

President's Message:

I love lists! My days are guided by my 'to-do' list with the numerous tasks that I have to complete noted accordingly. These lists help keep me on track and make me more productive; plus I enjoy the sense of accomplishment I feel as tasks are completed and crossed off the list.



Susan
Bowers

Lists can be useful, especially when used to help keep us organized. But I've noticed lately that with all that is going on in the world, the list of bad things seems to far outnumber the list of good things. I don't think it's a good idea to use lists in this way, but when you're used to using lists on a daily basis it's difficult to adjust.

However, a story came to mind recently that gave me a different perspective. You may be familiar with *The Starfish Story* by Loren Eiseley but if not, here's a quick summary. While walking along the beach one morning, a man notices a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. The man asks the boy what he's doing and he explains he's throwing starfish back into the ocean because the tide is about to go out and if he doesn't throw them back they will die. The old man is a bit incredulous and he asks the youth if he realizes the miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish that remain. He then tells the boy, "You can't make a difference!" Undeterred, the boy picks up the next starfish and throws it back into the surf — he then smiles at the man and says, "I made a difference for that one."

Now I don't know about you, but that story touches me. I sometimes lose sight of the fact that making a difference or doing positive things don't have to be grand or numerous. It's after I thought about this story that I started to realize all of the good things happening for the Memorial Auxiliary. And guess what ... I have a list to share with you!

First on my good news list, is that Emily and Nancy are back to work in the Auxiliary office. I'm sure you share my enthusiasm as we welcome them back into the office and into their important roles supporting our Auxiliary. They both provide invaluable services to us and Memorial as a whole, and I think we've always appreciated their efforts — but we're especially appreciative now that we've had to get by without them for a few months. Welcome back Emily and Nancy!

Next on my good news list, Monica is charging full speed ahead in her new role and is already making a difference in many ways. She joined our team at a challenging time, but she hasn't let the circumstances slow her down. One of her current work efforts is serving on a committee with hospital leaders, to determine when we can bring volunteers back into the hospital — and how to do that safely. I share this because I know many of you are wondering when we'll be able to get back into the hospital and while we still don't have a firm answer, a dedicated team is in place reviewing options and we'll be sure to keep you updated.



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And finally, the gift shops are open and the gift shop managers and employees are back to work. I think we've all come to appreciate the 'little things' in life a bit more throughout this pandemic and I think most would agree that the gift shops are one of the little things that bring joy to the Memorial associates we serve alongside. After all they've been through, and continue to go through, I'm happy to know the gift shops are adding some happiness and normalcy back into their lives.

I'm willing to bet that like me, many of you feel overwhelmed at times and may only see the negative things going on around you. But I'm also willing to bet that if you shift your focus or change your perspective, you can find the positive things as well. I guess we need to think about the starfish and realize that helping one is always better than helping none.

And for what it's worth, I'm glad I shared my positive list with you because it gives me hope. I see the good things that are happening and realize that we are taking steps to get back to normal. Now I'm sure you've heard the saying about a 'new normal,' and I believe that's what we're working towards. But I'm excited to think about what that looks like, especially knowing we're building our new normal together.

I'll bring this article to a close at this point, but I want you to know I'm thinking about all of you and appreciate all you're doing to keep our Auxiliary strong. Right now, I feel hopeful ... maybe it's because I shared some positive thoughts with you, or maybe it's because I can cross 'write the Mur-Mur article' off of my 'to-do' list! Either way, I wish you all a great month ahead, full of positive thoughts and days of helping — even if it's one at a time!

Susan Bowers, Auxiliary President

Mark Turner's farewell message



Mark Turner

A virtual opportunity for Mark Turner to say farewell was held live on Tuesday, August 11. If you would like to view "Reflections from Mark" farewell message you can view it at <http://boxcast.tv/view/mark-turners-farewell-message-615843>.

A Message from Mike McManus, President

Late last month, I wrote to you to let you know that we had filed Certificate of Exemption (COE) applications with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) to consolidate OB at Memorial East as well as to consolidate the two hospitals licenses into one.



Mike McManus

This week, we received approval of both applications so we can move forward with our plans effective January 1, 2021.

Our OB consolidation gives us a wonderful opportunity to create a Center of Excellence for Women and Infants on the Memorial East campus and combining into one organization allows us to achieve some operational efficiencies to create an even stronger operation.

We are excited about our future and our united presence in St. Clair County to bring the world's best medicine to our community.

Membership Report

Sympathy

With our condolences to family and friends, we acknowledge the passing of Life member, Edith Davis, on May 12, 2020 and sustaining member, Kay Benson, On July 29, 2020.

Membership Numbers:

- 99 – Active
- 110 – Active/Life
- 15 – Junior
- 222 – Life
- 40 – Sustaining
- 486 – Total

Community of Character Word of the Month

Respect

Showing regard to self, others, property and those with authority.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shops are open for business. We are excited to welcome back Gift Shop Mangers, Kathy Kirchoff and Debra Larkin, on August 17 and Sales Clerks, Dolores Miller, Kaylee McPherson, Dolores Miller, Becky Olroyd, Jane Sutton, Liz Burbank and Daphene Moses on August 24. The hours will be limited since volunteer help is still suspended. At this time the Gift Shops will not be open in the evenings or on the weekends. Selected merchandise is now 50% off excluding Rea Dunn, balloons, candy, magazines, and flowers. Cardinal and Blues shirts and hats are available for \$10 off.



Temporary Gift Shop hours:

Belleville:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

East:

- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



Flu Shots

Watch for upcoming flu shot clinic dates in next month's Mur Mur. If you have received or plan to receive your vaccination elsewhere please forward a copy to the Auxiliary Office.

Fundraising

Pecan sales have begun. Call the Auxiliary Office at 257-5545 before October 31 to place and prepay for your order. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.



Quilts

Three new baby quilts and a queen quilt have arrived in the Auxiliary Office. One is yellow with raccoon print patches and another is green with bee print patches. Both are priced at \$40. Another baby quilt is white and pink chevron print and is also priced at \$40. The queen quilt is blue with beautifully detailed cross stitched patches and is priced at \$400.

