

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

pulse



www.lodihealth.org

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Fitness staff promote LMH ownership

The LMH Association owns LMH and has since the non-profit group formed on Dec. 7, 1945. Membership is open to anyone for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$100. In addition to becoming an owner of LMH, the perks of membership include the employee-discount rate at West Fitness, a 10-percent discount in the hospital dining rooms and an upgrade to a private room if one is available when needed. 882 staff, physicians and community members are members. However, in the past year the LMH Association has seen the largest growth in its 63 year history. About 350 new members have joined since April 2007. This is thanks, in large measure, to the staff of the LMH Fitness Center. They have been offering the employee-discount rate at the fitness center to anyone who joins the association. The fitness center has enrolled 262 new association members in this past year. It's been good for their business, too; they can entice more people to join the fitness center by offering them the discount. Association members participate annually in the election of board members who represent the membership on the LMH Board of Directors. Members are also invited to attend an annual meeting where election results are announced and a state-of-the-hospital report is offered by LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington. The LMH Association is not a fund-raising group, their sole purpose is to own and direct the hospital. People often confuse the LMH Association with the LMH Foundation. The foundation is a separate, non-profit group charged with raising funds for hospital capital projects. Employees, physicians, volunteers and community members interested in joining the association can check out the LMH web site, www.lodihealth.org, for an application. Many employees have also joined the association in the past year to take advantage of the 10-percent discount in the dining rooms. Those who prefer a paper application can call or stop by the LMH Community Development Department. Employees have the option to join via payroll deduction, as is indicated on the application form. Those joining before Mar. 19 will be offered a complimentary ticket to the annual meeting and dinner. This year's meeting will be held at Wine & Roses Country Inn, on Wed., Apr. 16, 6p. Tickets are on sale at \$30 per member and \$40 for non-members through Apr. 9. Joanne Augusto in Administration will have tickets available beginning Mar. 20, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

South Wing steel to go up

The South Wing project is enjoying the spring-like weather. Foundation preparations are being completed in anticipation of the arrival of the structural steel on Mar. 13. The structural frame of the new addition will be in place mid-April. This is another exciting milestone. Many have asked about the structure under construction just north of the Medical Plaza. It will support samples of the exterior metal panel, stucco and window finishes being used on the South Wing exterior in an effort to "mock-up" the facade and work out any design or installation details prior to fitting the actual work on the building. After the building exterior is finished, the mock-up will be removed. Work is also progressing at the central-utility-plant site. Completion nearing on the east half of the site will provide some more parking and the ability to drive through the Conrad parking lot from Vine Street. The plant-building construction will last through April of 2009. LMH continues to experience a parking impact due to the project. Many thanks to those employees who are finding alternate means of getting to work, such as bicycling, car-pooling and walking, (Nancy Reich, ext. 7612).

Employee campaign extended

The LMH employee South Wing fundraising campaign has been extended to the end of March. To date, 92 out of 1,269 employees have pledged to contribute. Those wishing to contribute should return pledge forms to the LMH Foundation office. Employees who have already designated United Way contributions to the South Wing should note that on the pledge form. The goal is to have 100-percent employee participation, so please consider contributing to this worthy cause, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

Education hosts open house

All are welcomed to the Education Department's open house on Fri., Mar. 28, from 1-4p, at its new address, 832 S. Fairmont Ave. Come enjoy dessert and participate in a 2008 Patient Safety Goal Treasure Hunt, (Donna Schulz, 642-4985).

Book fair set for March

A book fair will be held at LMH on Fri., Mar. 14, in Classrooms F and G, from 8a-4p. Proceeds from the book fair will be used by the Rewards and Recognition Committee for activities to benefit LMH Employees. Payroll deduction is available, (Donna Schulz, 642-4985).

Follow guidelines, help prevent flu

Recently LMH has seen an increase in flu cases for both Influenza A and Influenza B, with several positive cultures in inpatients. There have also been community outbreaks of the flu in some local long-term-care facilities. Please remember, any hospital staff member with flu symptoms should not come to work sick. Symptoms include a rapid onset of fever, headache, tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny nose, body aches, diarrhea and vomiting. The flu can be passed easily from one day before symptoms occur and up to five days after symptoms occur. Working while ill can spread the flu to patients. Patients admitted with these symptoms should be isolated into Droplet Precautions. Be very careful to monitor others entering the facility with respiratory symptoms, such as family and visitors of patients, and ask that they follow respiratory etiquette (Infection Control Policy # 8750-400.5). Respiratory-etiquette kits are available at the main lobby and ED registration areas. Diligence to these guidelines is essential to protect our patients and staff from an outbreak of influenza, (*Schylerle Beal, ext. 7521*).

UM increases patient coverage

LMH's continuing-care managers (also known as discharge planners) and social workers have implemented extended hours of service, now covering 10 hours per day, from 8a-6:30p. Additionally, a second continuing-care manager works each Saturday. Social workers continue to provide on-call support for weekend coverage. These decisions were made with two organizational needs in mind – to improve internal and external customer service and to assist with patient throughput. Clinical staff who work past 4:30p, will appreciate the additional support in processing discharges that occur later in the day. Physicians making rounds after office hours will have an additional opportunity to speak to the continuing-care managers to discuss patient-discharge needs. Families visiting loved ones after 4:30p now have an additional opportunity to meet with the continuing-care managers and social workers to coordinate discharge needs and address social issues. Social workers are able to attend family meetings with physicians that are often scheduled after 4:30p. Continuing-care managers and social workers are now able to provide additional support to the emergency department. Please thank them for helping LMH meet these important objectives, (*Shelly Mason, ext. 7480*).

TCU nurse completes CLNC program

Congratulations to TCU nurse David Quint on completing a "Certified Legal Nurse Consultant" course. As a CLNC, David will now be able to work with attorneys in reviewing medical records to help advocate for quality patient care for their clients, (*Lynne Mantz, ext. 3151*).

Congratulations, Kathleen

Congratulations to TCU LVN Kathleen Cobarruviaz, who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Carys Renee, on Valentine's Day. Carys weighed eight pounds, three ounces and measured 20.5 inches long. Mom and baby are doing well. Carys joins father Cory and sisters Elise and Vanessa, (*Lynne Mantz, ext. 3181*).

New therapeutic interchanges named

The Pharmacy Department recently received approval for two new, automatic therapeutic interchanges. For the treatment of insomnia, orders for the non-formulary drug Ambien CR will be automatically substituted to zolpidem, which is the generic equivalent of Ambien. Clinical considerations include administration on an empty stomach and indication for short-term (seven to 10 days) treatment of insomnia. Elderly or debilitated patients should receive a maximum of 5mg/day, as should those with hepatic impairment. No dosage adjustments are necessary for patients with renal impairment. The newly approved cholesterol-lowering agent (statin) is simvastatin, which replaces Lipitor. Orders for Crestor, Lescol, Mevacor, Pravachol and Lipitor will be automatically substituted to the equivalent dose of simvastatin by the pharmacist. Simvastatin is dosed once daily in the evening, has low potential for drug interactions leading to myopathy or rhabdomyolysis, effective LDC-C and TG lowering potential, and reduced incidence of stroke in hyperlipidemic patients with no prior stroke history, (*Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555*).

See's hops by LMH

See's Candies is once again coming to LMH for Easter candy sales on Tues., Mar. 18, from 9a-3p, in Classroom A. Purchase all your See's Candies at up to a 30-percent discount. Payroll deduction, cash, ATM, credit or checks are accepted, (*Tina Vincelet, ext. 7386*).

Volunteers sought to show "spear-it"

Does LMH have "spear-it"? You bet we do. LMH is looking for volunteers to work the deep-fry booth at the Stockton Asparagus Festival during the following dates and times: Fri., Apr. 25, 2:30-7:30p; Sat., Apr. 26, 8:30a-2:30p or 2:30-7:30p; and Sun., Apr. 27, 8:30a-2:30p or 2:30-7:30p. Stockton Delta Rotary will donate money for each volunteer who works to a charity of our choosing. Please stop by Human Resources by Apr. 1, to volunteer for a day of fun, (*Judi Simon, ext. 7443*).

"Who in the heck?" fools few

Most LMHers guessed that the lovely young lady pictured in the last issue of "Pulse" was the graduation photo of none other than Medical Records' lovely Vera Ehresman. Many thanks, Vera, for sharing the photo.

How to submit to/find "Pulse"

All medical staff, hospital staff and volunteers are welcomed to submit items for "Pulse." Items should be between 50-150 words and pertain to LMH news, milestones or events. Items should be directed via in-house mail to the Community Development Department or via email to Lori Horan or Carol Farron. "Pulse" is published every other Monday, and items for the newsletter should be received by 8a the preceding Friday. "Pulse" can be accessed electronically via the LMH network (L:\NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS\Internal\PULSE) or on the LMH website, www.lodihealth.org. Those wishing to receive "Pulse" via e-mail should contact Lori Horan, ext. 7590, or e-mail lhoran@lodihealth.org, (*Carol Farron, ext. 7535*).