

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010

pulse



www.lodihealth.org
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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

Annual meeting salutes Corda, Suess

At its 64th annual meeting last week at Wine & Roses in Lodi, the LMH Association membership paid tributes to long-time volunteer Margaret Corda and 16-year board member Kelly Suess. Both are stepping down from LMH service to enjoy their retirement.



Corda

Corda came on board in 1990 to take the helm as volunteer coordinator and gift-shop coordinator. Both were volunteer positions at the time. Through last year, Corda amassed 22,000 service hours. In those rolls she screened and helped place volunteers and ordered gift-shop merchandise. The gift shop earns about

\$25,000 a year for LMH. During her tenure Margaret was a generous gift-shop coordinator. Nurses who needed toys for pediatric patients knew they could get a donation from Margaret; so, too, those who needed items for nursing week or SAFE Day auctions. In the LMH history books, no volunteer has amassed more hours than Margaret. Thank you, Margaret, for everything, and we will miss you.



Suess

Suess became a board member in 1994. He and his family own and operate the Lodi Nut Company, just up the street from LMH. During his board tenure, he served on nearly every board committee, including the executive committee, and had the important roll of finance chair. Suess, who is conscientious and understated, is known for his generous nature and many kindnesses. During the annual meeting, he thanked board chair Cecil Dillon for a hospital plaque and picture and commendations from city, county and state officials. Suess told members that he believes LMH is the best hospital with the best staff, and Lodi should consider itself lucky.

In other business, election chair Mary Kraft reported election results. 1,432 ballots were distributed, and Param Gill, MD, was elected to return to the board after a two-year hiatus. Re-elected to three-year terms were Taj Khan, Robert McCaffrey and Debbie Olson.

In his report on the state of the hospital, president and CEO Joe Harrington reported on 2009's successes: The South Wing and new central-utility plant opening; bedside-medication verification; the Endoscopy Center of Lodi, at Fairmont and Vine; three new community clinics in Lodi – Millsbridge, Iris and Vine. Harrington reviewed how the

economic downturn and the increase in uninsured impacted LMH finances. He thanked all LMH staff for their fine work and, now, the personal sacrifices they make to help hold the hospital's bottom line. He thanked physicians for their part in quality-improvement efforts, as well as hospital volunteers and auxiliary members for their valued assistance.

In looking to 2010, Harrington pointed to a new kitchen project in the basement and dining-room remodel; a morgue; the new ED; telemetry unit; and palliative-care program. He also noted the country's economic challenges are still a major factor for all US hospitals. Also a challenge for LMH will be the ability for the county to sustain SJ General; the construction of a prison hospital in Stockton; and diminishing state and federal health-care funding.

The association is the owner of the hospital, and anyone can become a member for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$100. Attending the meeting were new members from the LMH Mission Branch Auxiliary – Leah Hesseltine, who at 96 may be the most senior new member, and Lisa Zicari. Contact Community Development for membership information.

Also at the meeting, board chair Dillon announced that Harrington became engaged to the lovely Joleen Meyer during a recent trip to Yosemite, (*Carol Farron, ext. 7535*).

Lab staff celebrate



LMH lab employees celebrated National Laboratory Professionals' Week Apr. 18-24. Staff held a potluck and raffle and sported shirts with various lab-related slogans. The lab is thankful for the leadership of pathologist Elvira Milano, MD, and director Dave Mack. The lab staff gives special recognition to Mr. Mack, who celebrates 20 years at LMH in May. His contributions to the lab and the hospital as a whole have been tremendous. Clinical lab professionals are key members of the health-care team. LMH depends on lab professionals to perform tests, interpret results and provide a complete picture of patients' health, (*Alice Kehoe, ext. 7584*).

Don't forget to "Walk"

The LMH Foundation's May 8 "Walk for the Health of It" welcomes walkers and volunteers alike. "Walk" shirts are sold in the gift shop, HR, West Fitness and Millsbridge and Trinity clinics. Call 339-7582 for more information on volunteering or sponsorships, (*Donna Shaw, ext. 7582*).

"Pulse" reader survey here, or go online

This month "Pulse" celebrated its 16th birthday. "Pulse" is for hospital employees, volunteers, physicians and community members and shares LMH information across its readership. Please help improvement efforts, and take a moment to answer the questions below. Return to Community Development. Online address: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/pulse2010>.

- I am a(n):
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nurse | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-nursing, clinical-staff member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other hospital-staff member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physician | <input type="checkbox"/> Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain _____ | |

"Pulse" is published twice a month. I read "Pulse"...

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

I generally...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skim "Pulse" to read what interests me | <input type="checkbox"/> Read all of "Pulse" |
|---|--|

I generally have...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No trouble finding a copy of "Pulse" | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty finding a copy |
|---|--|

"Pulse" is helpful and informative...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

I contribute items to "Pulse"...

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Often | <input type="checkbox"/> Once in a while | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|

This "Pulse" feature is most important to me...

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital-wide updates | <input type="checkbox"/> Department-specific updates | <input type="checkbox"/> News on LMH individuals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health-care updates | <input type="checkbox"/> Who in the heck? | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would prefer to receive "Pulse" via e-mail at the hospital...

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree | <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

I think "Pulse's" design format is...

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to follow | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to follow | <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|

I learn about LMH activities and events when reading "Pulse"...

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Always | <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

I know how to submit items for "Pulse"...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Here's what I like best about "Pulse":

Here's where I think "Pulse" could improve:
