

HARTFORD HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET MAY 19, 2019

SHERATON HARTFORD HOTEL SOUTH, ROCKYHILL, CT

BOARD MEMBERS: Present, Betty Ann Fusco, Gail Rapoza, Mary Jane Densmore, Theresa Gwozdz, Kathy

Didier, Karen Mazzarella, Pat Ciarcia, Jane Lasher, Chris Johnson, Alicia

Junghans, Jeri Sicaras, Phyllis DeMaine, Shiela Rowell, Lesley McGrath

Members were greeted by Theresa Gwozdz and Betsey Gaudian. They were able to enjoy the cocktail hour from 12 to 1pm. The appetizers of cheese, fruit and crackers were provided by the Alumnae. Two bars were available to purchase refreshments and musical entertainment was provided by the Joe Giangrosso trio.

Marilyn Miller , our photographer ,took pictures throughout of the day.

At 1pm Mary Jane Densmore welcomed everyone , especially her Class of 1969, celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The head table was introduced and the three scholarship recipients present, Megan Lauer, Michelle Lalonde and Cheryl Mitchell.

Stephanie Kaminiski, Class of 1938, celebrating 81 years was recognized. She will soon be 102 yo. The other celebrity was Jean Landon Smith, Class of 1944 , celebrating 75 years.

Chris Johnson said grace but preceded it with a bit of HHSN history. On March 24, 1892, Helen Russell, Class of 1883, invited her former classmates to her apartment for a tea party to celebrate the graduates of the HH Nurse Association. Our Alumnae Association is now 127 years old.

We all enjoyed our dinners of salad, warm rolls, chicken, beef or salmon, and then followed by Quadruple Chocolate Pie, tea and coffee.

At 2:10 pm Gail Rapoza introduced Maria Tackett, our guest speaker. She is the Nurse Director of Trauma and on the UCONN Faculty. Maria retired as a LT Colonel after 20 years in the Army Reserve. She spent 9 mos. in Iraq.

Her talk was entitled "Happenings at HH".

We watched a short video about HH nurses in the present day. And heard about Deep Brain Stimulation in Tourette's Syndrome.

We were shown pictures of the proposed John Kelly Springer Memorial Garden in the Courtyard of the ERC building. The groundbreaking is scheduled for October 2019. Our Heron Fountain will be center stage, representing our old "Hepatitis". We have generously donated to this project.

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Maria spoke about the SIM Center in the ERC building and that 500 undergraduate nurses have utilized it.

There is an Epilepsy Unit at HH that can map the seizure focus.

Bliss 1 Rehabilitation Unit will be completed in January 2020 and we have a new Bone and Joint Hospital.

A Surgical Tech program has been instituted at HH and it allows students 8 weeks to observe and scrub in. It has been very successful.

There is also an ICU Core/Stepdown Course to increase a nurses' skill.

A Residency program is also available for Veterans.

HH has an International Partnership with Israel and students come to study and work in acute trauma. They also come from Hong Kong, Singapore and Guyana.

The Nursing department supports a Community Raffle that has raised \$20,000. Half goes to HH for the employee basket fund and the other half goes to Hartford Public High for mentoring of future nurses.

Organ donation has grown. An organ donation flag is flown for 48 hours in honor of the donor.

It was a very informative talk enlightening us all about the many changes at HH.

BUSINESS MEETING:

At 2:30 pm the brief business meeting was called to order by Mary Jane.

The reading of the previous minutes were waived since they are on the AAHH website.

The Board Treasurer, Jane Lasher, gave her report and it was accepted.

Terri Gwozdz, Vice Treasurer, then gave her report. We gave \$24,000 in scholarships and charitable donations were \$10,000.

110 alumnae used the medical fund in 2018 and we gave out \$322,000.

Our non-medical fund earned 3.8% and the medical fund earned 2.22%. We still have approximately what we started with a year ago. The report was accepted.

There was no report from nomination.

SCHOLARSHIP: The committee members are Gail Rapoza, Kathy Didier, Terri Gwozdz, Marilyn Miller, Phyllis De Maine, and Chris Johnson.

The recipients are: Megan Lauer, cardiac nurse at HH, goal is NP

Michelle Lalonde, goal NP

Cheryl Mitchell, goal MSN, MBA

Susanna Kalanika, works in STAR, goal NP

Amanda Sinkiewicz, goal nurse midwife

Passing of the Golden bedpan:

The class of 1969 decorated the golden bedpan with succulents and had a special reading. The Class of 1969 passed the pan to the Class of 1970.

The Hartford Hospital Charms were given out.

There were three 25 yr. charms and eleven 50 yr. charms .

A reminder that next years' banquet will be on May 17, 2020.

Pat Ciarcia : Pat and Betty Ann represent the Alumnae at many wakes and services throughout the year. Two nurses have died and it was impossible to do the pledge for them, Ardell Patterson , Class of 59 and Diane Tonoza, Class of 68 so Pat read the Nightingale Pledge for them . Very moving.

The business meeting was closed at 2:50 pm.

There were 20 states represented at the banquet, Idaho was the farthest. There were 195 people present, 26 nonmembers, three scholarship recipients and guests, for a total of 230.

Mary Jane recognized the past presidents present. We had classes celebrating 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and 81 years.

The rollcall was started by the Class of 1976. We sang "May You Always Walk in Sunshine", God Bless America" and ended with "Auld Lang Syne".

It was another wonderful banquet, enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Junghans, Recording Secretary

