

Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary Volunteer Voice

Volume 72

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March 2025



2025 Auxiliary Board

(Front L to R seated): Ruthanne Grimsley, *Treasurer*, Joan Chamberlain, *Secretary*, Nancy Osborn, *Vice President*, Cheryl Ferry, *President*. Middle row (l-r): Cheryl Burchett, Sharon Daberkow, Sharon Monson, Phyllis Lytle, Sandy Nelsen. Back row (l-r) Julianne Ferry, Karen Chamberlain, Karissa Sears, Bonnie Fiscus, Deb Morgan. Absent: Jolene Lytle.

Officers and new board members were installed at the January 2025 board meeting. The board is committed to assuring the business of the Auxiliary is thoughtfully carried out. The bylaws and constitution guides the board in their mission. Bylaws are reviewed annually, updated, and approved in December.

2025 AUXILIARY BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee Chairs:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Scholarships** - Karissa Sears
- **Budget** - Officers
- **Communication** - Julianne Ferry
- **Recruiting/Membership** - Nancy Osborn | Linda Quinn | Deb Morgan
- **Audit** - Kristi Wegner | Denise Van De Berg
- **Nominating** - Joan Chamberlain | Julianne Ferry | Cheryl Ferry
- **Bylaws** - Nancy Osborn | Cheryl Burchett | Cheryl Ferry | Joan Chamberlain
- **Compliance** - Cheryl Burchett

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Employee Gratitude** - Deb Jauron
- **Pediatric Orientation Program (POP tours)** - Pat Pash
- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** - Joan Chamberlain
- **Swing Bed** - Linda Andersen
- **Liaison to MMC Exec Asst** - Loretta Harder
- **Newborn Gifts** - Loretta Harder

FUNDRAISING

- **Holiday Open House** - Team
- **Bazaar** - Team

- **Bakeless Bake Sale/Scholarships** - Karissa Sears
- **Auction Food Concessions** - Deb Morgan | Sharon Musich
- **Tree of Lights** - Calla Poldberg
- **Gift Shop Purchasing Team** - Ruthanne Grimsley, Nancy Gress, MaryBeth Burrack
- **Gift Shop Volunteer Coordinator** - Karen Chamberlain
- **Gift Shop Orientation/Trainer** - Karen Chamberlain
- **Gift Shop Greeting Card Purchaser** - Wava Bails
- **Gift Shop Design and Display** - Pat Hemminger | Bonnie Fiscus

President's Perspective

Hello, Members!

It continues to be an honor to serve as President of the MMC Auxiliary.

MMCA activities are well underway. Please read the newsletter for updates and program information.

This year, a team approach has been established for the operation of the Unique Boutique Gift Shop. The goal is to develop a sustainable model with a well-documented manual for future teams. Ruthanne Grimsley has volunteered to coordinate and work with purchasing, receiving, and displaying teams. To date, the team approach has been successful. Thanks, Ruthanne, for your vision.

Last year members expressed appreciation that our annual meeting was held in the spring. We will host our annual meeting April 11 during Volunteer month. It is a chance to connect with members and reflect on the prior years' accomplishments. Post card invitations have been mailed to each member.

Please reach out to any of the committee chairs listed in this newsletter if there is a program you would like to be more involved. No amount of participation is too little.

Below are highlights of board approved goals for MMCA:

GROWTH

- Increase membership by 20 members
- Pursue efforts to add Business Sponsors

QUALITY

- Achieve 100% compliance with health assessments, vaccines, HIPAA, and compliance forms.
- Assure Volunteer Voice newsletter includes all programs and is communicated to members, MMC board, and the Health Foundation

PEOPLE

- Continue MMCA-led appreciation activities for MMC employees
- Evaluate and improve communication needs with the board, members, and Unique Boutique volunteers

SERVICES

- Establish teams for operation of Unique Boutique
- Continue provisions for healthcare scholarships
- Host MMCA Bazaar and Holiday Open House
- Sponsor auction food concessions
- Continue driver recruitment for RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- Continue MMCA-led projects: hats/ afghans for newborns, Skilled Care patient visits, POP tours, and Tree of Lights

Financial

- Determine MMCA needs and purchases
- Donation of \$20,000 to MMC departments

Thank you for your continued support of MMCA. We are valuable to MMC and the community.

~~Cheryl Ferry, MMCA President

MEMBERSHIP and RECRUITMENT

We are working towards our goal of 20 new members for 2025. New members add enthusiasm and assure the success of our programs and projects. To date, we have 3 new members. To help with recruitment, you can invite family members and friends. Last year, we had a few spouses join. Each member boosts the talent pool. Members choose the amount of participation right for them. All members receive the Volunteer Voice newsletter, which is our main source of communication with members regarding MMCA programs.

We are accepting annual membership dues now with a goal to have all dues paid by May. **The board has approved an increase to \$15 for annual membership or \$25 for 2 years' membership. The Lifetime membership fee remains at \$100.** Please check your membership status. If you owe for 2025, the year is highlighted on the left corner of your mailing label. Please make checks payable to MMC and note in the memo "Membership Dues." You may drop off payments at the Unique Boutique Gift Shop or mail to Ruth Pitkin, 1213 Garfield Avenue, Harlan, IA 51537. Your dues help to pay general expenses of MMCA. Thank you for your continued support of this outstanding volunteer organization.

You may find the MMCA information and membership application online at MyrtueMedicalCenter.org, click on Patients & Visitors tab, then Auxiliary + Gift Shop and download the membership form.

Our total membership now stands at 271, which includes 25 honorary members and 122 lifetime members. ~Cheryl Ferry

VOLUNTEER FORMS

Thank you to the volunteers working in the hospital setting. We are striving for 100% compliance in the requirements set by the hospital. HIPAA forms need signed annually. Health Assessments are needed when starting and every four years. This is completed by MMC OHO. A flu vaccine is needed annually or a signed waiver for exemption. You must submit a copy of proof of immunization for MMC. The background check is a one-time event done by Human Resources. ~Cheryl Burchett

BAKELESS BAKE SALE

It's time again for our Bakeless Bake Sale fundraiser! All funds raised go to college scholarships for local students pursuing degrees in the healthcare field. Thanks to your generous support, we are able to increase the amount of SIX scholarships to \$1,000 each in 2025.

Envelopes are included in this newsletter. Monetary donations should be mailed to Ruthanne Grimsley, 911 Victoria Street, Harlan, IA 51537. Thank you!

Eligible scholarship applicants should be a resident of the area served by MMC, overall GPA of at least 2.50 and be 17 years of age or older. Applications are due by **April 1** and should be mailed to Ruth Pitkin, 1213 Garfield Ave, Harlan. Applications may be found on the MMC website: MyrtueMedicalCenter.org/patients-visitors/Auxiliary+Gift Shop. Scroll to the bottom of the page for the link. ~Karissa Sears



Auxiliary In Action!

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE



On 12/3/24 Employee Appreciation gifts were distributed throughout Myrtue Medical Center including all off site locations: Behavioral Health, Community Health, PT/OT, Wellness Center, Senior Life Solutions, and satellite clinics. Gifts were also left for the night shift workers. Gifts had a hot chocolate theme and said "Enjoy a Cup of Christmas Cheer. Thanks for all you've done this year. Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary." The MMCA team members helping with this project: Deb Jauron, Maggie Bissen, Linda Quinn, Shirley Olson, Janet Thomsen, and Ella Hazelton.

On 2/14/25 Valentine's Day gifts were passed out to 270 MMC employees throughout the main campus, Rural Health Clinics, Behavioral Health, Community Health, PT/OT, Wellness Center, and Senior Life Solutions. Gifts were also left for those employees who staffed the night shift. The gift consisted of a heart shaped decorated sugar cookie and M & Ms in a Valentine's Day zip-lock bag. A sticker was applied to each bag: "For all you give and all you do, this Valentine's Day treat is for you! Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary". Members who assembled and passed out the gifts were Shirley Olson, Janet Thomsen, Annette Schmitz, Mary Tremel, Rebecca Gough, Jan McElwain, Vince Jauron, and Deb Jauron.



NEWBORN GIFTS

Loretta Harder leads the newborn hats and afghan program. Each baby born at MMC receives a wrapped handmade gift with a card of congratulations from MMCA. Reach out to Loretta if you have an interest in joining this rewarding program. Some of us, without crochet talent, have donated yarn to the cause. Pictured: Loretta delivers afghans to Michele Monson, OB/Nursery Nurse Director.



AUCTION CONCESSIONS

We have set a goal of 3-4 concessions annually. The first auction in 2025 will be held on March 30 at Vet's Auditorium. Food and drink for concessions is donated or purchased by the Auxiliary. We accept monetary donations also to offset food expenses.

We have made a commitment to host concessions on April 5 at Plumb's. If you are interested in working or donating 12 packs of pop, please contact me at 712.579.5487.

~~Deb Morgan,
Concessions Chair

AT THE *Unique* GIFT SHOP BOUTIQUE

The Unique Boutique is going through some changes in 2025. Our wonderful gift shop managers retired from full-time duty but are still working in the Unique Boutique. A HUGE thank you to Pat Hemminger and Jolene Behrendt (photo at right) for their stellar management the past two years. You left some big shoes to fill – your expertise is dearly missed!

Managing the gift shop for 1-2 people is a full-time job, we have known that for years. As it becomes harder to find someone able to donate that much time, we made the decision to divide the job into several.

- **Purchasing Team** - Ruthanne Grimsley, Nancy Gress, MaryBeth Burrack
- **Receiving and Delivery Team** - Ginny Bold and Mark Grimsley
- **Display Team** - Bonnie Fiscus and Pat Hemminger
- ***Special Event Team** – to help with Fall Bazaar and Holiday Open House. This could be you, we are looking for volunteers!
- ***Marketing Team** – to help post product pictures and reels on social media. This could be you, we are looking for volunteers!



Thank you to these volunteers for their service to MMCA, as well as the many volunteers that staff the gift shop 5 days a week.

At the same time, MMCA is streamlining the entire process so everyone volunteering is spending less time managing the gift shop. We hope this will make it easier for members to volunteer. MMCA is utilizing the Faire Marketplace online for merchandise which has great tools for managing inventory and getting new purchases into the system and ready for sale in a fraction of the time. This reduces work in all phases of bringing products to sale in the gift shop. Stop in the gift shop and inquire about an open spot on a team!



We have many new products available for sale – soups, nuts, beef tallow creams, chocolate greeting cards and many other new and unique items! Thank you so much for your continued patronage; we hope to see you soon!

~~Ruthanne Grimsley

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Have you or someone you know had a doctor's appointment and didn't have a ride? At MMC, we have a solution for that called the **RSVP** program. If a ride is needed to a Myrtue appointment at the clinic in Harlan, any of the satellite offices, specialty clinics, physical/speech/occupational therapy or behavioral health, MMC Patient Access will try and get that arranged.

We have a group of 15 volunteer drivers who give their time to take patients to their appointments. This program has been very successful and does a great service. If you are interested in helping and are at least 55 years old, please contact Ruth Pitkin at 712.755.4316. We'd love to have you join the program! ~Joan Chamberlain

SKILLED CARE VISITS

MMCA continues Skilled Care Patient Visits under the new leadership of Linda Andersen. Please welcome Linda



into this important role. She accepted her new duties without hesitation. She works with the Utilization Dept to coordinate visits with her team. Other committee members are Cheryl Burchett, Sue Schneider, Ella Hazelton, Judy Nelson, and Jan Goeser. Thank you, all, for sharing your time and kindness. The benefits are positive for both patients and volunteers. Reach out if you have an interest in joining. We also want to recognize Jan Goeser for her

leadership for the past 9 + years and for her continued involvement with the committee.



AUXILIARY

1213 GARFIELD AVE | HARLAN, IA 51537

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Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary's

Annual Meeting and Brunch

will be held on April 11, 2025

at 9:30 AM

in the Auble Conference Room.

Join us for honorary member recognition,
annual committee reports,
door prizes and fun!

Please RSVP to Ruth Pitkin at 755.4316.