during the Midnight Sale in the Belleville Gift Shop and \$423 at the East Gift Shop on Thursday, March 12. The next Midnight Sale in both Gift Shops is scheduled for Thursday, April 9.

After the Gift Shops were closed, due to Covid-19, we decided to shake the dust off the Candy Carts and put them to use. We began selling candy, toiletries, snacks and small gifts in the Auxiliary Offices at Memorial Belleville and Memorial East. Easter gifts and candy have been added to help the employees do their shopping while at the hospital. The employees have been much appreciative! To adhere to social distancing, we have put a barrier between the register and the items and we retrieve the merchandise for the employee. We will continue to keep this going for as long as we can.



## Snips & Stitches

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in slowing down for many sectors, but it has been “a call to sew” for the auxiliary’s Snips and Stitches group. The group has put aside projects such as baby blankets, burp cloths, and turbans to focus on face masks. Snips and Stitches group members working on masks include Jane Schwebke (group coordinator), Jean Joseph, Karen Milton, Mary Boxdorfer, Connie Sinn and Adele Theobald. They have been creating pleated, surgical style face masks with cloth ties out of a water-resistant fabric combined with a cotton fabric.

Jane Schwebke communicates with group members at least weekly via telephone, text, and/or e-mail. When a member completes several masks, they are placed in a sealed plastic bag. To maintain safe social distancing, Jane will pick them up from porches and leave additional, bagged



sewing supplies as needed. Jane delivers the masks to the auxiliary office where they are given to Lynn McKinney, Sterile Processing Manager, to be sterilized and distributed accordingly.

Approximately 200 masks have been donated. Each mask takes 30 minutes to complete. The demand for masks has been high, but the group is working hard to make more. Snips and Stitches is desperately in need of double -fold bias tape, quarter-inch elastic, and cotton fabrics. If anyone has any of these items available for donation, please contact the auxiliary office.

## QUILTS

There are two new baby quilts available in the Auxiliary Office. One has pale yellow backing with animals riding a rocking horse



embroidered on the front with a light green bow embroidered at the top. It is priced at \$100. The second has a Winnie the Pooh print front with a honey color back and orange points and is priced at \$35. We also have one baby blanket in the Auxiliary Office priced at \$35. It is made of flannel patches and are machine stitched with hand clipped edges.

The baby items hand made by our “Snips and Stitches” group of volunteers including the “loops of love” and burp clothes are also available and are priced at \$8 each. They make a great addition to baby shower gifts.



## Happy National Volunteer Week- April 19-25

“Thank you” to all for contributing your time and talents to Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. In 2019, you donated over 27,500 hours assisting in many service areas throughout the hospitals and medical buildings. You also assisted in fundraising events that helped the Auxiliary donate \$250,000 of which \$200,000 will be used for the Healing Garden at the Siteman Center. Life memberships have made it possible to offer educational assistance to nurses who are maintaining or obtaining certification.

Community of Character  
Word of the Month

*Cooperation*

Working together in a peaceful way.



## Disposal of Expired Medications

Memorial Hospital Auxiliary collects unused or expired drugs or health supplements. The Environmental Services Department disposes of them according to Illinois EPA regulations. You can bring them to the Auxiliary Office any time during office hours.

## Now Accepting Photos for the 2021 Calendar Photo Contest-

A picture that YOU have taken could appear in Memorial’s 2021 calendar! The annual photo contest is open to all Memorial Hospital, Memorial Care Center and Belleville Health and Sports Center employees, Medical Staff members and Auxilians. **Photo must be taken by the person submitting the photo.** Any size photo may be submitted, horizontal photos



are preferred. Polaroid photos will not be accepted. No mats or frames. Photographs should be from one of these categories:

- People (adults, infants and toddlers)
- Health/Wellness/Fitness
- Landscapes (spring, summer, fall, winter)
- Pets/Animals

Three winners will be chosen from each of the four categories. In addition, one GRAND PRIZE winner will be selected and his/her photo will be used as the calendar’s cover. All entries must be received in the Communications and Marketing at MHB no later than **Friday, August 20, 2020.**

You may enter one photo in each category; include on the back of each submitted photo: name, address, department, and extension. If your photo is a landscape, please include location. If there is a person or pet in the photo, please identify. Judging will be done by a professional photographer. For more information, call ext. 75649.

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# Working Together

to Keep Our Community Safe

As we work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are all facing new challenges with work, school, and our social lives, while trying to stay healthy both physically and mentally. The Memorial Network is always here to meet your healthcare needs. We are all doing our part to look out for one another and strengthen our community during trying times. [Stay safe!](#)

[mymemorialnetwork.com](http://mymemorialnetwork.com)

**Memorial's Hotline number is**  
**618-607-1259**  
**for community member questions.**

*Community members calling this number can leave a message;  
those messages will be returned within 48 hours.*