

Volunteer Voice

Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary

Volume 73

Issue 2

July 2026

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MMCA has become very important to me and mostly because of the relationships developed with the amazing members of this organization! They are loyal, hardworking and committed to making our group better in every way possible. We have worked together so far this year to continue to develop the Unique Boutique into a shopping experience for all to enjoy, especially women. Our members are not afraid to take on new challenges, such as unpacking and helping tag items as they come in, and working together to display them in the best possible way. We had a wonderful turnout at our Annual Meeting in April and our volunteers continue to work auction concessions in whatever way we need them. Thank you to everyone for all you do to make our organization great!

Nancy Osborn, President

REMINDER...Each Auxiliary member is asked to donate \$5.00 to help with food costs at the Bazaar. Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope for you to make your donation. You may also pay at the Bazaar.



MMCA HEALTHCARE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary is committed and proud to support the next generation of healthcare professionals who will make positive impacts in our community. Our scholarship fund is dedicated to providing financial assistance to aspiring healthcare students.

Currently, we offer five \$1,000 scholarships in addition to one \$1,000 Donafae Hibray/MMCA scholarship. Our goal this year is to reach \$5,300 in donations, which will cover all scholarship expenses.

To better represent these scholarships, the scholarship name will be Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary Healthcare Scholarship, and donations will continue through the Bakeless Bake Sale.

We are reaching out in our Volunteer Voice to ask for your continued monetary support for our scholarship fund. Your contribution, no matter the amount, will directly assist with college expenses for talented students in the healthcare field.

To donate, please submit a check to the MMCA scholarship fund. These may be mailed to Treasurer Phyllis Lytle at 1002 Hwy 44, Harlan, IA 51537 or dropped off at the Unique Boutique Gift Shop. Donations may be tax deductible, and 100% of your donation goes directly toward the scholarship fund.

Thank you for your generosity and being a valued member of the MMC Auxiliary.

MMCA Scholarship Committee
Tina Reischl, Karen Buman, Linda Quinn

So far in 2026 we have raised \$3,095 for healthcare scholarships. That is 58% of our goal of \$5,300.



Annual Meeting - April 10, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the MMCA was held on April 10, 2026 in the Auble Room of the hospital. New CEO Kile Wagner spoke with a message of welcome and thanks to the Auxiliary for all their work and dedication to MMC.

Tina Reischl led us in an invocation prayer followed by a delicious brunch served by Tracy Kenkel from Main Street Market in Panama. Special thanks to the Hospital Dietary staff for beverages for the meal and for all their support of our monthly board meetings with coffee and cookies.

Nicole Ohlinger, Chief Nursing Officer, gave a presentation of 2025 donations given to the hospital from MMCA funds, as well as pictures of the new items in use. A check for \$35,000 was presented for 2026 donation requests.

Tina Reischl reported on the MMCA and Donafae Hibray Scholarships which were given to six students in Shelby County this school year.

Honorary Member Award was given to Cheryl Ferry. She was nominated by Linda Quinn, who gave out the award and spoke of Cheryl's accomplishments in the MMCA (see photo at right). She has been a 5-year board member, chair of the fall bazaar two times, vice president, president, and a part of every other committee and leadership position possible. Cheryl always helps out wherever needed, has a great attitude, is very creative and has good ideas. Cheryl, you are very deserving of this award and we are so grateful for your commitment to the MMCA!

Members present had a chance to ask any questions of the workings of the Auxiliary throughout this past year and were all given a 10% off one regular price item in the Unique Boutique to use during the month of April.

There were door prizes throughout the morning as well.

Thank you to everyone who came
and celebrated 2025 with us!
Nancy Osborn, President



2026 BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Nancy Osborn

Vice President: Deb Morgan

Secretary: Joan Chamberlain

Treasurer: Phyllis Lytle

*Board Members: Cheryl Ferry,
Jolene Lytle, Sandy Nelsen, Cheryl
Burchett, Sharon Daberkow,
Tina Reischl, Karen Chamberlain,
Sharon Monson, Cathy Cavanaugh*

2026 Scholarship Recipients



ANGELICA STERN |
Harlan Comm High School

Angelica was born at Myrtue. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Iowa to major in Biology on the pre-med track.

JACKSON SHUTTERS |
AHSTW Comm High School

Jackson plans to attend Iowa Western Community College to pursue a degree in nursing. His goal is to become a flight nurse.



CHARLOTTE PARKER |
AHSTW Comm High School

In the fall, Charlotte will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to pursue a pre-medicine track.

CARLY TORNETEN |
Harlan Comm High School

Carly will be studying Human Physiology and Business on the pre-dental track at the University of Iowa.



OLIVIA GREIVING |
IKM/Manning High School

Olivia plans to pursue her doctorate degree in pharmacy through the University of Iowa.



DONAFAR HIBRAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

SYLVIA SULLIVAN
Boyer Valley High School

Sylvia plans to attend Iowa State University and major in Health Sciences. She plans to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and pursue a career as a registered nurse.



Auxiliary In Action!

GIFTS of GRATITUDE



A total of 285 Employee Gratitude Gifts were distributed April 30th throughout the MMC Campus. The gifts consisted of a cupcake packaged with a cut out flower with the message: "April Showers Bring May Flowers! Enjoy! MMC Auxiliary." The team helping were: Maggie Bissen, Ella Hazelton, Kathy Gau, Janet Thomsen, Linda Quinn, Mary Tremel and Deb Jauron.

AUCTION CONCESSIONS

- MMCA continues to sponsor food concession fundraisers at auctions. These events have been a great success due to the generosity of our members and others. Our members work together by donating their time, donating bars or pies, by purchasing food and/or beverages for the events, and by sharing their grilling and cooking talents. Members have also made donations of cash to help with food and supply costs. Thank you all for your part. It is noticed and appreciated.

- In spring of 2026 we have served concessions at two auctions. One on April 11 and one on June 28. Net proceeds from the two auctions for the concessions was \$1,655.

- If interested in helping, please call Sharon Musich at 755.2601. Our next auction will be on August 22.

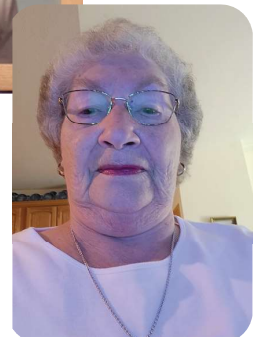


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeanette Knudsen has been in healthcare since she was a CNA in her junior year of nursing school in 1955! She graduated from Immanuel Hospital School of Nursing Diploma program in 1956 and UNO BSN program in 1963. She then furthered her education by getting her Master's of Education Administration in 1977 from ISU. She worked at Myrtue as a CNA, Med/Surg nurse, OB nurse, and Surgery nurse early in her career. She taught students at IWCC and did clinicals at Myrtue throughout the 1980s. She worked at Salem Home in Elk Horn as Director of Nursing as well as Home Healthcare in Atlantic. From 1999-2009 she was a Diabetes Educator at Myrtue and then retired. Special co-workers included Judy Knott, Alice Wilson, Delores and Phyllis Monahan, and Marilyn Keane.

It has been 70 years since Jeanette graduated nursing school! In her time with the MMCA, she has enjoyed volunteering with the Fall Bazaar, crocheting caps and afghans for newborns, RSVP patient appointment driver program, and the Fair Parade.

Thank you, Jeanette, for your loyalty and commitment to healthcare and to the Myrtue Medical Center Auxiliary!



MEMBERSHIP

MMCA continues to strive to meet our goal of 20 new members in 2026. To date, fourteen new members have joined. We gained nine of the new members during our recruitment drive (see photo at right). You can help by inviting someone to join. Our members enjoy being part of a meaningful group. There are NO requirements. Members work around family and schedules and choose their amount of involvement. New members bring new enthusiasm, talent, and ideas. Brochures are available in the Unique Boutique Gift Shop or on MMC website.



We continue to accept annual dues. Please check your newsletter address label. If you owe dues for 2026, the year is highlighted. **Dues remain**

at \$15 annually or \$25 for two years. Lifetime membership is \$100. Please make check payable to MMCA 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 swift attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Your dues help pay general expenses of MMCA. If you have questions, call Ruth at 755.4316.

As a way to show appreciation for all that our volunteers do at Myrtue, Auxiliary members were invited to enjoy breakfast during Hospital Week. Photo at right shows some of our Auxiliary members able to attend.

Our total membership now stands at 277, which includes 26 Honorary members and 140 Lifetime members.

Cheryl Ferry, Membership Chair



2026 POP TOURS

The MMCA Pediatric Orientation Program, better known as POP tours were held again this spring during National Hospital Week, on May 12 and 13. 104 students from six different classrooms of first graders from Harlan Primary School and St. Michael's Catholic School participated. Thank you so much to the Myrtue Medical Center staff members that gave the tours in the Laboratory, Diagnostic Imaging, Respiratory Therapy and Nursery departments. Also thanks to the Shelby County Ambulance Service for bringing an ambulance to tour and learn about! MMC Auxiliary volunteers for the event were Julie Klein, Annette Schmitz, Becky Chipman, Janell Leinen, and Nancy Osborn.



WHAT'S THE BUZZ? BEE-LIEVE IN AUXILIARY

Fall Bazaar & Luncheon **Thursday, September 17**

MMCA's board has been buzzing preparing for the Fall Bazaar. Committee chairs have been confirmed. Listed are committee leaders who need volunteers for their area. Members work together prior and during the event to make it a fun and successful fundraiser. We look forward to working with you!

Dining Room - Joan Chamberlain (712.579.1103)
Beverages - Cheryl Burchett (712.744.3606)
Desserts - Sharon Daberkow (712.755.5079)
Take-Outs - Pat Pash (712.755.5613)
Bake Shop - Bonnie Fiscus (712.766.3252)
Unique Boutique volunteer recruitment - Karen Chamberlain (712.579.6685)
Membership Recruitment: Cheryl Ferry (712.579.5420)
Tree of Lights: Calla Poldberg (712.773.2292)



Lunch will be catered by Main Street Market from Panama. They will be serving chicken salad on a croissant with side salads. Dessert will be homemade by our own members. Luncheon tickets are \$15 each. Don't forget the raffles!

The Dessert Committee will need volunteers to make dessert to be served with lunch. To volunteer to make a 9x13 four-layer dessert, please contact Sharon Daberkow (712.755.5079). She will provide you with the recipe and details. There will also be a sign-up sheet with the recipe in the Unique Boutique Gift Shop.

Shout out to all bakers. Help keep our Bake Shop/Candy Shop a sweet success. Make what you're good at or what you love to bake and eat. Cinnamon rolls, bread, pies, cakes, bars, cookies, fudge, peanut brittle, caramel corn, scrabble mix, are needed. Please have goodies packaged, ready to sell and delivered to Vet's by 9 AM on Sept 17.

If needed, you may drop off your baked items at the Administration office and we will assure your goodies are delivered to the Vet's Auditorium.

Purchase your luncheon and raffle tickets at the Gift Shop, from any board member, or at the door the day of the Bazaar. Take out dinners are also available!

The Bazaar is our biggest fundraiser of the year. To help cover food expenses, each auxiliary member is asked to donate \$5 or what you feel is fair for you. Enclosed with this newsletter, is an envelope for you to make your donation. You may mail your donation to our treasurer, Phyllis Lytle, 1002 Hwy 44, Harlan, IA. You may also pay the day of the Bazaar. Thank you for your support of the Auxiliary. Let's make this a buzzingly successful Bazaar.



AT THE *Unique* GIFT SHOP BOUTIQUE

Unique Boutique continues to be open five days a week - 9am to 4pm Monday through Thursday and 9am to 12:30pm on Friday. From purchasing to displaying, our Gift Shop teams continue to keep Unique Boutique stocked with a variety of fun gift ideas. Stop in and see our new earring display. We have great new baby items too!

As always, Unique Boutique will be featured at the Fall Bazaar. Make sure you check it out.

Thank you, to all our gift shop volunteers!



BABY HATS & AFGHANS

Dolores Harder, a 96-year old resident of Elm Crest Assisted Living, keeps busy making baby afghans for the newborns at Myrtue. She has made over 30 afghans and still crocheting! If anyone is interested in making afghans or hats, please contact Loretta Harder at 712.579.2477.



SKILLED CARE VISITS

Skilled care patients at MMC continue to enjoy visits from MMCA's Skilled Visit Committee. The program operates under the guidelines of the MMC Utilization Department and volunteers work closely with the UR staff. Currently, each member commits to one visit per month with flexibility. Our team consists of Cheryl Burchett, Sue Schneider, Annette Schmitz, Jan Goesser, and Linda Andersen. The personal interaction is fulfilling for both the patient and the volunteer. Thank you, committee members, for the time you share with patients to brighten their hospital stay.

There are open dates on the monthly visit schedule. If you are interested in joining the committee and want more information, please call 755.4316.



AUXILIARY

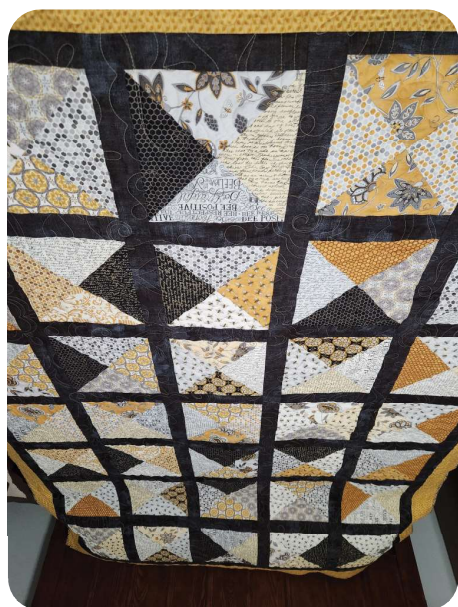
1213 Garfield Avenue

Harlan, IA 51537

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

PERMIT NO. 17



\$1/one ticket | \$5/six tickets

Hand-made Quilt |
Petersen Family Wellness Center
one-year Family Membership |
Hand Sketched Print

Get your raffle tickets at
the Unique Boutique Gift Shop,
from any board member or
at the event.

THE BUZZ...
Fall Bazaar & Luncheon
Thursday, Sept 17

