

June, 2017

Presidents Message

This month I was proud to attend the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual meeting in Washington, D.C., May 5-8th. Here is a summary of the meetings I sat in on and topics we covered:

- **The Committee on Volunteers (COV)** This group supports the AHA mission and policy agenda by its activities in public policy development; participating in AHA grassroots advocacy; providing the Association with the benefit of its community perspective on issues related to the health care field; and serves as the selection committee for the AHA's Hospital Awards for Volunteer Excellence (HAVE) Awards. How
- **The State Auxiliary Leaders (SAL)** These are the presidents, president-elects and legislative chairs from state volunteer and auxiliary associations. These associations guide their state's volunteer programs and enhance communication among members and their healthcare governing boards, management, and hospital staff.

Our AHVRP VALUES are People, Integrity, Leadership, Diversity, Collaboration, Excellence and Innovation. Both the COV and THE SALs are perfect examples of offering opportunities for professional development and networking.

The Senior Leaders of Health Care

We heard a powerful message from Gene Woods, AHA Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Woods made a point to mention and thank the volunteers at our hospitals. His priorities are protecting, preserving and expanding health coverage, improving the quality of care, and promoting the role of hospitals as conveners that engage and build partnerships in communities.

Here is a sample of how this message fits so well in today's times.

The AHVRP and AHA's new publication, *Engaging Health Care Volunteers to Pursue the Triple Aim*, showcases examples of how volunteers stand out as key contributors to our hospitals.

The AHVRP Strategic Plan commits to help us be the voice for the value of healthcare volunteerism.

- **HAVE Awards breakfast with Nancy Agee, AHA Chair-Elect:** These awards highlight volunteer services that are engaged in improving health care. Check out the AHVRP website to find more about this year's winners.
- **Capitol Hill Visits:** I was also fortunate to attend visits on the Hill with a group of fifteen representatives from Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Hospital Association. Our group met with two Senators from Wisconsin and these visits offer a chance to see how our questions and discussion can make a difference.

We are now looking at many possible changes in the health care system. With the house passed version of the Affordable Health Care Act – Congress must now make sure that coverage is available and affordable to all.

Now more than ever-

- Please know that we are all a powerful voice for your community hospital and patients.
- Volunteers play a critical role in supporting quality experiences and healthy outcomes for patients, their families and communities.

As volunteer directors, managers, coordinators, volunteers and auxiliaries - each of you has the opportunity to spread the word about our volunteers and their great works. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your AHVRP President and all your efforts and support of all our volunteers.