

Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary Volunteer Voice

Volume 73

Issue 1

March 2026



2026 Auxiliary Board

(Front L to R seated): Cathy Cavanaugh, Tina Reischl, Nancy Osborn, *President*, Phyllis Lytle, *Treasurer*. Back row (l-r): Jolene Lytle, Sharon Daberkow, Karen Chamberlain, Sandy Nelsen, Cheryl Ferry. Not pictured: Cheryl Burchett, Sharon Monson, Deb Morgan, *Vice President*, Joan Chamberlain, *Secretary*.

Officers and new board members were installed at the January 2026 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.

2026 AUXILIARY BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Committee Chairs:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Scholarships** - Tina Reischl | Linda Quinn | Karen Buman
- **Budget** - Phyllis Lytle | Officers
- **Communication** - Cheryl Ferry
- **Recruiting/Membership** - Cheryl Ferry | Linda Quinn
- **Audit** - Kristi Wegner | Denise Van De Berg
- **Nominating** - Sharon Daberkow | Sharon Monson | Nancy Osborn
- **Bylaws** - Deb Morgan | Cheryl Burchett | Nancy Osborn | Joan Chamberlain
- **Compliance** - Cheryl Burchett

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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

FUNDRAISING

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

- **Bakeless Bake Sale/Scholarships** - Phyllis Lytle
- **Auction Food Concessions** - Sharon Musich | Michelle Blum
- **Tree of Lights** - Calla Poldberg
- **Gift Shop Purchasing Lead** - Deb Morgan
- **Gift Shop Volunteer Coordinator** - Karen Chamberlain
- **Gift Shop Orientation/Trainer** - Karen Chamberlain
- **Gift Shop Design and Display** - Bonnie Fiscus | Tammie Heilesen | Sharon Musich | Deb Morgan | Loretta Harder

President's Perspective

Hello, to all MMCA Members!

I am honored to be named the MMCA President for 2026-2027. I hope I can fill the big shoes of past leaders in this wonderful organization!

We started off 2026 with a few new activities, including our Inventory Reduction Sale in February. We made some money, cleaned out our storeroom, and also made room for new additions of items for our Unique Boutique Gift Shop to offer. It was a great day.

Deb Morgan and team are doing a wonderful job ordering, unpacking, tagging, and displaying our new offerings in the Gift Shop. Thanks to everyone for what you are doing for the Unique Boutique Gift Shop.

Our annual meeting will be held on Friday, April 10 in the Auble Room at 9:30 AM. Brunch will be served thanks to MMC and the Dietary Department. Please consider attending to show your support and meet up with friends who also have the same goals to further our MMCA!

Many thanks to those willing to help when we call and please reach out to any Board member to let us know interests you may have.

Below are goals for 2026:

GROWTH

- Increase membership by 20 volunteers
- Evaluate membership recruitment strategies and consider areas for improvement
- Evaluate processes to improve collection of annual membership dues
- Continue to include membership information at all MMCA events

QUALITY

- Strive to achieve 100% compliance with health assessments, vaccines, HIPAA, and compliance forms
- Assure the Volunteer Voice newsletter includes all programs, services, and fundraising events and is communicated to members, MMC board, and the Health Foundation
- Utilize options to enrich MMCA

PEOPLE

- Succession planning - committee leads, officers, project leads
- Assign mentors for new members
- Continue MMCA-led appreciation activities for MMC employees
- Maximize marketing and communication activities
- Evaluate communication needs related to communication with the board, members, and Unique Boutique volunteers
- Plan board and member appreciation activities

SERVICES/COMMUNITY

- Gift Shop - Establish teams for operation of Unique Boutique. Develop POS competency for UB volunteers
- Evaluate current processes and consider areas for improvement for hosting MMCA Bazaar, Holiday Open House, and Tree of Lights
- Continue provisions of scholarships for students in healthcare fields
- Continue evaluation of the RSVP program and ensure driver recruitment
- Continue auction food concession fundraising and evaluate opportunities for improvement
- Continue MMCA-led projects and evaluate opportunities for improvement: newborn hats/ afghans, Skilled Care patient visits, POP tours
- Update project manuals

Financial

- Analyze MMCA needs and purchases as determined by the Board
- Donation of \$20,000 to MMC departments

MEMBERSHIP and RECRUITMENT

Hello, members. This year the Membership Committee's goal is to have all dues for the year paid by the end of May 2026. Please check the address label on your newsletter. The year posted on the left upper corner is the year you are paid through. If you have paid through 2025, that year is printed and you owe 2026 dues. **Annual dues remain at \$15.00. Two years at \$25.00. Lifetime membership is a one-time payment of \$100.00.** Dues are utilized to help with expenses of the Auxiliary.

Please make checks payable to MMC and write "dues" in the memo. If you are sending one check with Healthcare Scholarship donation and dues payment, please make note in the memo so we apply the money correctly. Checks can be mailed to MMC Administration, c/o Ruth Pitkin, 1213 Garfield Ave, Harlan, IA 51537. Dues may also be dropped off at the Unique Boutique Gift Shop. Please reach out if you have any questions.

MMC employees, who are also Auxiliary members, may pay dues through "payroll deduct." We have a special payroll deduction form in the gift shop if you wish to pay in this manner. We have had positive input from the employees who have paid dues in this way.

We have set our goal to recruit **20** new members in 2026. Thus far, we have 14 new members. New members bring new energy and ideas. At times, they find a best friend to join with them. If you have a family member or friend who needs involvement for a great cause, invite them to join. Each member chooses the amount of involvement right for them. Every act of participation is appreciated. All members are important and valued. Thank you. *~~Cheryl Ferry 712.755.5549*



BAKELESS BAKE SALE

It's time again for our Bakeless Bake Sale fundraiser! All funds raised go to fund 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 Phyllis Lytle, 1002 Hwy 44, Harlan, IA 51537. Thank you!

Eligible scholarship applicants are required to demonstrate strong academic achievement; must have demonstrated meaningful community service and leadership; must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or healthcare education program; and the applicant must reside within 25 miles of Harlan, Iowa. Applications must be received prior to April 1, 2026. Submit to rpitkin@myrtuemedical.org or mail to Ruth Pitkin at 1213 Garfield Ave, Harlan, IA 51537. Applications may be found on the MMC website under Patients + Visitors, and then Auxiliary + Gift Shop. Scroll to bottom of the page. *~~Phyllis Lytle*

Auxiliary In Action!

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

On December 3, 2025 Gratitude “Christmas” Gifts were distributed throughout MMC including all satellites and off campus sites. Employees received a treat bag with a disposable “to go” coffee cup, a cocoa/marshmallow packet and candy. The gift tag read, “Enjoy a cup of Christmas cheer. Thank you for all you’ve done this year!” MMCA members participating in this gifting were Ella Hazelton, Linda Quinn, Jan McElwain, Kathy Gau, Rebecca Gough, Maggie Bissen, Deb & Vince Jauron.



On February 11, 2026 Gratitude Gifts were distributed to employees throughout Myrtue including those working at satellite clinics, Community Health, PT/OT, Wellness Center, and Senior Life Solutions. They were also left for those employees working the night shift.



Each employee received a heart shaped decorated sugar cookie and pink and red M&Ms in a cellophane bag with attached tag that read, “For all you do..we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! MMC Auxiliary”.

The MMCA team consisted of Maggie Bissen, Jan McElwain, Shirley Olson, Linda Quinn, and Deb Jauron.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The annual Holiday Open House for the Unique Boutique was held on November 12 & 13, 2025. New fall and Christmas items were showcased for sale. We were very busy both days and record-breaking sales were achieved! Several MMCA members contributed their assistance to make this event so successful. Door prize winners for the event won a gift bag from the Unique Boutique. Winners were Verla Randall, Sandy Nelsen, and McKayla Aschinger. Net income from the event was \$6,843! Thanks to all who stopped and shopped!



AT THE *Unique* GIFT SHOP BOUTIQUE

Ruthanne Grimsley and team were the Unique Boutique purchasers for 2025. They wore all the hats including purchasing items, unpacking, tagging, and displaying. These volunteers organized and prepared on very short notice and did a tremendous job. Thank you to Ruthanne and team for a job well done!

New to managing the Unique Boutique this year is Deb Morgan. Her team includes, Joan Chamberlain, Karen Chamberlain, Denise Van De Berg, Nancy Osborn, Sandy Andersen, Cheryl Ferry, Bonnie Fiscus, Tammie Heilesen, Loretta Harder, Sharon Musich, and Bev Jensen.

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.

We have many new products available for sale – sheet sets, spring decor, and lots of clothing. Don't forget we also sell greeting cards, jewelry, candy and soups. Thank you so much for your continued patronage; we hope to see you soon! ~~DebMorgan



RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The RSVP program had a successful year in 2025. We now have a group of 17 volunteer drivers and they were able to get patients to MMC appointments 65 times. If someone needs a ride to any of the MMC clinics including Harlan, Elk Horn, Avoca, Shelby, Earling, Myrtue Specialty Clinics, Physical/Occupational/Speech Therapy, or Mental Health, MMC Patient Access will try and get that arranged. A text goes out to the drivers explaining when a ride is needed and to where and the time. Drivers respond if it fits into their schedule. If you are 55 or older and have wanted to volunteer for something and this sounds like a good fit, please reach out to Ruth Pitkin at 712.755.4316. This service is definitely needed in our community. Thank you for your consideration. ~~Joan Chamberlain





AUXILIARY

1213 GARFIELD AVE | HARLAN, IA 51537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
HARLAN, IA 51537

PERMIT NO. 17

Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary's Annual Meeting and Brunch

will be held on April 10, 2026
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.

