

# Right Here

A Monthly Newsletter for the Staff of MMC



*Jason Douglas*

## President's Message

*"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace." – Agnes M. Pharo*

It's the end of another year. Another year of the pandemic, which for many in our nation was fraught with trials, despair, loneliness and loss. And here at MMC, we had our own set of challenges as we worked tirelessly together to manage COVID in our communities and provide compassionate care to all our patients and their families.

As Agnes Pharo said, we have "tenderness for the past" – it can be sad to think about what life was like pre-pandemic and know we may never get back to that point. But we "hope for the future" and I'm fully confident MMC will continue our all-important commitment to the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve. And I'm so incredibly proud to see you living out that commitment in our hospital and our communities every day.

As a thank you – we're celebrating with the 12 Days of Christmas – a time where staff are eligible to win some pretty amazing gifts. Plus, every single staff member will receive a separate special holiday gift this month. No need to sign-up for the 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway - you'll be automatically entered in to win.

[Continued >](#)



December, 2021

VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 12

## Inside:

- Partners of MMC Past President Passes Away
- New Social Worker for ER and NWCC
- Dr. Wiseman Joins NWCC
- Events in Review
- Rehab Services/Cardiac Rehab New Space

## President's Message, continued from page 1

Unfortunately, it's another year that we're unable to gather together in person for a staff holiday party. I know you understand this as it's no news to hospitals across our country, but it's still tough not to be all together.

A way that staff are giving back to our community this year is by thanking all our area school districts with a free cup of coffee for their staff at our local coffee shops. The True North Community Team is organizing a fundraiser where staff can donate towards buying coffee (school staff will receive a \$5 card to spend at the coffeeshops in town) to show our appreciation for what's been an extremely difficult two years for our local school districts. More information will be available on the portal.

Looking to next year – it's MMC's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! There will be festivities happening throughout the year as we celebrate this incredible milestone of our hospital.

Lastly, and I know it's been on everyone's minds lately – the vaccine mandate. As has been communicated over the past several weeks, December 5th is the very last day staff have to get vaccinated or receive an approved exemption. Following this federal mandate means adhering to these strict deadlines. If you have any questions on this mandate or if you'd like to get vaccinated, please contact HR at Ext. 5520.

I encourage you all to reflect on this past year - how we've grown as an MMC family and we've all weathered some difficult days. I'm blessed to work at MMC and am honored to work with you all. I hope you all have a fantastic holiday season with your loved ones. Cherish this wonderful, hopeful time of year.

With thankfulness & gratitude,



Jason Douglas, CEO of MMC

### EMPLOYEE WELLNESS HOLIDAY WEIGHT MAINTAIN CHALLENGE

**December - January**

Join the Holiday Weight Maintain Challenge for a chance to win Chamber Bucks and ultimately keep yourself a bit healthier this holiday season! Brought to you by the True North Employee Wellness Team. All you have to do is *not* gain 2 pounds over the holidays. There will be two different kinds of challenges this year. Check the portal for details or call **Kyle Narges, Employee Wellness** at Ext. 5508.



## Upcoming Events

### COFFEE CARD FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOOL STAFF

**Wed., Dec. 1 - Wed., Dec. 15 • 11 AM - 1 PM**

#### MMC Cafeteria

The True North Community Relations team wants to show our appreciation for teachers and school staff for all of the extra hard work they have had to do during the pandemic. Free coffee card vouchers will be given to staff at Ashland, Bayfield, Washburn and Mellen Schools. We need donations from *our* staff to make it happen. Give whatever you can! Stop down at the table in the cafeteria with cash or check, or call **Grace Emmert, HR** at Ext. 6522.

## Upcoming Events (continued)

### ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT TOYS FOR TOTS

**Now through Fri., Dec. 10**

Please bring an unwrapped gift for a child aged 0 - 18 or a monetary donation to Cardiac Rehab or to **Cyndi Belanger, Staff Development**. All gifts will be distributed to children in Ashland and Bayfield counties by the Ashland Fire Department. Call Cyndi with any questions at Ext. 5199.

### MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

**Wed., Jan. 5 • 9 AM - 4 PM**

#### Chequamegon Food Co-op

Blood supplies are at a critical level. Especially type O negative. Be a hero and please consider donating blood. Find out more and schedule a donation at [MBC.org](http://MBC.org).



### PASSPORT TO TRUE NORTH CASH PRIZE DRAWING

**Thurs., Jan. 6 • 3 PM**

Winners will be announced on the portal. You still have time to enter to win \$500 cash. See pg. 7 for details.

### ADOPT A FAMILY GIFTS DUE

**Friday, December 17**

If you have any questions, contact Melinda Grahek, Building Ops, Ext. 5190.

## New Social Worker for ER and NWCC



Hello! My name is Laura Martinsen and I have been a Certified Social Worker for the last 3 ½ years. I received my Bachelor of Science in Human Development & Family Studies at University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, WI.

Prior to coming to Memorial Medical Center, I was a Social Worker at Ashland County Health & Human Services. I worked with youth who had mental health, substance use and/or developmental disabilities. I am excited to be a part of the MMC team as a Social Worker at the Emergency Department and Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center! I look forward to working with the diverse clientele that may come into the ED. The medical field has always been an interest of mine and I feel that this job will allow me to grow and expand my knowledge in this area.

Chances are that you know someone who is [or has been] impacted by cancer, either directly or indirectly. Oncology Social Work for me is powerful and so meaningful. I can help connect individuals to a variety of resources [i.e. transportation, financial assistance, FoodShare, health insurance, lodging, MMC Dietician, etc.]. I am a member of the Association for Oncology Social Work. You can contact me by calling 715-685-5004 or emailing [lamartinsen@ashlandmmc.com](mailto:lamartinsen@ashlandmmc.com). -Laura Martinsen, BS, CSW



# Welcome New Medical Oncologist

## Welcome to Chequamegon Bay

MMC is proud to have Dr. Wiseman join our medical staff of providers.

**Anthony C. Wiseman, MD**  
**MEDICAL ONCOLOGY**

**Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center**



**Memorial  
Medical Center**

*Right here in the place we love.*

1615 Maple Lane  
Ashland, WI 54806

Phone 715-685-5500  
ashlandmmc.com

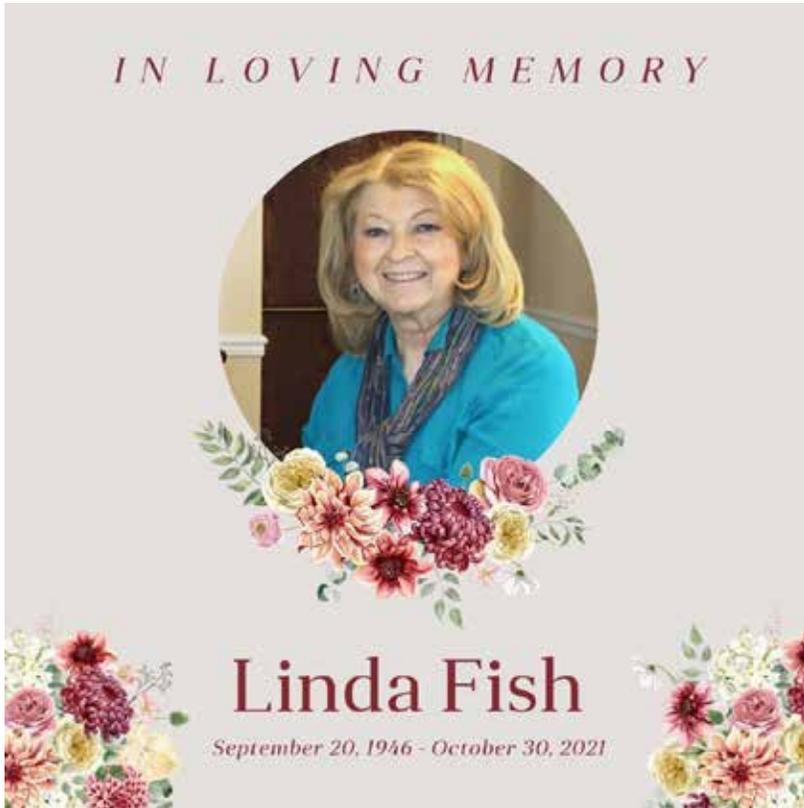
We are proud to have Medical Oncologist, Dr. Anthony Wiseman join our team of providers! He comes from Duluth weekly to see patients at the Northwest Wisconsin Cancer Center of Memorial Medical Center in Collaboration with Essentia Health (NWCC). His presence here is a very valuable asset to the organization since NWCC has been trying to recruit a Medical Oncologist ever since Dr. Lalach left about 18 months ago.



**Happy  
Holidays  
from  
everyone  
at NWCC!**



# Partners Past President Passes Away



We are heartbroken over the recent passing of longstanding Partners volunteer and past President, Linda Fish. Linda was instrumental in the vitality of Partners of MMC and contributed immensely to the success of the organization, and the recruitment and retention of Partners volunteers.

She was also very active in the district and state level of hospital volunteers, and served in many leadership capacities, including state president.

She will be deeply missed here at MMC and we are so grateful for the time and efforts she put in to making Partners of MMC an incredible organization.

# Longtime MMC Employee Passes Away



Jerry Charles Jack, age 73, of Ashland passed away unexpectedly of a stroke November 3rd, 2021. He was born August 11, 1948 in Ashland, Wisconsin. Son of Charles and Helen (Pope) Jack.

Jerry graduated from Ondossagon High School in 1966. He worked for Louisiana Pacific in Ashland until it's closing and then at Ashland Health and Rehab Center. He joined the ES department at MMC in 1989 and became a Materials Stock Clerk in 1990 where he worked until his retirement in 2012.

Working on his farm was one of his great joys but he was best known for his kindness and generosity. Always willing to help, he could most often be found caring for the needs of those he loved.



# All in the Family

**Terri Kramolis, Project Management** successfully passed the DNV CHOP-B (Certified Healthcare Operations Professional) exam on October 5<sup>th</sup>. She is now a DNV Certified Healthcare Operations Professional [CHOP(B)]!

The CHOP(B) is an individual Certification designed for Operations Professionals working in the health-care environment. CHOP(B) is the first of a three part series, and provides an in depth look into the NIAHO and ISO Standards, NFPA 101 and NFPA 99, and how other codes and standards interact with them. In order to sit for the exam, participants must meet certain educational requirements in addition to work experience in ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems, Facilities, Life Safety Management, Safety Management, Security Management, Hazard Materials Management, Emergency Management, Medical Equipment and Utility Management Systems.

## Events in Review



*The True North Community Relations team did an awesome job with their 2021 drive through Halloween event! They gave away 500 treat bags and displayed some very cool costumes. Thanks to the team for all of the hard work and planning that went into this event for families in our area.*

*Patient Financial Services of MMC got into the spirit of Halloween. Yes, that was just over a month ago. Great costumes ladies! Thank you for sharing.*



# True North Update

## Passport to True North \$500 Cash Prize Drawing: January 6

Did you complete the True North Fall Training on the portal, watch the CEO forums, attend the summer education fair, and participate in any of the wellness events in 2021? You could be eligible to be entered into the Passport to True North 2021 prize drawing! Call **Kate Deering, Marketing** at Ext. 5186 if you have four events/stamps on your passport to True North, and you will be added to the Passport drawing list for a chance to win one of three \$500 cash prizes!

## Rehab Services Remodel Opening Soon



Rehab Services and Cardiac Rehab will be moving into their newly remodeled space on the main floor of the hospital the first week of January. This is an exciting upgrade for our organization! The estimated 6 million dollar renovation of the former Periop Services department includes new equipment, larger patient and staff work spaces and a more streamlined approach to accommodate the variety of providers

and therapies that are categorized together as Rehab Services of MMC. Cardiac Rehab will have their own suite in the same area with a beautiful new exercise room.

Do you or your department want to take a tour to see the new space? Are you directly involved with any of the Rehab Services or Cardiac Rehab workflow? Staff tours will be available beginning in Mid-December. You can walk through and see the unfinished area. Call **Kate Deering, Marketing** at Ext. 5186 if you are interested. Otherwise, there will be a virtual tour online for everyone at the beginning of January. There will also be some times available for staff to see the new department space after everyone is moved in.

## Did you Know?

Rehab Services of Memorial Medical Center provides therapies for any age and includes:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Wound Care

Find out more on our website: [ashlandmmc.com/services/](http://ashlandmmc.com/services/).





# STAR

Service

Teamwork

Accountability

Respect

Every encounter,  
every person,  
every time.



**Memorial  
Medical Center**

*Right here in the place we love.*



Our staff celebrated Rehab Services awareness month in October.

Good Luck to everyone in that department as they move into their new workspace in January!

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

We'd love to highlight your favorite photos. Send us your favorite photos of anything related to our community, or any milestones of you and your family.

Email your pictures as JPG files to [krdeering@ashlandmmc.com](mailto:krdeering@ashlandmmc.com)