

# M AHVRP

Midwest Association for Healthcare  
Volunteer Resource Professionals

Midwest Association for Healthcare **Volunteer**  
Resource Professionals  
Established 1968  
**A Missouri Hospital Association Professional**  
**Membership Group**  
An AHVRP Affiliated Group



## Notes from our President Valerie Weber, Capital Regional Medical Center, Jefferson City, MO

What an amazing privilege it has been to serve as your President! I am proud to be part of such an impressive organization. This reporting year was filled with many wonderful changes, starting with the name change to Midwest Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals - MAHVRP. The name change aligns us with our national organization American Hospital's Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals and offers inclusion of all of our membership. Along with this name change and a complete remake of our website and domain, a new logo was developed and the winning logo entry coming from Tina Pridgeon.

The Board participated in 5 Board meetings. The first one was held Nov. 7, 2008 at the Black Bear Restaurant, Lake of the Ozarks at which time goals were set for the year. The second meeting was held on Jan. 14, 2009 at the Missouri Hospital Association. Much of the discussion was on the name change, logo, website and Spring Conference. The third meeting took place on April 29, 2009 at the Chateau on the Lake, Branson in conjunction with our Spring Conference. The hot topic was the announcement that MO will host the National Conference

in 2010. The Spring Conference *Volunteer Round-up: Recruitment, Retention and Fundraising* was a fun *YEE HAW* of a time. Linda McIntosh, Vice-President did a spectacular job in planning the conference and you could not ask for a more beautiful setting than the Chateau on the Lake! Our third Board meeting was held on Aug. 12, 2009 at my home in Jefferson City. We reviewed the Spring Conference and made plans for MAHVRP announcing their host site of St. Louis at the National Conference in Arizona. It was decided to perform a skit wearing Cardinal T-shirts, ball caps and white shorts. The creative minds of Lynn Hardy, Bev Taulbee, Kathy Hoff and Molly Holtmann came up with the very fun tune to *Take Me out to the Ballgame*. Our final Board meeting was held at Tan-Tar-A on Nov. 4 during the MHA Convention. The theme of the MHA Convention - *Renewed Purpose Inspired Care* brought MAHVRP to an *Island Get-Away* during our Board meeting we covered the National Conference and reviewed the year.

Our organization is strong with 72 members. We welcomed new members and said our good bye to Judy Constable,

who died unexpectedly and 3 other DVS's whose positions were eliminated. We had really good turnout at all of our Conferences despite the tough economic times. Our members once again showed their generosity by sharing hotel rooms, car rides, etc with other members.

I also had the opportunity to serve as your liaison to AHVRP, where I participated on three leadership conference calls. Additionally in preparation for MAHVRP hosting the National, I served on the planning committee for the 2009 AHVRP National Conference in Phoenix, AZ. This was the first year that AHVRP included members from the following year's conference site. The experience and information attained should assist with the planning of the 2010 AHVRP Conference *Navigating our Future through a Changing Frontier* being to be held in St. Louis on Sept. 30 - Oct. 3. This will be AHVRP's 42nd Annual Conference and it will also be our 42nd year as an amazing organization!

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It has been an honor!

Sincerely, Valerie Weber, MHSA  
President, MAHVRP

Check out our website:  
[www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org)

December 2009 Issue

Please consider the environment before printing this newsletter.

### Special points of interest:

- ☺ Check [www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org) in January for Spring Conference dates and location.
- ☺ Register online now at [www.ahvrp.org](http://www.ahvrp.org) for AHVRP Conference in St. Louis, September 30- October 3, 2010.
- ☺ Applications for all conference scholarships **now available** at [www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org).

## Education Corner...

by Linda McIntosh

"May life bring you a reflection of the kindness you've shown to others." This is a quote in a book I purchased from Books Are Fun several years ago and I share it as my way of saying thank you to all DVSs that helped me throughout the year in planning and participating at the spring and fall conferences.

In the spring, there were 24 people in attendance at the beautiful Chateau On The Lake. At Tan-Tar-A we had

37 attendees. The low numbers reflect a sign of the times in



healthcare. But we can't think of the downward spiral, as Benjamin Zander pointed out: "We must look for the possibilities!" We must push

ourselves, our fellow DVSs, and our organization in order to achieve our purpose. Education is the thread that weaves us together and makes us better managers when we return to our hospitals. I hope the new year brings new possibilities for more of our members to attend the conferences.

Thank you for sharing your knowledge, thank you for the opportunity to serve; I found the year to be quite "FASCINATING"!

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What a year! MAHVRP has been through a lot this year like our name change, losing several members due to hospital budget cuts, and the untimely loss of one of our own. We have also gained some new members, had lots of opportunities for professional growth, and are gearing up for the 2010 National AHVRP Conference in our own state! So some sad time and some exciting times! Life is like waves in the

ocean, going in and out, in and out. We have some happy and some sad times, but they never last because the next wave will come in soon.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Secretary this year. It's been very educational, and I look forward to working with everyone next year to put on the best national conference

ever. Our Midwest hospitality will shine!



Kathy Hoff, Outreach Coordinator  
Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

## News from the Regions...

### Region 1 Shares Joys, Information and Advice

Region 1 had 26 members in 2009 and 2 regional meetings were held.

Eight members met in April and discussed economical ways to recognize volunteers. We enjoyed good food, a lot of laughs, and had a lot of good conversation, on and off the topic. Jeri Grimes shared a book of ideas on economical ways to recognize volunteers and shared information on the upcoming spring conference in Branson.

September 30, was the final meeting for the region in 2009. Members met at the 75<sup>th</sup> Street Grill and Pub in the Waldo area of Kansas City, MO. Nine members attended. Many topics were discussed in this open networking session: Professional relations with hospital staff, training for transport volunteers, volunteers as support vs. positions totally dependent on volunteers, staffing for volunteer services departments. The information covered was applicable to all our programs and there was great discussion.



Jeri Grimes, CAVS  
MAHVRP Region 1  
St. Joseph Medical Center, MO

### Region 3...Greetings from South Missouri... "The Cape"

Greetings!

The cool evenings are upon us, the leaves are falling faster in southeast Missouri. It's a wonderful time to begin thinking about Thanksgiving, but more about counting our blessings. It's great to have our group of MAHVRP directors and managers to support each other.



I have the unique opportunity to work with our volunteers and auxiliary who want to enhance our volunteer programs and opportunities. We met October 20, to discuss ideas on recruitment, recognition and retention.

We continue to support the mission of the medical center and patient satisfaction as our top priority. We also had fun, discussed a few changes and clarified some

information. We are looking forward to a new year and thankful for all that we have accomplished in 2009.

Sincerely  
Debbie Gibson  
Manager Volunteer Services  
St. Francis Medical Center

A great source of information for current legislative issues in Missouri is the state government websites. For a full list of committee members or to view current proposed or newly voted legislation, visit the Missouri House of Representatives website, <http://www.house.mo.gov/>. For Missouri Senate news, visit <http://www.senate.mo.gov/>.

A highlight for Missouri this year was the great efforts made in support of the Missouri Autism Awareness Project. Missouri State MAHA Project Autism Awareness received attention in the Senate as Missouri Senate Bill 167 passed the Senate Floor requiring insurers to cover up to \$55,000 annually for a child with autism under the age of 15 specifically for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy. ABA is recognized as an effective, evidence-based treatment for children with autism. SB 167 was sponsored in the State Senate by Senator Scott B. Rupp. The bill moved to the House of Representatives for approval as House Bill 357 where it lost momentum and was not passed during this legislative period. However, on Sunday, September 20, 2009 at The Meadows -- Lake St. Louis, Senator Scott Rupp and Senator Eric Schmitt hosted an Autism Insurance Reform Rally to provide information and support in promoting the Autism Insurance Reform bills for next year. Complete details of Senator Rupp's efforts can be found at [www.moautisbill.com](http://www.moautisbill.com).

Another highlight was the Missouri Association for Hospital Auxiliaries (MAHA) Legislative and Leadership Conference March 4 & 5, 2009 at Capital Plaza

Hotel in Jefferson City, MO. Several hospitals were represented from all over the state with opportunities to meet with senate and house representatives. An informational session on the role of the legislative chair for auxiliaries was conducted for those who were new in adding this position to their auxiliary boards or wanted to learn more about advocacy and protocols on how to contact their representatives. A job description was made available outlining the duties and responsibilities of legislative representatives for MAHA.

Also an important legislative event at the Missouri state level was the inauguration of a new governor, Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, in January 2009. Nixon is a veteran politician holding the office of Missouri Attorney General from 1992 through 2008, prior to becoming the governor.

And finally, in national legislative matters, this year's top issue is the election of President Barack Obama who was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States and the nation's first African-American president on Tuesday, January 20, 2009. One of Obama's presidential agendas includes a Comprehensive Health Care Reform for the United States. Below are



Tina Pridgeon, MAHVRP Legislative Chair  
Phelps Co. Reg. Med. Center  
Rolla, MO

the administration's highlighted points for reform as quoted from the White House website [http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health\\_care/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/health_care/).

- Reduce long-term growth of health care costs for businesses and government
- Protect families from bankruptcy or debt because of health care costs
- Guarantee choice of doctors and health plans
- Invest in prevention and wellness
- Improve patient safety and quality of care
- Assure affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans
- Maintain coverage when you change or lose your job
- End barriers to coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions

More information on the President's plan can be found at [www.HealthReform.gov](http://www.HealthReform.gov).

Remember, take advantage of resources available and utilize MHA as a source for legislative information. For up-to-date information provided free of charge through email, subscribe to "MHA Advocate" weekly updates with Dave Dillon which are available by email

## Region 4 update...

The next Region 4 meeting will be held Wednesday, December 9, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Sandstone Gardens, in Joplin, Mo. Gift shop managers are also invited to attend. Everyone was asked to

bring a \$5 gift for the gift exchange.

Region 4 has had a great year and is looking forward to another active year in 2010!

Janell Patton, CAVS  
Region 4 Representative  
Cox Monett Hospital  
Monett, MO



## Holiday Greetings from Region 5...

Hope you are all enjoying autumn with plans of spending time with family and friends for the holidays.

It has been a busy year with lots of changes for all of us.

District 5 had a meeting Thur. June 11 in Columbia. We had a small group but enjoying networking, and helping each other with some problem solving ideas. I

provided several handouts along with information on a few websites that have good volunteer program ideas.

We will have one last meeting Wed. December 16, 3pm at Columbia Regional Hospital. We will discuss volunteer tracking software as well as networking, dis-



Kay Steward, CAVS, MAHVRP  
Region 5 Representative,  
University Hospital and Clinics,  
Columbia, MO,

ussing our accomplishments at each of our facilities. Hope all district 5 members will be able to attend.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District 5 Rep.

Check out our website:  
[www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org)

*Midwest Association for Volunteer  
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the entire Midwest region.*

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**Save the Date: MAHVRP  
Spring Conference, April 29-  
30. More details to follow...**

## An Editorial Note:

As 2009 comes to a close and the MHA Fall conference is behind us, now is a good time to reflect on the past as it will relate to our future. Having been sworn in as new president of MAHVRP last Friday, I asked our new MAHVRP Board members to "Picture this..." I gave each of them a small photo album and asked that they take pictures of the MAHVRP year ahead. But in doing this, I wanted the Board and all MAHVRP members to INVISION what they would like to see our organization "look like" in 2010. We have the opportunity to "SHOW the MIDWEST" to the nation next fall at the 2010 AHVRP Conference in St. Louis. What do you want conference attendees to remember about their time in our state? I invite EVERY MEMBER of MAHVRP to help our board "picture this..." for 2010. Send me your input, ideas and vision of MAHVRP for the coming year. Once we know where we want to go and who we want to be...we can make our dreams come true!

Lynn Graves Hardy, CAVS

Editor, President Elect, MAHVRP 2009

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## MAHVRP Scholarship Information

Information regarding MAHVRP scholarships is available at [www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org). Scholarships are generally available for the Missouri Hospital Association conference; the MAHVRP spring conference and the Annual AHVRP National conference. Check out the website for qualifications and to obtain an application.

A Peak at 2009 Fall MAHVRP Conference...  
More pics can be found at [www.mahvrp.org](http://www.mahvrp.org)

