President’s Message

Dear staff:

It is hard to believe summer is winding down already. I know the storms and subsequent flooding made for a challenging time for some of our staff and their families. I hope things are looking up and that we all can find time to enjoy this beautiful weather while it lasts.

Looking ahead to this fall, there are a lot of new things to report. The first is you’ll start to notice an increase in activity in what we’re now calling the Professional Arts Building. In July, the Board of Directors approved a master plan and budget to allow us to move some of our support services into that space to allow additional space to expand some of our clinical areas. In addition, a small expansion within the main hospital will allow for a new kitchen and cafeteria. The approved plans appear later on this newsletter and are posted on the intranet. A special thanks to Joel Shilman, Eric Gates, Dena Arnson and Luke Beirl for all of their efforts in evaluating the efficiency of the new kitchen, along with this master plan. It truly is a team effort.

In October, I encourage everyone to attend one of the employee forums Administration is hosting. A number of items will be discussed including an update on our strategic plan. Since last spring, our Boards of Directors at MMC and HAMH have been working with Jeff Hunter of Jeff Hunter Strategy to develop a plan. Later this month, the two boards will come together to discuss the major issues facing our organizations and to determine a plan for the future that will allow us to differentiate ourselves from our competitors. While we will not have a final plan to showcase in

(continued on page 2)
President’s Message, continued from page 1

October, we will be providing an update on the process and some of our key findings, along with some education on how we will incorporate Lean into this plan as well. The final plan will be approved in December.

Also in the coming weeks, staff will be receiving an invitation to complete a survey. This is your opportunity to provide input on what you think are the important issues facing MMC in the next few years. I encourage you all to take the time to share your thoughts so we can include those in our planning process.

Last but not least, this month marks the one-year anniversary of Epic. I want to thank everyone for being patient this past year as we implemented this new EMR. It took a lot of effort to get where we are today but I think overall this change has created a better system for our patients—something we can all be proud of.

As always, thanks for the hard work you do each and every day.

Sincerely,

Jason Douglas

EMPLOYEE FORUMS - PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING ONE OF THESE SESSIONS:

• Thursday, October 6
  BHS Commons
  12:30 pm

• Monday, October 17
  Stockton/Gull Island
  11 am & 3 pm

• Wednesday, October 19
  Stockton/Gull Island
  8:30 am & 3 pm

• Thursday, October 20
  Stockton/Gull Island
  8:30 am, 11 am & 3 pm

September is National Recovery Month

Eliminate the Stigma

BUILDING RECOVERY TOGETHER
COMMUNITY FORUM
Saturday, September 10
12 Noon - 3 pm
Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center
A community forum to address the human toll of substance abuse in Bayfield County and the Chequamegon Bay.
Dave Lewis, BHU, will be on the speaking panel at this event.

VOICES FOR RECOVERY
COMMUNITY PICNIC
Saturday, September 10
4 - 8 pm
Prentice Park • Ashland
All are welcome to celebrate National Recovery Month!
Food will be served. Tie dye a shirt. Listen to music by Lords of Baltimore.
Hear inspirational speakers, including main speaker: Jeff VanVonderen.
Upcoming Events

DIABETES PREVENTION CLASS
September 1 • 3 - 5 pm
North/South Twin Islands Meeting Room
Free and open to the public.
Learn about pre-diabetes risk factors and treatment to prevent type 2 diabetes. To sign up dial Extension 5460.

ALZHEIMER’S MEMORY WALK
September 17 • 10 am
Bayview Park (Pamida Beach)
Ashland
If you would like to be a part of the “MMC Avengers” Alzheimer’s Team, please contact co-captains Rachel Verch at Ext. 5402 or Kaye Lani Hebert at Ext. 5403.
For more information on Alzheimer’s, you can visit www.alz.org.

PARTNERS OF MMC FALL MEETING
September 17 • 9:30 am
Gull/Stockton Meeting Room
Speaker: Terri Kramolis, NWCC Manager.

GROCERY STORE TOUR
September 20 • 1:30 pm
Super One Foods • Ashland
Free and open to the public.
Learn more about label reading, eating healthy on a budget, and making better food choices. Registration is required. Dial Extension 5460 to sign up.

ASHLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AFTER FIVE
September 21 • 5:00 pm
Deepwater Restaurant
Featuring the Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center.

RETIREMENT SPECIALIST
September 21
10:00 am - 4 pm
Human Resources
Jeanette Hudepohl will be here to discuss your retirement account. Please call HR at Ext. 5520 to schedule an appointment.

All in the Family

Best wishes, Kathy!

Kathy Smart retired on July 8. She began her career at MMC on June 1, 1976 as a graduate nurse and was OB’s Nurse Manager beginning in 1982. Over the years she saw many changes in her department. She helped design MMC’s marvelous new OB area and guided her staff through new computer applications and software program changes all the while keeping her main focus on patient safety and comfort. She was always available to mentor staff. Helping the department maintain high standards of care, Kathy was a true team leader and was deeply admired and respected by staff and physicians. Kathy will be greatly missed, and we hope she will visit us soon to report on her retirement adventures!

We are deeply saddened...
About the loss of our friend and colleague Sandy Hecimovich. Our condolences go out to the Nutritional Services department and, families.
All in the Family

Lance Ritola, PCU attended the PICC/Midline Insertion Class on August 3. Topics included: Device and site selection, MST/Ultrasound, Maximum barrier precautions, Preventions of line associated infections, Prevention of complications, and Patient/Family education.

Robert Bonturi-Pufall, Peri-Op and Patty Pajtash, Peri-Op attended a Total Joint Replacement workshop on August 12. They learned about the history of joint replacement, special attention given to hip, knee and shoulders, medications used during procedure, pre and post op, education given to PT prior to surgery for best results, and overview of possible complications.

Gavin King, Nursing and Lance Ritola, Nursing attended a workshop entitled, ” Mastering Lab Interpretation & Implications for Patient Care”, on August 23. This workshop was a review of common lab results and their implications; focusing on understanding the associated medical decision making & management of diseases.

Employee Potluck - An Enjoyable Experience

Over 135 people attended this year’s Employee Potluck. Thanks to the MMC Employee Health and Wellness Committee for providing another wonderful MMC staff and family event. Some members of the committee pictured here are:
From left to right top row, Carol Kinnunen, HR; Meredith Johnson, Nutrition Services; Rebecca Crumb-Johnson, Nutrition Services; Beth Probst, Marketing; Kate Deering, Marketing.
Bottom Row, Sue Halbe, Nursing; Lisa Eckman, Health Information; Courtney Roush, Rehab Services; and Rachel Verch, BHS.
Justus Grunow, IT, did an awesome job organizing the badminton tournament. Also, thanks to Luke Beirl, Pharmacy, for providing the music!

Many staff and their families took advantage of the kayak and paddle board demos provided by Solstice Outdoors.

Check the intranet for a list of prize winners and a hula hoop video!

Did You Know...

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, marks the creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.
Penokee Mountain Range Bike Classic Road Race

This 47 mile bike race was held in Mellen on Saturday, July 30. In the picture from left to right are Gavin King, PCU; Tammie Jonas, ER and Barb Jusula, Nursing. MMC sponsored the race again this year.

Regional Community Health Improvement Plan Awarded Grant to Address AODA Policy

The Bayfield County Health Department, in partnership with Ashland County Health & Human Services and Memorial Medical Center, is one of nine recipients of a statewide Community Opportunity Grant through the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

Funds from the Community Opportunity Grant will be used to address the harmful effects of alcohol abuse and misuse in northwest Wisconsin. More specifically, the project, which is in coordination with the area's local Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Coalition, will focus on increasing awareness of alcohol abuse in our region to regional decision-makers, as well as facilitate policy and environmental changes to utilize best practices on alcohol availability via outlet density, licensing and sales.

The Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health issues a total of nine grants totaling more than $400,000 to organizations throughout Wisconsin. For more information on the Community Opportunity Grant or how you can be involved with our local CHIP Coalition, please contact Cyndi Zach at Ashland County Health & Human Services at (715) 682-7028, Sara Wartman at Bayfield County Health Department at (715) 373-6109, or Beth Probst at Memorial Medical Center at (715) 685-5182.
Congratulations to Hayward Area Memorial Hospital & Water’s Edge!

Water’s Edge Senior Living was selected as a 2016 My InnerView by National Research Corporation Excellence in Action award winner!

This award recognizes long term care and senior living organizations that achieve exceptionally high levels of excellence. The requirements are met by having overall customer or workforce satisfaction levels that fall within the top 10% of qualifying organizations, in terms of percentage of respondents rating the provider as “excellent”.

For more information, please visit www.nationalresearch.com/EIA

New Building Plans

Construction has already begun on the “Professional Arts Building” (West Building). Visit the intranet for larger versions of the plans.
55+ Health Expo 2016 - better than ever

A special thanks to the dozens of MMC staff and volunteers who helped make the 2016 55+ Health Expo a huge success. We provided over a dozen screenings to seniors who attended the event. At the MMC booth, we handed out over 800 MMC shield-shaped dark chocolates made by Harbor House Sweets, Washburn, WI. Five booths of MMC staff were there to talk about the services we offer. Presentations this year included “Identity Theft” and “Estate Planning”. All presentations were well attended. The travelling da Vinci Xi attracted lots of attention. BINGO was a big hit! An all around fabulous event for community members ages 55 and up.
A huge thank you to the Environmental Services Department!

The Environmental Services department volunteered their time and talents on August 19 at St. Andrews here in Ashland to help serve our community. That evening they served over 100 people a delicious hot meal, regardless of their economic status or ability to pay. Thank you ES for agreeing to volunteer as a department to host this community dinner.

*Be on the lookout for future opportunities to volunteer at this great event!*

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**PACT**

**Professionalism**  
**Accountability**  
**Communication**  
**Teamwork**

*Every encounter, every person, every time.*

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**Got Photos?**  
Submit them to *Right Here!*

We’d love to highlight the photos you’re proud of. Send us your best photo of volunteering in our community or some of your favorite milestones of you and your family.

Email your pictures as JPG files to krdeering@ashlandmmc.com