President’s Message

After a long snowy winter, spring is in the air!

The Auxiliary has been very busy the last several months! In January, we kicked off the New Year with our annual raffle calendar drawings, with a lucky winner drawn every day during the month. A special thanks goes out to our calendar committee for a successful raffle.

In February, between the snow storms, we had our 6th annual “A Winter Affair” event. The Stonehedge Inn and Spa looked like a winter wonderland full of beautiful flowers donated by many local florists. Pauline Lambert and Terry O’Connor brought the magic to life with all the festive decorations. Guests explored wines from all around the world with a special tasting graciously presented by Jimmy Young with the help of Jay Cahill. Tom Hoey went home with a beautiful flat screen television for capturing the top spot in our snowball toss. This year, under the direction of Debbie Lemos, we had our first ever wine pull event. It was very well received and guests had a lot of fun! Thank you, Debbie, for your leadership in this new event. The night was enjoyed by all who attended.

We welcomed spring with our annual “Daffodils and Desserts” fundraiser on March 27, 2014. For the first time the event was held on both campuses, and we rose to the challenge! This year, the American Cancer Society discontinued the daffodil sales, so we decided to continue this tradition and have all proceeds go to our own Lowell General Cancer Center for the comfort and needs of our patients. Pauline Lambert, chair of this event for many years, has done an outstanding job of leading this successful fundraiser year after year. I would like to thank Pauline for her hard work, leadership, dedication, and guidance in helping Terry O’Connor and me co-chair the Saints Campus’ first “Daffodils and Desserts”. Also, thank you to the entire committee.

Thank you to Linda Carson and Joy Deschene, co-chairs of the book fairs. The book fairs have proven very successful in our fundraising efforts. The fairs are always well received by the hospital staff and visitors.

On Thursday, May 1, 2014, Terry O’Connor will open her beautiful home to the Auxiliary to welcome new members. This event will be from 5:30-7:30 p.m. If you know anybody who would like to join the Auxiliary, please contact kelly.will@lowellgeneral.org or (978) 937-6696.

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Our Annual Meeting is planned for Monday June 2, 2014 at the Stonehedge Inn and Spa. A fashion show sponsored by Irresistibles of Andover along with music provided by Jon Mansfield will surely make for a wonderful afternoon. At this meeting, I will be passing the gavel to Carrie Meikle who will become the Auxiliary President for the next two years. I know she will have all the support and encouragement you have all given me over the past two years. These past two years as President have been a rewarding and gratifying experience for me. I have enjoyed working with the entire board, the administration, and the many volunteers. Thank you for your dedication, loyalty, and immeasurable contributions. We are a board of extremely talented individuals who demonstrate just how much a group of people can accomplish by working together. More than any other factor the level of cooperation and camaraderie within our organization create the fun and fulfilling efforts we all share. It has been an honor to serve as president and I would like to thank each and every one of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Bennett
President
Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary

For more information about joining the Lowell General Hospital Auxiliary, please contact the Philanthropy Office at 978-937-6430.
The Gift Shops at the main and Saints campuses are blooming with the colors of spring! We are happy to showcase some new tote and handbag lines and they’re gorgeous! Cute beach bags in vibrant shades of cobalt, lime and aqua decorated with adorable fish and seahorses are flying out the door… everyone’s dreaming of the beach! In addition, we have beautiful sweater sets in lemon and tangerine that have been selling fast. Our vivid spring scarves in a variety of colors and prints also continue to be best-sellers at the shops.

For accessories, we have the new “Sacred Studs” line of Alex and Ani jewelry featuring bangles, necklaces and earrings. This is a limited edition collection — perfect for Mother’s Day or graduation. Alex and Ani continues to be our most popular line and you can’t go wrong when selecting one as a gift!

Finally, the much anticipated bright spring patterns of Vera Bradley have arrived. We truly have something for everyone, so come in to see us soon!

Interested in volunteering in the Gift Shop?
Please contact Donna Thoene at (978) 937-6373 or email donna.thoene@lowellgeneral.org
After a long hard winter, the arrival of Spring was eagerly awaited by all. The Auxiliary brightened the lobbies at the hospital’s main and Saints campuses with its annual Daffodils and Desserts Day held on Thursday, March 27. The event, which ran from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, was a huge success as patients, physicians, visitors, and staff responded generously to help raise money for our Cancer Center patients.

In addition to holding the sale at both the main and Saints campus, there was another important change with the daffodil sales. This year, The American Cancer Society announced that they were no longer sponsoring daffodil sales. In response, a decision was made by the Auxiliary to continue the tradition and daffodils were procured from another source. This resulted in all profits being directed to the Cancer Center at Lowell General Hospital for the benefit of patients and staff. The Philanthropy Department graciously offered to coordinate pre-sale orders and so all areas of the hospital and general public were given the opportunity to support this great cause.

The Auxiliary has raised $14,500 dollars for the American Cancer Society and nearly $24,000 for the hospital and the Cancer Center.

Over the past 19 years, the Auxiliary has raised $14,500 dollars for the American Cancer Society through its daffodil sales and nearly $24,000 for the hospital and its cancer center through its bake sale, which enables the auxiliary to donate items and equipment to help provide comfort and healing to cancer patients and their families.

In previous years, proceeds from this event has funded some wonderful features for the Cancer Center and patients as well, including the puzzle table and chairs on the Radiation Therapy floor, Bose speaker systems, and special guest chairs for the chemotherapy infusion room. Last year, we were also able to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for those in need.

Auxiliary members and hospital staff generously donated baked goods, novelty chocolates, gift baskets, wreaths, silk floral arrangements and a raffle item for each campus. The raffle winner on the main campus was Peggy Palm of Tyngsboro. The Saints campus winner was Kerrie D’Entremont of Lowell.

Hospital staff and visitors responded generously to our offerings. To date, total income for the day was close to $7,000, of which we expect a net profit of close to $6,000. This is over double the proceeds from last year’s event, so we are so excited to brighten the lives of cancer patients as we make the donation at this year’s annual meeting in June.

The daffodil, a symbol of hope for cancer patients, provided sunshine color and opportunity to enhance friendships for all Auxiliians who participated.

To all who helped in any way, we say THANK YOU!
Once again, it was shown that Old Man Winter can’t get in the way of 140 guests enjoying an evening out at the Stonehedge Inn & Spa! The Auxiliary’s annual Winter Affair was a resounding success with some very entertaining festivities and record attendance.

New to the event this year was the enormously popular wine pull table. This fun activity was made possible by many local businesses and residents who collectively donated 75 bottles of wine with values ranging between $20 and $200 per bottle. Guests purchased tickets for an opportunity to pull a festively wrapped bottle, and then enjoyed discovering their wine’s hidden value. It may have been the first year for the wine pull but it certainly won’t be the last! Also, the snowball throw competition, included especially for our more competitive guests, had a continuous line of anxious participants waiting to play. The winning prize was a flat screen TV generously donated by MEC Technologies. We are happy to report that the lucky winner for the 2014 snow ball toss was Tom Hoey. We hope he enjoys his new flat screen!

Guests feasted on a fabulous dinner of Caesar salad, lobster mac and cheese, chicken, and potatoes au gratin made fresh by the talented chefs at Stonehedge. While enjoying dinner, guests were entertained by jazz music performed by the talented Trude Witham Group. Delicious desserts, consisting of cupcakes and assorted pastries, were generously provided by Sodexo, Keyks, and Sweetpeas Bakery. Guests were also treated to wine tastings courtesy of Jimmy Young from Martignetti Companies, assisted by Jay Cahill of Harrington Wine and Liquors.

There were two silent and live auctions that were another huge hit, including tickets to the popular boy band “One Direction” generously donated by Trinity EMS, as well as an in-home catered dinner for six graciously donated by Two Chefs are Better than One.

The night finished off with a raffle of 11 fabulous arrangements donated by local florists. A heartfelt thank you goes out to: Belle Feuille, Blossoms Florist, Classic Flowers, Feeney the Florist, Floral Arts, Flowers by Albert, Flowers by Steve, Les Fleurs, Westford Florist, Piccarillo Designs and Rose of Sharon at Blossom Hill. Their beautiful blooms were much appreciated by all guests and the lucky winners.

There is nothing better than a fun evening of wine tasting, dinner, raffles, games and great friends! The 5th annual Winter Affair raised over $18,000 all of which go towards the Auxiliary’s Legacy Fund which will directly benefit Lowell General Hospital.
The popular wine pull with 75 bottles of donated wine.

Bruce Robinson, Norm Deschene, Tarina and Dan Mansur

Ray and Kathleen Laferriere, Amy Hoey, and Jody White

Sabrina Granville and Jim Dow

Dr. Tushar Patel, Dr. Eric Meikle and Carrie Meikle

Susan Rokas and Mary Bennett
Monday, June 2
Annual Meeting

Monday, June 9
Gift Shop Luncheon

Wednesday-Friday, September 17-19
Book Fair (Main Campus)

Sunday, October 26
28th Annual Taste of the Town
(UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center)

Thursday and Friday, November 20-21
Festival of Holidays (Main Campus)

Thursday, December 4
Festival of Holidays (Saints Campus)

Wednesday, December 10
Book Fair (Saints Campus)

Thursday and Friday, December 11-12
Book Fair (Main Campus)

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