President’s Message

Happy Autumn

Dear Auxilians,

Alas, savor those fading rays of summer sun, the last clambake on the beach and the hope of eternal Indian summer. Okay, who am I kidding? I am thrilled the kids are back in school. Whoopee!

Autumn brings cooler days, the book fair in the Dahod lobby and the culinary delights of Taste of the Town. It also brings renewed energy and activity for the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is considering our next donation to Lowell General Hospital. Two projects are of interest: the healing garden and labyrinth outside the ICU and the corridor outside the ICU patient rooms. Each project would cost $250,000 and would be a multi-year pledge by the Auxiliary. We are having a difficult time choosing and really want to do both. I will keep you updated as to our decision.

Dr. Seuss has somehow reached out from the grave to publish another children’s book. Darn! That derails my post-presidential career plans. So instead of a rhyming poem, I leave you with an acrostic puzzle.

Auxiliants are the best!
Unifying fun and food at
Taste of the Town.
Unending tables of
Many edible bites.
Never a dull moment.

May the fall foliage bring you much color and delight,

Carrie Meikle
President
Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary

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Join us at Taste of the Town on Sunday, October 25th
Auxiliary Board of Directors 2015-16

Officers:
President: Carrie Meikle
Vice President: Paula Leavitt
Second Vice President: Susan Rokas
Recording Secretary: Linda Carson
Corresponding Secretary: Pauline Lambert
Treasurer: Pam White
Assistant Treasurer: Jan Demetriou
Immediate Past President:
Mary Bennett

Lea Cahill
Susan Dionne
Linda Chemaly
Joy Deschene
Carol Gilchrist
Deborah Lemos
Terry O'Connor
Trish O'Donnell
Alexandria Regan
Kathy Rhodes
Elaine Zouzas Thibault
Deborah Trull

For more information about joining the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary, please contact the Philanthropy Office at 978-937-6430 or visit us online at www.lowellgeneral.org/auxiliary1.

New Auxiliary Board Members

Lea Cahill is Atlas Travel & Technology Group’s chief operating officer, responsible for leading the company’s multi-national business operations, executing business strategy and ensuring operational excellence company-wide. In addition, she is a member of the executive team of Atlas Travel and Prime Numbers Technology. Lea holds a degree in travel and tourism from Becker College and her meeting certification from Bentley University and is a board member of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary. She is based out of the Atlas Travel headquarters in Milford, MA.

Lea grew up in Billerica and resides in Chelmsford with her husband, Jay (a Chelmsford native), and son, Zachary, a junior at Salve Regina University.

Susan Dionne lives in Chelmsford with her husband Mark and their three children, Jocelyn, 18, Michael, 16, and Emily, 14s. Susan is a graduate of UMass Lowell and works part time as a registered nurse in Nashua, NH. She enjoys playing golf, skiing, traveling and spending time at her home in Seabrook, NH during the summer. Susan has also volunteered in the Chelmsford Schools and is now looking forward to continuing to volunteer in the community.

Alexandria J. Regan, CPA, CGMA is a partner at KAF in Braintree, Massachusetts. She has 20 years of accounting experience supporting New England’s not-for-profit community. Alex graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Massachusetts. Alex is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants and is a member of the MSCPA Nonprofit Audit & Accounting Committee. Alex also enjoys volunteering as a jewelry workshop coordinator and working with individuals with disabilities. She has assisted human service providers in developing jewelry design and crafting programs that complement already existing art programs which foster the artistic talents of individuals with disabilities.

Alex lives in North Chelmsford, Massachusetts with her husband Scott and two sons Max and Harrison. In addition to spending time with her family, Alex enjoys scuba diving, paddleboarding, and designing jewelry.

Taste of the Town is Sunday, October 25th. See page 7.
Auxiliary Honors Norm Deschene for 30 Years of Service at Lowell General Hospital

On June 3, members of the Auxiliary Board, Administration and the Philanthropy Office attended a small reception at the Circle Health Westford facility for a plaque dedication in honor of Norm’s 30 years of service to Lowell General Hospital. The plaque is located on the first floor beside the elevator door.

Congratulations to Norm and the entire Lowell General Hospital staff for the incredible success of Lowell General Hospital and Circle Health. The Auxiliary is proud to be part of such an amazing team and to support an amazing healthcare leader.

In honor of the event, Auxiliary President Carrie Meikle composed an original epic poem for Norm.

Norm Deschene,
At Lowell General did reign.
Years of service
Measured thirty.

The Legacy campaign,
Saints merger to gain.
Dahod groundbreaking
Was quite dirty.

From dirt to wealth,
Grew Circle Health.
From Andover
To Westford.

From points South
To points North,
Now Circle Health
Joins Wellforce.

Norm Deschene.
Long may he reign.
Auxiliary, what’s the score?
We want thirty more.
Auxiliary Celebrates a Year of Giving at Annual Meeting

On May 4, 2015, the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary held its annual meeting at the Stonehedge Inn and Spa. Members and guests enjoyed a luncheon, the presentation of gifts to Lowell General Hospital and the Cancer Center followed by a fashion show. Members of the Auxiliary and Lowell General staff modeled summer dresses and accessories from Fresh of Nashua.

The Auxiliary at Lowell General Hospital pledges to donate $125,000 to provide 3D mammography imaging upgrades.

As part of the Auxiliary’s long history of seeking out areas of greatest need at Lowell General Hospital, the group pledged to donate $125,000 to provide one 3D/tomosynthesis upgrade for the 2D mammography unit at the Lowell General Saints campus. Tomosynthesis is state-of-the-art digital mammography technology that provides superior image quality, improves cancer detection and reduces recall rates.

“The Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary is proud to focus our efforts to advance the screening technology and consider it a worthwhile endeavor that will greatly benefit local women.”
— Carrie Meikle, Auxiliary President

In addition, proceeds from the Daffodils and Desserts fundraiser will be used to purchase bariatric chairs for the Cancer Center, as well as 250 books for our Palliative Care Department that works with families on end-of-life issues. The remaining funds will be used to purchase gift cards to help cancer patients who are experiencing difficult economic circumstances. We are thrilled these funds will help them enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, as well as help with other needs. The Auxiliary generously matched the proceeds of their fundraiser to benefit TeamWalk for CancerCare.

Since its inception in 1951, the Auxiliary has provided its members, the hospital and the community-at-large with the opportunities to enjoy social events, such as A Winter Affair and Taste of the Town, purchase unique items and engage in educational healthcare programs while providing important financial support for the hospital.

Annual contributions made by the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary are either designated for a special purpose or used by the hospital based on need.

Susan Rokas, Paula Leavitt and Carrie Meikle present check to Jody White

Pauline Lambert, Mary Bennett, Terry O’Connor, Claudia Antolini, and Meg Lemire-Berthel at Annual Meeting
Fashion Show

You can find these fun-spirited fashions at Fresh of Nashua. Visit www.freshofnashua.com

Special thanks to all our fashion models for showcasing the latest fashions!
It’s hard to believe it’s fall already, but we are in full swing with Halloween decorations, witches hats and great costume accessories! We are very busy unpacking and displaying new arrivals of women’s clothing and accessories and things are selling as fast as we put them out.

Planning for the Holiday Festival is well underway and our holiday storage room is brimming with festive decorations, gifts and accessories. Last year we had the largest attendance yet and record-breaking sales for this fun two-day event.

This year’s Holiday Festival is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th

This year’s Festival is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th, from 11am-7pm and Friday, November 20th from 7am-3pm in Clark Auditorium, Main Campus. We will also be in the main lobby of the Lowell General Saints Campus on Thursday, December 3rd from 10am-3pm.

Please call Donna at 978-937-6373 or email donna.thoene@lowellgeneral.org if you would like to help out during the festival, setup on November 19th or break down on Saturday, November 21st. We really need your help and it’s a fun time and great way to meet other wonderful women!

Our new LGH website page is live and orders have been coming in via “etail” at a steady clip. It has also helped us immensely with describing arrangements to customers over the phone! This additional sales tool is fairly unique within the hospital gift shop world and we are very excited and proud of it! Please check it out at: www.lowellgeneral.org. On the main page, scroll through the central feature box until you reach the Gift Shop, click and you’re there!

Last year, Floral Arts of Westford became our in-house florist and our staff and customers love their arrangements. Standard arrangements to be delivered within the hospital can be ordered online via our website as mentioned above. Please also consider Floral Arts for your other floral needs such as weddings, events or any home delivery. Let us know if you do, as the Gift Shop will receive a referral bonus.

We are building a VIP email list which will include all of our faithful customers. VIPs will receive a 10% discount on their total purchase when you first sign up as a VIP. A welcome email will follow with an additional coupon and occasional notifications of special arrivals, sales and events, and the holiday festivals.

We are starting to see more women coming from outside the hospital just to shop, so if you haven’t been in lately, come see what we have to offer and help to support our Auxiliary!
Live Auction: Bon Voyage!

This year’s featured Live Auction item is a cruise certificate to be used for a Royal Caribbean Cruise! The package is for two adults sailing on a 4-5 night itinerary in an ocean view stateroom. The certificate is valid for travel during the fall season (taxes and gratuities not included). The value is $783.00 and can also be put toward a cruise at a different time, length or cabin type. Air is not included.

Donated by Atlas Travel.

In addition to the cruise, the package also includes two $500 Amex gift cards to cover airfare or other expenses.

— One gift card donated by Dr. Eric and Carrie Meikle
— One gift card donated by John and Elaine Thibault

Roundtrip airport transportation.

Donated by Plaza Limousine.
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

On May 7, 2015, Terry O’Connor once again opened her magnificent historic home for the Auxiliary’s annual “Friend-Raiser.” This event serves as the Auxiliary’s membership drive. It provided those in attendance an opportunity to learn what it means to get involved with the Auxiliary all while enjoying friendship and light refreshments in an elegant setting.

In addition to hosting the event, Terry gave a brief yet heartfelt speech on the many rewards of philanthropy and volunteerism. Afterwards Jody White expressed his gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Auxiliary and spoke of its importance to the overall success of the hospital.

Over the summer, we were pleased to gain three new lifetime memberships, four annual family memberships, 10 new annual individual memberships, and had 32 members renew. Thanks to all that helped us with this successful membership drive.

Here are just a few of the ways in which Auxiliary members can provide assistance: Volunteer to work a shift at one of our book fairs or the annual Festival of Holidays, provide baked goods for the Festival of Holidays or for the Daffodils and Desserts spring event.

There are several benefits you will experience when joining the Auxiliary. You’ll receive our newsletters and invitations to special events including the annual Taste of the Town, A Winter Affair, and our Annual Meeting. You will also be entitled to 10% off all purchases at both of our beautiful hospital Gift Shops. But most importantly, you will experience the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to the growth and well being of our community hospital.

It is the goal of the Auxiliary’s Membership Committee to significantly increase the number of Auxilians during this upcoming 2015-2016 season. Please help us reach our goal by joining yourself or, if already a member, consider reaching out to a friend or neighbor that you think might be interested.