President’s Message

Happy Spring!

There must be some truth to the adage “time goes more quickly as you get older”, because this year flew by. It is hard to believe that it was one year ago when I accepted the gavel from Carrie Meikle and began my presidency of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary.

The year has been both challenging and rewarding. The Auxiliary has had a full calendar of events and through our collective efforts raised the money to honor our pledge to the hospital and make sizable donations to the Cancer Center and TeamWalk. Well done all! You can read about our most recent events and activities in this newsletter.

I wish to express my gratitude to my colleagues on the Auxiliary Board for their support and dedication this past year. They are instrumental in presenting successful events that allow the Auxiliary to support the hospital the way we do.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I wish to express our appreciation to the Philanthropy Department, particularly Amy Werner and Kelly Will, for their ongoing support of Auxiliary activities. They share the Auxiliary’s dedication to the hospital and are always supportive of us.

Thanks also to all Auxilians who support the Auxiliary with donations of raffle items, baked goods and attendance at our events.

I also want to extend a special thank you to Carrie Meikle and the nominating committee for their work presenting a slate of officers for 2017-2018. Welcome to our two new board members Alexis Bolduc and Priti Patel. It is great to have them aboard. Please join me in expressing our gratitude to two departing Board members Joy Deschene and Terry O’Connor. We thank them for their dedication and gifts of time and talent. We will miss them and hope to see them at future events.

I am happy to report that at this year’s annual meeting, the Auxiliary presented a check for $125,000 to Jody White, President and CEO of Lowell General Hospital and Circle Health. This is the second installment of the Auxiliary’s $500,000 pledge toward renovation of the Intensive Care Unit, particularly the family corridor, and the construction of a healing garden with a labyrinth.

(President’s message continued next page)
Auxiliary Board of Directors 2016-17

Officers:
President: Paula Leavitt
First Vice President: Trish O’Donnell
Second Vice President: Lea Cahill
Recording Secretary: Linda Carson
Corresponding Secretary: Pauline Lambert
Treasurer: Alexis Bolduc
Assistant Treasurer: Jan Demetriou
Immediate Past President: Carrie Meikle

Board of Directors:
Mary Bennett
Alison Burns
Susan Dionne
Carol Gilchrist
Deborah Lemos
Priti Patel
Alexandria Regan
Kathy Rhodes
Elaine Zouzas Thibault
Deborah Trull
Pam White
Sue Zacharer

Membership Open House

On Thursday, April 27, at the lovely historic Nesmith House in Lowell, Terry O’Connor hosted a small gathering for the Auxiliary Membership Open House. Guests were treated to a tour of the home, lovingly restored and renovated with modern amenities, wall murals and beautiful décor suitable to its history. The Nesmith House is owned and maintained by Middlesex Community College and is available for functions and events.

The dinner was a lovely spread of chicken and various salads — a perfect menu for a warm spring evening. President Paula Leavitt welcomed guests and spoke about the Auxiliary’s mission and events. Terry spoke about the importance of volunteerism and community service. She said that the Auxiliary is a wonderful group of hardworking women. Guests enjoyed desserts and mingling in the beautiful rooms.

(President’s message continued from p.1)

Preparations are underway for next year. Two events to mark on your calendar are the 31st Taste of the Town to be held on October 22, 2017 at the UMass Lowell Inn and Conference Center. Billy Costa of KISS 108’s Matty in the Morning and NESN’s Dining Playbook will be returning as guest host. Also, Winter Affair has been booked for February 11, 2018, at Vesper Country Club, with February 18, as the snow date.

I look forward to completing my term and continuing our tradition of supporting the hospital by bringing you fine events for your enjoyment.

Paula Leavitt
President, Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary
Lowell General Hospital Welcomes Sarah Taylor, new Gift Shop Manager

Sarah Taylor is a lifelong resident of Nashua, NH. She previously worked at Brookstone at the corporate office in Merrimack NH where she was promoted four times in her four year tenure. Sarah’s last position with Brookstone was as the Associate buyer for the Travel Category. Prior to working at Brookstone, Sarah was a real estate agent for four years, working for both Prudential and RE/MAX. She also has many years of experience in retail and restaurant management.

In her free time, Sarah enjoys spending time with her family. She is the proud mother of two teenagers, Avery and Elsie. She loves any reason to get her entire family together to share a meal and a few laughs. Sarah also enjoys volunteering at the Nashua Soup Kitchen serving meals to the less fortunate. Besides her children, Sarah’s proudest accomplishment is having the privilege to donate her kidney to her brother-in-law. She likes to remind people of the importance of organ donation as everyone has the chance to change or possibly save a life.

In the coming weeks and months, Sarah looks forward to becoming acquainted with all Auxiliary members. She feels very passionate about working for a non-profit and is excited for this next chapter as the Gift Shop Manager.

10% Off Coupon for the Lowell General Hospital Gift Shop

Like Us on Facebook
Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop

Follow Us on Instagram
@lowellgeneralhospitalgiftshops
Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor more snow will keep the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary from throwing a party! It was truly A Winter Affair with A Little Flair on Sunday, February 12th — a little flair and a whole lot of dare. But over a hundred hardy guests braved the blizzard outside to enjoy the warmth and hospitality of the beautifully decorated Vesper Country Club.

Auxiliary Board member Alison Burns serenaded the crowd. Several florists donated beautiful arrangements, which were raffled off at the end of the evening. The wine pull had over one hundred bottles to choose from. Forty lucky guests could purchase a box that contained a stunning handmade bracelet and a chance to win a diamond necklace donated by Frederick Church Jewelers and Atlas Travel, a Kate Spade New York handbag and a fox fur pompom key chain donated by Eric and Carrie Meikle.

In addition to the delicious dinner, the crowd was treated to the cocktail concoctions of some very talented mixologists: Brittany Thompson and Matthew Prentice from Evviva Cucina, Dennis Meadows and Ryan Jacobs from Tavern at Lenzi’s, Sandra Bjorklund from Fuse Bistro and Lowell General Hospital’s very own John Buscanera (wow, we didn’t know you guys were so multi-talented in the Finance Department!).

The guests were able to vote for their favorites using different colored bracelets. And the winners are:

**Best Whiskey:**
Dennis Meadows (Lenzi’s)

**Best Vodka:**
Sandra Bjorklund (Fuse Bistro)

**Bartender with a Flair:**
Brittany Thompson (Evviva Cucina)

If you would like to join in the fun next year (or you let old man winter get the best of you and missed this year’s fun), A Winter Affair 2018 is scheduled for Sunday, February 11th at Vesper Country Club (snow date February 18th).
Annual Meeting 2017

On Monday, May 8, 2017, 70 members and board of the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary, hospital administration and guests attended the Annual Meeting and luncheon in the library at Stonehedge Hotel and Spa Tyngsboro.

President, Paula Leavitt welcomed everyone and thanked the Auxiliary Board and Auxilians for their support and dedication this year. Special thanks and flowers were given to Amy Werner, Director of Philanthropy and Kelly Will, Philanthropy Service Manager for their help throughout the year.

Paula also thanked Dan Maguire for providing music for the event. Motions to approve the Secretary’s report and Treasurer’s report were presented and accepted. Carrie Meikle presented the 2017-2018 slate of officers, which was accepted after one vote was cast from Linda Carson. We bid farewell to two departing Auxiliary members, Joy Deschene and Terry O’Connor while welcoming two new board members Alexis Bolduc and Priti Patel.

Board members Pauline Lambert, Terry O’Connor and Mary Bennett presented a check to Meg Lemire-Berthel and Claudia Antolini from our Cancer Center in the amount of $5,942.50. The money was raised from our Daffodils and Dessert event. A matching pledge of $5,000 was also given to Team Walk for Cancer care.

The Auxiliary has committed to a four-year pledge totaling $500,000 to the renovation of the ICU Family Corridor and construction of a Healing Garden.

Paula Leavitt, President, Susan Dionne, 2nd Vice President and Trish O’Donnell, 1st Vice President presented the 2nd installment check of $125,000 to Jody White CEO and President of Circle Health.
The Auxiliary has committed to a four-year pledge totaling $500,000 to the renovation of the ICU Family Corridor and construction of a Healing Garden. Paula Leavitt, President, Trish O’Donnell, 1st Vice President and Susan Dionne, 2nd Vice President presented the 2nd installment check of $125,000 to Jody White CEO and President of Circle Health.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned and the guests enjoyed a fashion show provided by J. McLaughlin of Andover. The show was emceed by Aricia Symes Elmer of Shift your Style, also in Andover. Our models this year were Trish O’Donnell, Pam White, Sue Zacharer, Deb Lemos, Molly Bennett, Carrie Meikle, Kathy Ryder, and Julia Shen. Thanks to all who attended.
Update of Healing Garden

Now that spring is here, renovations have begun for the hospital’s final piece of the Intensive Care Unit renovation — the Lowell General Auxiliary Healing Garden. This 5,500 square-foot garden will be located right outside the new ICU, accessible from the Hanchett Building and the patient parking lot. The garden will contain various trees, flower beds of the Auxiliary’s special daffodils, memorial benches and sitting cubes. The centerpiece of the garden will be labyrinth made of pavers for visitors to walk, reflect and contemplate.

This garden will be a beautiful hospital showpiece, made possible by the generosity of the Auxiliary.

Circle Health Dracut

Circle Health is excited to announce plans for its next outpatient center — Circle Health Dracut.

The project calls for a new 27,000 square-foot, three-story medical building at the corner of Broadway (Route 133) and Loon Hill Road. It will include a Circle Health Urgent Care and Lowell General Hospital patient service center, primary care and OB/GYN physician practices, and diabetes and endocrinology specialty services.

“We are excited for the opportunity to bring this added level of Complete connected care to the Dracut community,” said Lowell General Hospital President Jody White. “Lowell General Hospital has always provided healthcare to the people of Dracut, and we’re looking forward to now having a physical presence in this convenient location.”

As part of its effort to develop the Broadway/Loon Hill Road area, Dracut has received a $2.5 million state grant to make improvements to the adjacent intersection and sidewalks.

On March 1, Circle Health leaders joined Dracut Town Manager Jim Duggan and other state and local officials at the project site to ceremonially break ground on the project. Honored guests included state Rep. Colleen Garry, state Deputy Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Carolyn Kirk and the entire Dracut Board of Selectmen – Chairwoman Alison Hughes, Vice Chairman Joe DiRocco, Tony Archinski, Tami Dristilliaris and Jesse Forcer.

This garden will be a beautiful hospital showpiece, made possible by the generosity of the Auxiliary. Opening events and public use will be made available in June. Stay tuned for more information.

Circle Health Dracut is expected to open in late 2018.

Circle Health has opened similar outpatient centers in Westford (198 Littleton Road) in 2014 and Billerica (Treble Cove Plaza, 199 Boston Road) earlier this year.
Spring was welcomed on March 23rd as the Dahod lobby and Saints campus lobby were ablaze with bright yellow daffodils, pots of daffodils, daffodil silk flower arrangements, door wreaths and Easter and gift baskets. All these offerings were enhanced by the delicious homemade desserts and novelty chocolates that were generously donated by auxiliary members and hospital staff.

To publicize the event, postcards were sent out to Auxiliary members and pre-orders were taken. Special thanks to Pauline Morse of the Philanthropy Department who was responsible for the posters, fliers, table tops and newsletter articles that went out to the hospital community. As a result, hospital staff and visitors responded generously, with total proceeds of $5,942.50 to be donated to the Lowell General Hospital Cancer Center. In addition to what was sold, daffodil bouquets were sent to the Cancer Center to be distributed to patients.

This year, proceeds will be used to purchase gift cards to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for cancer patients experiencing difficult economic circumstances due to their illness. The remaining balance will be directed towards the refurbishment of the Patient Family Resource Center at the Cancer Center. In addition, the Auxiliary agreed to match $5,000 to donate to Lowell General Hospital’s TeamWalk for Cancer care.

Special thanks to all who contributed to this event and in particular to the volunteers who set up and staffed the tables:

Ethel Atkinson, Alison Burns, Linda Carson, Frances Cassidy, Wilda Chapman, Jan Demetriou, Susan Dionne, Kathy Drolet, Jessica Field, Carol Gilchrist, Paula Leavitt, Janet Leggat, Joanne Malamo, Carrie Meikle, Trish O’Donnell, Alex Regan, Susan Zacharer and Debbie Trull.

Thanks to Terry O’Connor for arranging the purchase of the daffodils and to Mary Bennett for procuring the pots of daffodils. We would also like to thank Paul Lambert and Ray Leavitt who delivered pre-orders to off-site locations, and Kelly Will for deposits and charge card reconciliations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
The Cancer Center at Lowell General Hospital recently welcomed a very special guest from the UK-based head and neck cancer support group called the Swallows.

Chris Curtis, Chairman and World Patient Ambassador, is traveling throughout the world to talk with doctors, patients and support groups. He plans to make a series of films, a guide, and a new website to help patients and families affected by head and neck cancer.

See below comment received from Chris after the filming here at Lowell General:

Can I say I massive thank you to everyone in the team at Lowell Cancer Center, it was a true honor to be allowed full access to your department and to see ‘Team Work’ at its very best. There is a saying “There is no ‘I’ in Team” from the Valet guys, receptionist, health professionals and the center director never has this been more true, everyone works to the same aim ‘Quality Patient Experience and Outcomes’.

With the amount of quality film footage that was taken in your center we could make a full movie on Head & Neck Cancer and how to ensure Quality Patient Outcomes and that is down to the collaboration of everyone involved.

My highest recommendation would be, “God forbid I ever get diagnosed with H&N Cancer again, I would have no hesitation to be treated by your fantastic team”.

A big thank you goes to William Courtney of the Marketing and Public Relations who greeted and looked after myself and the team with a smile and such ease — a true gentleman and professional.

I look forward to helping you introduce the first H&N Cancer Support Group inside the hospital, and reaching out to existing, past, and future patients, Survivors and caregivers. I look forward to mentoring Jack, Tom & Donna within the H&N Cancer Ambassador Program.

Chris Curtis,
Chairman & World Patient Ambassador
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<td>September 13, 14 &amp; 15</td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Taste of the Town (4:30–8:00 p.m.)</td>
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**Membership Renewal!**

It’s time to renew your membership to the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary. The Auxiliary supports the hospital and the community through a variety of fundraisers including The Taste of the Town, Daffodils and Desserts, and many more. Members receive the Auxiliary Newsletter and invitations to our special events and annual meeting. Our members support events via donating their time, baked goods and other volunteer opportunities.

You will have the opportunity to enjoy rewarding work, make new friends and make a difference in your community.

- Annual membership: $30
- Lifetime Membership: $500

**Auxiliary Donations**

- $5,942.50 From Daffodil Days for the Cancer Center
- $125,000 Towards Renovation of ICU and construction of the Healing Garden
- $5,000 Grant to TeamWalk

For more information about joining the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary, please contact the Philanthropy Office at 978-937-6696.