



# OUTLOOK

Published by the  
Texas Association of  
Healthcare Volunteers, Inc.  
[www.tahv.org](http://www.tahv.org)

SPRING 2015

## National Volunteer Week

### A Tribute to Volunteers

**April**  
**12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**2015**

**V**aluable is the work you do,  
**O**utstanding in how you always come through.  
**L**oyal, sincere and full of good cheer,  
**U**ntiring in your efforts throughout the year.  
**N**otable are the contributions you make,  
**T**rustworthy in every project you take.  
**E**ager to reach your every goal,  
**E**ffective in the way you fulfill your role.  
**R**eady with a smile like a shining star,  
**S**pecial and wonderful - that's what you

--(Author Unknown)



### Calling All Auxiliary Presidents...

by **Judi Winslow**, District 6 Board Member,  
Communications Chairman, Editor of the Outlook

If you are receiving **the Outlook**, that tells me that your volunteer organization is a member of the **Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers (TAHV)**. The purpose of this organization is to support your volunteer organization by providing educational opportunities which enhance the delivery of healthcare services. The TAHV assists in the organization of new auxiliaries, provides educational and networking opportunities at District Meetings and Annual Convention, keeps members informed on pertinent health care matters and sponsors scholarships for students in the healthcare field.

**Your help is needed!!!!** This newsletter is produced at least three times each year and is mailed to all TAHV Board Members and all Auxiliary Presidents. It shares information and ideas offered by members such as you, to honor individuals, to learn new ways to serve patients and staff, and to enhance fund-raising and community service.

I once learned that if I have an idea, and you have an idea ..... we each have ONE idea. BUT if we share our ideas, we each have 2 ideas (or more). Auxiliaries help one another by sharing ideas in the

*Continued on page 5*

### Omni Dallas Hotel Reservation for TAHV 2015 Convention

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE READ

The absolutely firm deadline to make your hotel reservation  
for the TAHV 2015 Convention is

**April 30th, 2015**

After the April 30th deadline, you will not be able to get the  
special Convention room rate of \$169.00

There will be no exceptions to this rule as this  
decision was made by the Convention host hotel, the Omni  
Dallas.

Hotel reservations must be made through the  
Omni Dallas Hotel at 888-444-6664  
and refer to TAHV Convention or use the following link:  
[www.omnihotels.com/hotels/dallas/meetings/texas-association-of-healthcare-volunteers-2015-annual-conference-5](http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/dallas/meetings/texas-association-of-healthcare-volunteers-2015-annual-conference-5)

Hope to see you at convention!

Thanks—Judy Hollis  
TAHV 2015 Convention Registration Chair  
817-988-4775  
[jrhollis52@gmail.com](mailto:jrhollis52@gmail.com)

## President's Message



I keep asking myself on a daily basis, “**WHERE HAS THIS YEAR GONE?**” Since I assumed the position of TAHV President, time has been in a fast forward mode and now, here I am, at the end of my term, a new person is ready to assume the duties and responsibilities and I am prepared to unwind, relax, and reminisce about what a fantastic year I have just had.

I have traveled our state from side to side and top to bottom, going places that I've never been, let alone known that they even existed. I have met such a wonderful and dedicated group of volunteers and hopefully have made a few friends along the way. I have seen hospitals large and small whose staffs are dedicated to the well-being of their communities. And at each of these hospitals, I have seen volunteers “with hearts as strong as eagles”, working side by side with the medical and ancillary personnel, ensuring the health and well-being of their patients and families.

When I first became a volunteer, I had no thoughts or aspirations of doing more than working in my hospital, helping in my community. Let me assure you that since being elected to the TAHV Board of Directors, and further, elected to serve as the organization's leader, my thoughts and views have changed dramatically, thanks to each and every TAHV volunteer giving of their time and energy. The dedication and caring I have seen have swelled my heart with pride. I have so come to believe the

old adage.... “you are not **“JUST”** a volunteer”!! You **are** America, you **are** what makes our nation strong!! You work countless hours, asking for no pay, just wishing to ensure people's well-being. Did you know that we have approximately 22,000 TAHV senior and junior volunteers who have given over 4,000,000 hours to our hospitals? How fantastic is that?

My hope that each and every one of you can attend the 2015 Convention in Dallas. If by chance we pass one another in the hallways, stop and shake my hand! It will be **my** privilege to say hello to you. I believe we have a great group of speakers for Convention and some very interesting “hands-on”

sessions that will help you in your Gift Shops. Make sure you attend as many concurrent sessions as you can and bring your colleagues for some very educational and eye opening training. Plus, we will have the exceedingly popular “**BYOI**” (**Bring Your Own Ideas**) session on Monday morning, June 1<sup>st</sup>. Plan to get there early as this session fills up quickly. There will also be a session on making **Homecoming Mums** and each person attending will take a completed mum home to their Gift Shop. These are big money makers!

Please make every effort to attend the **Installation Breakfast** on Wednesday morning, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not only will you be honoring our incoming and outgoing Presidents but you will hear an extremely dynamic speaker, **Nika Maples**, as she tells us that “*Laughter is the Best Medicine: Learning to Use Life's Most Valuable Tool*”. Those who pass this up for whatever reason, are missing out on some valuable training and education. If you can, please spend the extra two hours and attend this breakfast!! I hope to see a large turnout in the big “D” this year, as the **Omni Hotel**, which is very lovely, is offering us rooms at only \$169.00/night for up to four persons occupying a room! The only restriction is the date – reservations **MUST** be made by **April 30<sup>th</sup>**!! All sessions including the **Vendor's fair** will be inside the hotel.

This year, for the first time, the **TADVS** (Texas Association of Directors of Volunteers) will join the **TAHV** to have a joint meeting. How appropriate to have our DVSS share with the Volunteer force. There may be some adjustments, but each year it should get better and better.

In closing, I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your support, help, and guidance over the past year! It has been my privilege and honor to be the President of the TAHV for the year 2014 – 2015! I have never in my career of forty-nine and a half years of active military duty and civil service encountered such a dedicated and hard working group of people!! **You are the “best of the best”!** I am continually humbled when I tour your facilities and see the good each of you are doing.

**YOU ARE “VOLUNTEERS KEEPING AMERICA STRONG!!!**

God Bless all of you and may He continue to guide you as you provide caring service to our patients and their families. **See y'all in Dallas!!**

**Don Newland**, President, TAHV 2014-2015

***Small Acts,  
When multiplied by millions of people,  
Can transform the world.***



## *A Special Tribute to Jan Temple*

by **Lynda Rubey**, Auxiliary President of  
Baylor Scott & White Hospital, Garland  
District 5 Board Member

We want to honor and present an **Appreciation Award** to a good friend and leader to all of us. **Jan Temple**, please stand with me. I feel thrilled to be the one to honor you today because you have not only been my friend, but my mentor, my advisor, my leader, my shoulder to lean on, and my soother when my feathers were ruffled. Jan, you have now been a volunteer and member of our Auxiliary for 23 years; President of the Auxiliary five times; worked in the Gift Shop; been chairman/co-chairman of the Projects Committee for many years; represented our Hospital, other hospitals and the Auxiliary as a member of the Board of Directors of TAHV for 31 years ..... and were the President of TAHV 1995-1996. You are always eager to volunteer where help is needed at either the Hospital or the Auxiliary. Jan, you are an inspiration to all of us and we are all in admiration of you because you never quit until a job is done.

We would love to present you with this gift of Thanks. Everyone, please join me in giving Jan a round of applause and a BIG thank you!!

Spread *love*  
everywhere you go.  
Let no one ever  
come to you without  
leaving *happier*.  
-Mother Teresa

## Vera Rogers Honors fallen American Heroes

by **Judy Hollis**, President, Texas Health Huguley Hospital Ft Worth South

**Texas Health Huguley Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary** member, **Vera Rogers**, volunteers in medical records but she also uses her crafty talents to recognize service members who have died while on active duty by transforming their fatigues into "memory bears". She is a member of the **Matthew Freeman Project**, a small network of volunteers across the country who sew the bears. The mother of Matthew Freeman, a Marine killed in action in Afghanistan, created the program to honor fallen American heroes

Vera, whose husband is retired military, has completed five of the bears and has two others in process. Each bear takes about three days to complete. This is definitely "A Work of Heart" ... the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week.

In her spare time, Vera also knits crochets and quilts. Each year she makes a custom baby quilt for the gift basket given to the first baby of the year born at Texas Health Huguley Hospital, and she has also sewn calico bears for the children that have had surgery at the hospital.





## Annual NICU Reunion

by **Patricia O'Toole**, TAHV District 2 Board Member  
President, Providence Memorial Hospital  
Healthcare Volunteers

The **Providence Memorial Hospital Healthcare Volunteers** held their **Annual NICU Reunion Party** on October 30, 2014, in the Auditoriums of the Providence Children's Hospital. This party is for the nurses of the NICU to see how their little patients have grown and prospered. There were 75 families represented, with 88 graduates attending. All in all, there were approximately 320 people in attendance. In addition to finger foods, the attendees were able to enjoy the "Cake Walk": getting their fill of delicious cupcakes as well as participating in face painting, various tossing games, Robbie the Robot from the Border Patrol, and a Fire Safety presentation by the El Paso Fire Department. A good time was had by all.



## A Very Large Check!!!!

by **Dellona D. Davis**, Volunteer Coordinator  
St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital, Houston



CHI St Luke's Health -The Woodlands Campus was presented with \$30,000 from our Auxiliary. The donation will be used to purchase an electric shuttle bus to transport guests and patients around the facility.

# Shutterfly

## @ TAHV 2015 Convention

At the **President's Dinner** on Monday evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Level 3 of the Trinity Ballroom 1-4, we've brought in our event photographer, **Kurt Adamie**, who will be taking pictures by the staircase of anyone who would like a commemorative photo.

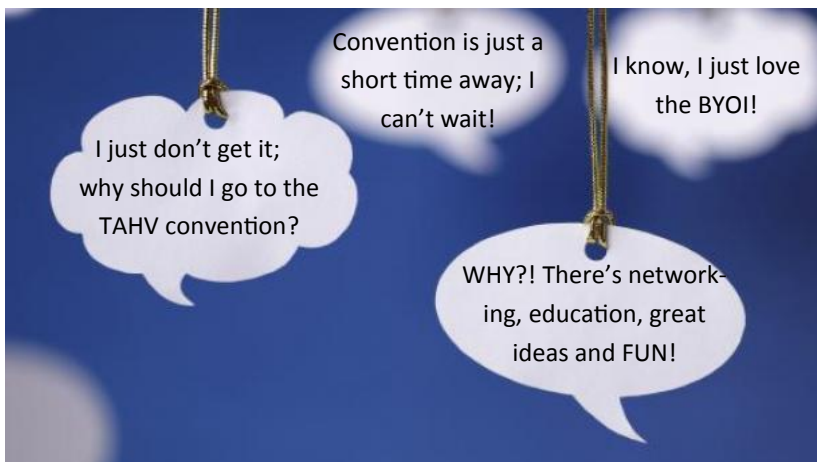
A special TAHV Convention website has been created to view and order/purchase photos. Simply go to:

[https://  
tahvconvention2015.shutterfly.com](https://tahvconvention2015.shutterfly.com)

*\*Photos will be uploaded by Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm.*



Co-Chair  
**Patsy Malone**



## Calling All Auxiliary Presidents...continued from page 1

Outlook, at District Meetings and in break-out sessions at Convention such as **BYOI** (Bring Your Own Ideas) and new this year, Gift Shop Show and Share Session. As a TAHV member, I challenge you to check over each issue for what other auxiliaries are doing, see what's being offered at Convention and how you can be a part of it, representing your organization. PLEASE share *The Outlook* with your fellow Auxilians, your DVS, even your CEO.

Consider coming to Convention, and if at all possible, don't come alone. It's more fun to come to Convention with a friend or friends. You can gain twice as much by attending different break-out sessions and by bringing ideas back to *your* hospital. Check out the Awards display area for newsletters, scrapbooks and tray favors. And network, network, network!!! There are currently about 240 member hospitals in TAHV. They may not *all* come to Convention, but there are *many* ideas to be gleaned from those that do!!!

Bring your copy of *The Outlook* to Membership Meetings. Provide a copy at places where volunteers sign in. Show it to new members. You can view and print new and past issues in full color from online at [www.tahv.org](http://www.tahv.org) where there is also additional information on Convention and contact information if you need any kind of assistance.

Concerned about costs for attending Convention? If your hospital or auxiliary can help with some of the expenses, it's very helpful. Some auxiliaries will commit the earnings from a particular fundraiser to help with expenses. Be creative. If you make reservations by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, you can get a break on the room rate ..... *and* it further helps with expenses to share a room. This year, Convention (most activities are June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>), takes place at the Omni Hotel in Dallas. There is information throughout this issue. Spread the word!!! I'd love to see you there!!!



### Thank You, Minnie Stucker

by **Dellona D Davis**, Volunteer Coordinator  
St. Luke's The Woodlands Hospital,  
Houston

CHI St. Luke's Health – The Woodlands Campus would like to express its sincere thanks and gratitude to **Minnie Stucker** for serving as the Auxiliary President for the past two years. Minnie brought enthusiasm

and passion to the position and ensured that our auxiliary met all of its goals during her term. She will be missed but will remain on the Board.

Minnie is the new representative honorably serving on the TAHV Board of Directors for District 9, once again serving with enthusiasm and passion. Thanks Minnie for stepping up to serve.

## We Welcome Your Suggestions!!!

By **Pat O'Toole**, President, Providence Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, El Paso,  
TAHV District 2 Board Member,  
TAHV 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Shortly after the 2014 Convention in Galveston, the TAHV Board received a letter from an Auxiliary expressing dissatisfaction with Convention. Their items of dissatisfaction ranged from convention organization, to keynote speakers to breakout sessions. Since different districts sponsor the convention each year, and the venue also changes, some disorganization may unfortunately be present in spite of attempts to keep continuity with a Convention Planning Committee.

This year's topics and speakers were chosen based on comments on the 2014 Session Evaluation forms available at all breakout sessions. Be sure you fill these out so that your suggestions can be heard by the Board. We honestly cannot read your minds. We are open to ideas and suggestions from all TAHV members. We want a Convention that is meaningful and educational for all healthcare volunteers whether from large or small auxiliaries, gift shops, hospices or nursing homes. A BYOI (Bring Your Own Ideas) Session is now held at each Convention. These sessions have grown immensely, and are a wonderful networking opportunity to discuss programs and fundraisers that various auxiliaries have had success with (or not). It's also an opportunity to voice problems you may wrestle with to see what solutions other volunteer organizations may have found. Or, it might stimulate some brainstorming for solutions that you can take home.

The Convention planners work diligently to make each Convention as organized, educational, motivational and enjoyable as possible. With 600 to 700 or more attendees, it goes without saying that we will not be able to please everyone all the time, but we are trying our best. It is our hope that this Convention will be enjoyed by everyone. Please come with a good attitude and a desire to help one another. Let us hear from you, especially if you have constructive suggestions. That's the only way changes and improvements can be made. We want to offer the BEST!!!





# Welcome TAHV Convention Attendees!

**We invite you to the Omni Dallas Hotel in BIG D for the TAHV 2015 Convention, May 31 – June 3.**

The registration information is available on line at [TAHV.org](http://TAHV.org). Click on 2015 Convention and all of the information is available for review and printing. Registration deadline is April 30, 2015. For your convenience, we are enclosing the registration form. We ask that you complete all the information and mail it, along with your check to the following:

Texas Association of Healthcare Volunteers  
Attn: Joyce Stewart, Treasurer  
PO Box 2495  
Burleson TX 76097

Make your check payable to:  
TAHV 2015 Convention.

You may make your hotel reservations using the following link:  
[www.omnihotels.com/hotels/dallas/meetings/texas-assoc-of-healthcare-volunteers-2015-annual-conference-5](http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/dallas/meetings/texas-assoc-of-healthcare-volunteers-2015-annual-conference-5)  
or call 1-888-444-OMNI and refer to "TAHV Convention."

**The deadline for hotel reservations and registration is April 30, 2015.**

Our speakers are excited to be part of the convention for so many dedicated volunteers. Please plan to attend our annual convention.

## REGISTRATION PACKET INFORMATION

Please select one person from your hospital to come to the registration booth to pick up your registration packets which will have your convention badges in it. You will also pick up your convention bags at this time.

Make sure that everyone in your group knows who has been chosen to pick up your packets. This person will be responsible for distributing the badges and convention bags to everyone in your group.

## WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION FROM YOUR CO-CHAIRMEN



**PATSY MALONE**  
Home: 817-293-5194  
Cell: 817-991-0347



**JAN TEMPLE**  
Home: 972-475-5850  
Cell: 214-724-0570



**GLEN VAN WYK**  
Cell: 817-404-2117



## Convention Events

### PRESIDENT'S DINNER PARTY

**Honoring TAHV President  
Don Newland**

Monday, June 1st  
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

RSVP on registration form

Music by The Singapore Slingers,  
a retro-jazz orchestra

Photos by Kurt at the Stairwell



### SILENT AUCTION

**Silent Auction items accepted**

**May 31st, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**June 1st, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Auction items should be unwrapped, with a minimum value of \$50.00 and brought to the convention. Donations will be accepted in the Trinity Ballroom 1-4, Level Three.

Please submit auction items with an index card detailing the name of the donating organization and value of the item.

Proceeds from the Silent Auction are divided between Traveling Topics and Gifts and Memorials Scholarship Fund.

For further information or questions, contact: Mary Ann Blome, home: 972-668-5526, cell: 214-533-7272, or email: [brbmab@grandecom.net](mailto:brbmab@grandecom.net).

### BYOI - BRING YOUR OWN IDEAS

**Networking opportunity with fellow volunteers**

Monday, June 1st, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Trinity Ballroom 1-3, Level Three



### DOOR PRIZES

**Door Prizes accepted**

**May 31st, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**June 1st, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Door Prize donations should be wrapped or in a gift bag.

Donations should be brought to Southside 1, Level Three.

For further information or questions, contact: Linda Barron, 817-545-3588 or email: [jlbaron1733@yahoo.com](mailto:jlbaron1733@yahoo.com) or Glenda Nixon 817-485-6562, or email: [glendaJ@gmail.com](mailto:glendaJ@gmail.com).

### AWARDS

**Awards accepted**

**May 31st, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**June 1st, 8:00 am -12:00 noon**

**Judging begins at 12:00 noon**

**Trinity Ballroom 5, Level Three**



## "A Work of Heart" in Action.....

By **Glenda Nixon**, THRHEB Auxiliary President,  
Texas Health Resources Harris Methodist Hurst Eules Bedford (HEB) Hospital

The past several months have been very busy for THRHEB with its community service activities as well as its Annual Holiday Bazaar.



*Cindy O'Harra selling raffle tickets the day of the Bazaar*

experience for both volunteers and participants.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, our THRHEB Auxiliary hosted our **Annual Holiday Bazaar** which includes a raffle, a silent auction, a bake sale and 35 vendors selling various crafts and other items. The raffle this year was for an exclusive **all expense paid vacation to Montego Bay, Jamaica**. A HUGE THANKS to those who made it all happen: **Cindy O'Harra**, Fund Raising Chair; **Linda Barron**, Silent Auction Chair; **Kathy Voelker/Carolyn Boring**, Raffle Co-Chairs and **Mary Ann Fitzgerald**, Bake Sale Chair. The event was very successful, making over \$10,000!!!

In addition to these great programs, three of our Auxiliary members were honored with special recognition and awards.

**Harriet Walker** was presented the **Helping Hands Award** from Texas Health Resources. This award is given to volunteers and/or employees for exemplary service to the hospital and community. Harriet volunteers in the Women's Center and has made *thousands* of crocheted caps for new babies and oncology patients. The award was presented by **Doug Hawthorne**, CEO of THR.



*Harriet Walker receiving the Helping Hands Award from THR CEO Doug Hawthorne*

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Texas Health HEB participated in the **Sixth Annual Empowering Seniors Event** which typically provides information and educational seminars that help seniors and their caretakers access local community services and resources as well as provide free screenings. Our volunteers also assisted in giving away 1800 food containers to those in attendance. It was an enjoyable and positive experience for both volunteers and participants.



*Linda Barron hosting the Silent Auction*



*Terry Calhoun, Emergency Dept RN was the winner of the vacation to Montego Bay. Volunteer Stephanie Fein sold her the winning ticket!*

**Carolyn Boring** was recognized with the **Healing Hands, Caring Hearts Award** presented by the **Texas Health Resources Foundation**. Carolyn received this award for being a very caring, compassionate individual. She was very instrumental in the success of our Fundraising and Popcorn committees and has served many years on the Auxiliary Board. She demonstrates daily that we are individuals caring for individuals, together. In addition to her outstanding service at the hospital, Carolyn is involved with her church where she teaches Sunday School and is very active with the Hurst-Eules-Bedford Retired School Employees affiliated with the Texas Retired Teachers Association that host events benefiting young children. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) - Captain Nathaniel Mills Chapter.

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## Quilt Raffle to Benefit Gifts and Memorials' Scholarship Fund

by **Janice Allen**, District 6 Board Member, Director for Gifts and Memorials

The purpose of the **TAHV Gifts and Memorials Foundation** is to help provide healthcare education through scholarships to qualifying Texas stu-



dents. These scholarships are for \$1000 per semester up to a total of eight semesters. The funds for these scholarships come from gifts and donations from individuals and organizations and also memorial gifts. Another fundraising activity is the raffle of a quilt at Convention. Raffle tickets are \$1 a piece or six for \$5. The drawing for the winning ticket is done on Tuesday at the Uniform Luncheon. In keeping with President Don Newland's logo this year, the quilt to be raffled is a beautiful patriotic quilt. **Dolores Flatt**, a volunteer at **Hendrick Medical Center, Abilene**, pieced this quilt. It is a throw quilt measuring about 55" by 60".

## Honoring one another

by **Dana McGinnis**, Chairman of Cancer Volunteers, Nacogdoches Medical Center Auxiliary, District 4 Board Member

**Nacogdoches Medical Center Volunteer Auxiliary** gives an annual brunch in honor of **Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital Auxiliary**. This year the Brunch was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Nacogdoches Medical Center and was catered by the Hospital Food Service Department. Approximately 50 volunteers representing both hospitals attended the brunch. Medical Center CEO, **Gary Stokes**, welcomed guests and then addressed the importance of both hospitals in the community working together for the benefit of Nacogdoches and its surrounding towns. The Auxiliaries were commended for being a great example of working together. Both he and the new Memorial Hospital CEO, **Scott Street**, are working to make this

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## "A Work of Heart" in Action.....—continued from page 9

**Glenda Nixon** was honored at this year's **Shining Star Luncheon** benefiting the Arts Council Northeast where women are honored for their volunteer and community service. Glenda began volunteering at THRHEB in 2010, has served on most Auxiliary committees and has



*Carolyn Boring proudly displaying her Texas Health Resources Foundation Healing Hands, Caring Hearts Award.*



*Glenda Nixon, recipient of the Arts League Shining Star Award*

worked over 3000 hours. She is currently President of the nearly 200 member Auxiliary which has contributed more than 1.3 million volunteer hours to the hospital. She was recognized for her leadership and dedication in providing excellent service.

A job well done by the entire THRHEB Auxiliary!!

## NUMBERS

If you like numbers like I do, you'll like this:

### State Report from the Districts:

The numbers here represent more than half of all TAHV Member Organizations, so imagine this if all 250 (give or take) reported:

- **936** Volunteers from **112** Healthcare Organizations attended District Meetings
- **149** Organizations reported representing:
- **27,943** Beds
- **14,166** Senior Volunteers who worked **2,575,382** volunteer hours
- **4,374** Junior Volunteers who worked **304,715** volunteer hours
- **1,151** Scholarships totaling **\$1,498,944**
- **\$3,646,358** in Cash Gifts given to Healthcare Facility
- **\$1,915,170** in non-Cash Gifts given
- **\$277,988** in Contributions given to Community Outreach

## Unsung Heros

by **Jane Steelman**, Auxiliary President  
Upshur County Volunteer Hospital Auxiliary,  
Gilmer (District 10)

In 1967 the Upshur County Extension Service discussed and formulated a plan for an organization to address the needs of the aging residents and provide personal service to patients in the hospital and nursing homes. In the fall of 1968, the committee approved the creation of the **Upshur County Volunteer Hospital Auxiliary** and by January 1969 "the pink ladies" were trained and ready to begin their work.

When the hospital was closed for seven years, **Yevon Pilcher**, President at that time, kept the Auxiliary together and worked to help get the hospital reopened. During this time, the Auxiliary still gave at least one \$1,000 Scholarship every year to an Upshur County senior student planning to go into the medical field, continued having monthly membership meetings, helped out in the medical community wherever they could, continued fundraising locally and continued to go to District 10 Meetings.

Since that time the Auxiliary has been associated with the **East Texas Medical Center - Gilmer**. Volunteers worked the front desk directing patients and visitors. Some members made blankets for the Emergency Room, Health Clinic, the Sexually Abused Clinic and to help when a child needs something to cuddle when upset or scared. The blankets are also used for both adults and children when their clothing is taken into evidence. They also donate food to needy families and give to the local fire department. Auxiliary members are high profile at Health Fairs and assist many departments in the hospital with any number of administrative activities to assist staff. A favorite job is taking flowers, cards, stuffed animals or balloon arrangements upstairs to patients. The most unusual activity they participate in is as a member of the **ETMC WOW Service and Standards** where they take part in emergency practice as victims in disaster training. They take part in CPR and firefighting classes, and may be "evacuated" in explosion response training. Whether associated with the hospital or not, their number is steady at about 24, and they put in at least 4,800 hours yearly. They also have a Memorial Board of Past Members who donated 205,853 volunteer hours through 2014. They recently added another deceased member, Nona Clark (in accompanying picture) with an additional 1203 hours.

Last year the **Upshur County Volunteer Hospital Auxiliary** received the **Unsung Hero Award** for their ongoing above and beyond service. As of January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the EMT Gilmer Hospital closed its doors. The Auxiliary continues to meet monthly and provide service to local nursing homes where they answer phones, help with Bingo, read to patients, transport patients to doctor appointments or anything they can find to assist in the medical field. Like always, they will keep on keeping on!!!



**Front row (L to R): Brenda Wisdom, Nona Clark, Jeanette Olson, Joyce Johnson, Jane Steelman (President), Sandy Coppedge (1st VP), Velma Franklin (2nd VP), Ruby Starks. Back row (L to R): Yevon Pilcher (Past President); Mavonee Kirby, Priscilla McCauley (Secretary), Leora Johnson, Jimmy Lowe, Gwen Jewett and Lula Yates (Treasurer)**

## Educational Workshops

**Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

(Choose any 2 Sessions)

**Suzie Humphries**

*"Life is What Happens to You While You're Making Other Plans"*

**Demetress Harrell**

CEO/Sr Exec Dir Hospice Quality by Design  
*"The Real Reflection of End-of-Life Care"*

**Dave Lieber**

Session 1: *"If a New Yorker Can Make it in Texas, Imagine What You Can Do"*  
Session 2: *Dave Lieber's Watchdog Nation:*  
*"Bite Back When Businesses and Scammers Do You Wrong"*

**Mary Frances Heep, LCSW**

*"Coping Strategies for Managing Stress"*

**Patricia Garcia, CAVS**

*"A to Z, 1-2-3 – Building and Sustaining a Successful Teen Volunteer Program"*

**Deanne Wolff**

*"What's Hot: Best Sellers in Gift Shops"*

**Megan Rhoades, RD LD**

*"Top 10 Nutrition Tips for a Healthier You"*

**Meg Boyd**

Volunteer Coordinator, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children  
*"What We Are All About"*





## Behavioral Health Care is a Sound Investment

Ted Shaw, president/CEO, Texas Hospital Association

During the last legislative session, Texas lawmakers responded to mounting evidence that the state's behavioral health care system is not adequately meeting the needs of Texans experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse problems.

By appropriating an additional \$300 million in behavioral health care funds for fiscal years 2014-2015, the 83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature made a large investment in behavioral health care.

But, as important as this investment was, it did not solve all of the system's shortcomings.

In this current legislative session, Texas lawmakers from both sides of the aisle have introduced a number of bills to further strengthen the state's behavioral health care system. Not every bill is perfect, but this bipartisan interest in the issue is encouraging and reflects the fact that every county and political district in Texas struggles to provide appropriate behavioral health care services to Texans with a mental illness or substance use disorder.

An estimated 1 in 3 Texans has a mental illness or substance use condition. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, nearly 1.9 million Texan adults and 190,000 Texas children have substance abuse service needs. Half a million Texas adults have severe and persistent mental illness.

The behavioral health care workforce is insufficient to meet these needs. Three-quarters of Texas counties are designated as federal mental health profession shortage areas, and 70 percent do not have even a single practicing psychiatrist.

The human costs of unmet behavioral health care needs are tragic. Too many Texans suffer from depression, schizophrenia, substance use disorder and a host of other issues that take a toll on their ability to work, go to school, attend to their physical health and maintain personal relationships.

For Texas hospitals, the consequences of unmet need manifest themselves in reduced emergency department capacity, uncompensated care and preventable hospital readmissions.

This legislative session, Texas hospitals are supporting a number of behavioral health care bills. Each addresses a different shortcoming in the behavioral health care system, but all would improve access to timelier and better behavioral health care services. The bills include:

- Providing loan repayment for behavioral health care professionals;
- Requiring coverage in CHIP and Medicaid of postpartum depression care;
- Funding peer support services through Medicaid;
- Creating a grant program to support veterans with mental illness; and
- Allowing hospitals to detain a person believed to have a mental illness and to be at substantial risk of harming self or others.

Creating a more effective behavioral health care system that gives Texans access to appropriate care at the right time in the right place

will require sustained investment and new policies. Texas hospitals and, more importantly, our patients and communities are depending on the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature to maintain its financial commitment and promote public policies that strengthen the behavioral health care system.

## *Honoring one another—continued from page 10*

happen beyond the auxiliaries to best serve the community.



During the brunch, entertainment was provided by the **Nacogdoches High School "Note-Ables" Encore**



**Group.** Needless to say, the food and entertainment were excellent but more importantly, the members of the two hospitals came together to network and socialize.

Later in the year Memorial Hospital Auxiliary returns the honor by sponsoring a lunch at their hospital. This practice has been continued for well over a decade, perhaps even two. By working together both Auxiliaries and Hospitals continue to assist one another while serving Nacogdoches and its nearby communities.



Texas Association of  
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Austin, Texas 78701-2180

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