GOLDEN CONNECTIONS
VISIONS & FLASHBACKS
Northern San Joaquin Valley Health Care Area Council

NOVEMBER 2017

A Message from your President,
Pat Phelan

Wow! This year has flown. I can hardly believe that this is the close of my presidency.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have served you as your President this year. The Presidents have been very valuable to me. I am always amazed and awed by the enormous heart and soul of our volunteers.

The camaraderie and friendships formed as a result of Area Council are incomparable benefits of attendance of these meetings. I would encourage everyone to attend all of the Area Council meetings whenever your time will allow.

I personally will continue to attend as many meetings as I can. The information gained helps us all.

Thank you, especially to my officers, for the opportunity to lead the Council. Support with all your might the incoming officers led by Nobie Reynolds.

...And President-Elect, Nobie Reynolds

Kudos to Pat Phelan for an excellent job serving as our President for 2017 and also representing the NSJVC at the CAHHS Convention this year. Pat will continue to serve the Area Council as the 2018 Newsletter Chair.

Thanks also to all of you for your continued support of the Area Council and for graciously hosting meetings. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated!

I look forward once again to serving as your President for 2018.

I recently returned from two weeks vacation in Kingsport, Tennessee. I had a wonderful time visiting family and friends, but the time went by way too fast! It’s such a beautiful area and a great place to visit if you ever get a chance.

Thanksgiving season is upon us. Remember to count your blessings. We have so much to be thankful for during this Thanksgiving season and every day.

Blessings to you all!

Nobie

The Northern San Joaquin Valley Health Care Area Council is committed to inspiring enthusiasm and new leadership among participants, sharing mutual problems and solutions, encouraging cooperation, and exchanging ideas. Educating the public regarding the work of the hospital auxiliary and volunteer programs as well as sharing conference and workshop reports is our goal.

We are committed to maintaining communication with the California Association of Hospitals and Health Systems through the Advisors. We promise to do our best to reach our goal.
Martha Cover
Adventist Health Sonora

Thanks, Pat, for a banner year for our Area Council!!

“We send a letter out when we realize a volunteer may not meet their minimum hours for the year,” said Cathie. “May I have a copy of the letter?” was the response. That is a typical Area Council exchange. Always gleaning nuggets from other chapters to take home to strengthen ours. *Sharing mutual problems and solutions* is our mission!

San Joaquin General’s newsletter wowed our Vonnie at her workshop at the last Area Council meeting. Vonnie is making steps to personalize our newsletter, adding photos of volunteers’ services and gatherings. Yes!

I quote Phyllis: “It’s hard to prove the value of the volunteers when you do not have Service Descriptions.” Most of us have them in place but they need constant updates as change is constant!

As I write, Leslie and I are at beautiful Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, on our way home from delivering a load of supplies from our congregation to a mission for the Navajo’s north of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Magnificent trip! Besides canned peaches, we brought apples, pears, and Wish List items. We worshipped with everyone at the Mission. I was invited to have the Sunday School lesson for the older ladies which meant going through an interpreter. Precious! Navajos are so gentle and quiet. Led by a missionary, we made calls in homes where there was sickness and hardships of various sorts. Normally, we bring about 25 comforters/quilts, but this year they told us to leave them in California due to our terrible fires, so Peter has distributed them in the Bangor area. It was touching to see our comforters from previous trips in use in these very poor Navajo homes we visited. Truly, we are a blessed people!

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Kathie Norman
President, Service League
Doctors Medical Center Modesto

“October Fest” was the theme of the Doctors Medical Center Service League luncheon. Lovely fall colors from leaves, squash, and potted mums decorated our tables. Our food service staff enhanced our theme with salted soft pretzels with warm cheese sauce, warm potato salad, grilled bratwurst, braised red cabbage, chicken schnitzel, spinach and egg spaetzle, and hot apple strudel!!

We welcomed new service league members and distributed Hours and Awards for service from 100 to 1,500 hours. Our guest speaker was Dr. James Jaffe, DMC’s newly recruited Interventional Radiologist. Dr. Jaffe leads the team using DMC’s new biplane system utilized for minimally invasive neurocardiology treatment. One of the benefits of this procedure is eliminating large incisions which results in less pain, shorter recovery time, and fewer risks than in traditionally surgery. This is a safe and effective alternative to brain surgery and can be used to treat aneurysms, blocked arteries leading to the brain, dangerous tangles of blood vessels and other serious brain disorders.
Dr. Jaffe explained how the new biplane system provided him with improved 3D accuracy while viewing the patient’s brain and while threading a catheter from a patient’s groin to their brain. What an encouragement to know that patients with brain aneurysms, blood clots, and strokes can be treated here without being sent to Sacramento or San Francisco! Strokes are the number five cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States.

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Sally Strasser, Volunteer President
Mercy Medical Center Merced

My second term as President will be completed in December at our general meeting/luncheon. During my service on the Executive Board, I feel I’ve made a difference by bringing excitement and an enthusiastic attitude to our volunteer organization.

It has not only been important to work as a team but just as significant to create opportunities to get to know each other on a social level.

I felt the sense of camaraderie from the volunteers who joined in at the “Stroke Awareness” 5k walk -- all having some fun wearing the same costume headbands and joining together as a team to represent our volunteer organization for an important cause.

Several volunteers were invited to attend the Foundation Gala as VIP guests. The group received recognition as ambassadors of a major donation to the hospital and were able to share their pride and accomplishment.

A planned day trip together to San Francisco created an opportunity to cultivate new friendships and get to know each other better in a fun setting.

The volunteers were involved in making the monthly general meetings enjoyable as a result of input they provided from a survey. It gave the group an ability to be involved and participate in changes that would benefit everyone.

I feel blessed and thankful to have made so many friendships and served as Mercy’s Volunteer President. I’ve learned so much about leadership and my own ability to make decisions to do what is good for the organization. All the best to the 2018 Executive Board Volunteers. Much success!!!!!!

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Kathy Smith, Volunteer President  
Memorial Medical Center Modesto

Have you ever had the experience during your volunteer shift in your hospital when a patient or visitor mistakes you for a hospital employee? I have numerous times and I have always responded, “Oh, I’m just a volunteer.” That was until a visitor told me that my statement minimized my organization’s contributions to the hospital, staff, patients, and community.

During a recent celebration of Volunteer Week, many of the employees took the time to put in writing their feelings about our volunteers. I am certain that the same could be said of your volunteers but it was so rewarding to hear their words of praise and to know that we do make a difference and that our contribution is noticed and appreciated. One employee wrote, “Volunteers are such treasures. They give their time, energy, and love to our hospital. We value the volunteers so much. The many years of service our volunteers have given to Memorial is truly inspiring. Thanks to each of you for all that you do.”

So know that we all make a difference and that our patients, staff, and visitors notice, appreciate, and benefit from our contributions.

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CAHHS Conference  
February 19-21, 2018  
Newport Beach, CA