

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2007

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

LMH welcomes congressman



Congressman Jerry McNERney stops in OB

LMH President and CEO Joe Harrington welcomed Congressman Jerry McNERney and his San Joaquin Regional Director, Angel Picon, to the hospital on Sat., May 26. Joe met the congressman on a May visit to Washington, DC and extended an invite to the hospital, which the congressman quickly accepted. The congressman and his staff toured the hospital and its grounds and learned about LMH operations and South-Wing-expansion plans. Frank Hartwick, MD, and director of Delta Radiology, and LMH Community Development Director Carol Farron joined the tour. Dr. Hartwick introduced the congressman to the challenges of recruiting and retaining radiologists in a hospital setting. Dr. Hartwick also lead a tour of the Advanced Imaging Center. Congressman McNERney and his staff learned of LMH's place in the community as a health-care provider and employer and about the hospital's five-county service area. McNERney was recently elected to Congress. This is his first public office. He represents California's 11th District. He was inspired to run for office after his son, Michael, joined the military following 9/11. He is a renewable-energy businessman, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Summer Fest set for July

The LMH Foundation's annual fund raiser, Summer Fest, has been set for Sat., July 14, at Woodbridge Winery. Delta Radiology will be the major event sponsor for the fourth year in a row. Auction items, sponsors and volunteers are sought. Tickets are \$65 each, and 18 restaurants/caterers will participate, paired with 18 wines by Woodbridge. To date, Summer Fest has raised more than \$685,000 to provide LMH with the latest equipment and to support its programs and services, (Donna Shaw, ext. 7582).

Perks given to LMH owners/members

Members of the LMH Association, the non-profit group that owns Lodi Memorial Hospital, received new membership cards in the mail last week. The cards included three thank yous for their support: Association members now receive a 10-percent discount in the hospital's dining rooms; the employee rate at West Fitness; and an upgrade to a private hospital room if one is available. In its 55-year history, members of the LMH Association have received no particular perks for becoming and remaining members. They have, however, always been responsible for electing LMH board members in the association's annual election. Membership in the association is open to anyone for a one-time, lifetime fee of \$100. Employees who wish to join may do so by payroll deduction if they wish. Forms are available in Community Development, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).

Employees are LMH's ambassadors

Did you know that when you refer someone to apply for a job at LMH that you can receive a \$100 referral bonus? This is paid to you after the employee you referred has been employed for 90 days. It will be included in your regular paycheck. Simply come to human resources to complete an "Applicant Referral" form. Those who refer an applicant in a "hard-to-fill" position, either part time or full time, will be eligible for a referral bonus up to \$1,500, paid out in three payments over a one-year period (after 90 days, 180 days and one year of employment). These payments are paid out in separate checks and are not included in direct deposits. The hard-to-fill applicant will complete a "Referral/Sign-on Bonus Application" form. They must list the name of the employee who referred them. Please visit HR with questions and/or to fill out forms, (Judi Simon, ext. 7443).

Clinics implement LSS

The Clinic Services Department is in the midst of the LSS scheduling and billing implementation, an integrated system with Meditech, and I wish to applaud all the staff for a job well done. The clinics also thank the various departments that supported this transition with their expertise and presence. Hats off to the LSS implementation team. With no slowing down, the LSS Electronic Ambulatory Record (EAR) team travels to Minnesota in June to begin the dictionary training process. This implementation will stretch over several months after dictionaries are built to encompass all the needs of the various clinics, staff and physician training, (Pam Schneider, ext. 7450).

Check out the saver's credit

The "Saver's Credit" may be a tax break worth looking into. It allows retirement-plan participants with annual adjusted-gross incomes of up to \$25,000 (filing individually) or \$50,000 (filing jointly) to save on their federal income-tax returns. The maximum annual contribution eligible for the credit is \$2,000. The rate is based on income in the tax year for which the credit is claimed. For example, if your adjusted-gross income is \$25,000 and you file individually, if you contributed \$2,000 to your employer-sponsored retirement plan, you'd qualify for a \$200 credit on your income tax (10 percent of \$2,000). For more information, visit www.irs.gov, (Mark Wallace, ext. 7444).

Hand hygiene is essential

JCAHO Patient Safety Goal #7 was implemented specifically to prevent the spread of infection in health-care facilities. Within this standard is the requirement for health-care workers to comply with the hand-hygiene guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control. This means that for those workers assigned to patient-care areas, hand hygiene must be done when entering a patient room, between patients, before performing a procedure on a patient, before putting on gloves, after removing gloves, when in contact with blood or body fluids and when leaving a patient's room, among others. Hands that are visibly soiled must be washed with soap and water. Hands that are not visibly soiled may be disinfected with foam sanitizer. These steps are very important in breaking the chain of infection and preventing the spread of germs between patients or from patients to staff members. The goal is to keep everyone healthy. When should you wash your hands? If hands are visibly soiled (dirty); if hands are visibly contaminated with blood or body fluids; before eating; before applying make-up or handling contact lenses; after using the restroom; and after sneezing or coughing. Take this opportunity to improve your practices and to hold those around you accountable as well. Please do your part, and keep those hands clean, (Schyerle Beal, ext. 7521).

Kudos to Gayle Moses

The next time you see LMH safety/security officer Gayle Moses, be sure to congratulate her for going the extra mile – and then some. On Friday of the recent "Bike to Work Week," Gayle rode her bike to LMH all the way from Galt. I was arriving from my just-over-one-mile commute and thinking what a nice change of pace it was to do a very small part toward saving gas and parking spaces. It not only pales in comparison, but shows what one can do to help reduce parking needs, help the environment and get some great exercise in the process. Way to go, Gayle, (Richard Gilbert, ext. 7425).

TCU welcomes two new CNAs

Please welcome Marifel Bartolome and Balbir Singh, new CNAs in the Transitional-Care Unit. They come to LMH with years of experience in long-term care. And congratulations to CNA Noemi Barron, who recently passed her LVN boards, (Cynthia Dennis, ext. 3168).

Nursing residents graduate

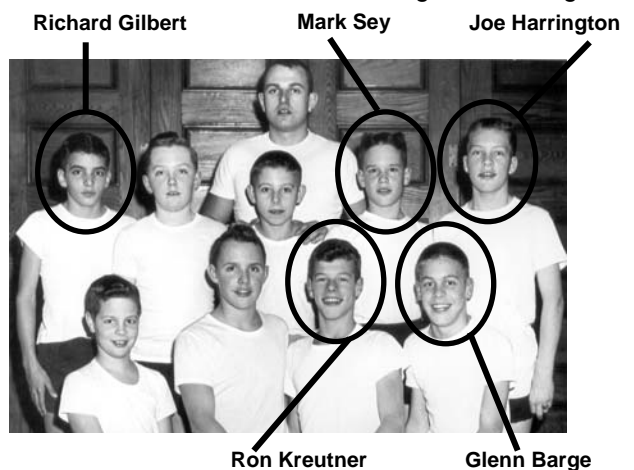
Sixteen RN residents will graduate on June 4 at a ceremony in Classrooms A and B, at 12noon. Managers and preceptors are invited. It has been a busy time for everyone, and we would like to thank each and every one who has made this possible. There has been great teamwork, and we are making plans for the next cohort, (Wanda Ketcherside, ext. 7114).

LMH welcomes new volunteers

LMH is happy to welcome four new volunteers. Lenora "Len" Eutsler recently joined the gift-shop staff. She previously worked at the Lodi Nut Factory gift shop and volunteered as a clown at Shriners Hospitals. Charlene Dawson is a new Eucharistic minister for LMH. She felt the desire to serve Holy Communion to those unable to attend church and was very excited when a friend suggested she volunteer at the hospital. Janet Bange is a former teacher with Lodi Unified and a new volunteer in the Adult Day Care. Janet enjoys reading walking and singing, which will come in handy at ADC. She also volunteers at the Animal Friends Connection Humane Society. Angela Williams is in the process of pursuing a nursing degree. She hopes to eventually become a labor and delivery nurse. Until then she is volunteering at the hospital to gain experience. She will work with Reach Out and Read at LMH's pediatric clinic and lend a hand in the hospital whenever needed, (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

Two guess it right

Okay, okay. We ran this picture in the last issue of "Pulse" asking people to guess which one of these YMCAers was now an LMH member. Here are the guesses we got:



Those guessing correctly: Donna Hinojos and Kim Ruoff. Their correct guess: Joe Harrington, who enjoyed his time at the Titusville, PA, YMCA. In this picture he poses with his fellow "Junior Leaders," an "elite" group of boys who attended the YMCA every single day but Sunday and corralled the younger kids and looked after them. The Junior Leaders themselves had the same drill every day: Shoot hoops, play dodge ball, swim and then play ping pong while waiting for their rides home. Joe did this religiously from the time he was nine until he was 12 and says he loved every minute of it and wishes every kid could have such a great opportunity, (Carol Farron, ext. 7535).