

Auxiliaries in Action

A Publication of the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association

September/October 2023



**2022 - 2023 AHAA President
Judy Shaffer**

Dear Friends,

Summer is nearly over School has begun and our Annual Convention is a little over two months away. I hope that you all are planning to attend the Convention in Little Rock at the Embassy Suites on November 1-3. It has been an extremely hot and brutal summer for many of us and the thought of Fall is most pleasing to many of us. Fall is my favorite season of the year. The air is fresh, the beautiful fall colors and cool mornings.

The Convention Committee has worked hard to make this Convention fun and educational. Once again, the theme for Thursday evening will be 'Cruising the World' so dress will be casual and cruising style. There will be a Trivia game Thursday evening on the history of AHAA. Keep your Handbooks handy.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your willingness to volunteer your time and talents to your hospital. You all are an invaluable source of wisdom, help and love. It has been a true privilege to serve as AHAA President this year and working with each and every one of you. Looking forward to seeing you all at the Convention!

Judy Shaffer
AHAA President

Theme: Finding Joy and Friendship
Through Volunteering
AHAA

Colors: Yellow, blue and white



President

Judy Shaffer
Baxter Health
Mountain Home, AR
shafferjas@suddenlink.net

President - Elect

Neta Sue Stamps
Mercy Hospital Berryville
Berryville, AR
neta.stamps@outlook.com

Vice President

Judy Lawrence
White River Health
Batesville, AR
judyklawrence@yahoo.com

Secretary

Jennifer Baker
Baxter Health
Mountain Home, AR
jenbaker1951@gmail.com

Treasurer

Charlotte Jackson
Unity Health
Searcy, AR
charlotte.jackson33@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Carol Evans
North Arkansas Regional Med Ctr
Harrison, AR
larryandcarol1@windstream.net

In Loving Memory

**North Central District
Baptist Health Medical Center - Heber Springs**

Susan Jane Morgan

Baxter Health

Sharon "Terri" Lynn Argyle

Sheila Cox

Patty Perry

Catherine Sawyer

White River Health

Justin Burge

**Northeast District
St. Bernards Medical Center**

Sue Lady

Gaylor Orndorff

Lillian Stevenson

**Northwest District
Northwest Medical Center - Springdale**

Louetta Varner Jorgenson (AHAA Past President 2004 - 2005)

Siloam Springs Regional Hospital

Louise Brown

**Valley District
Baptist Health - Van Buren**

Barbara Brasuell

Metropolitan District

Baptist Health Medical Center - North Little Rock

Submitted by Becky Blackard

We have had a busy summer with vacations, babysitting, doctor's visits and illnesses. Along with the business of the past couple of months we found time to serve at BHMC-NLR. We so enjoy serving our patients, their families and our staff. We had a couple of young ladies volunteer this summer during the summer break. We have had a former Auxiliary member return after being out a few years. We also hosted a fundraiser with Luxury Linen out of Oklahoma. We did gather in August for our BHMC-NLR Auxiliary planning meeting. We are looking forward to a great year.

Having fun working the linen sale!



Left: Caolyn Wenger and Nadine Dunn
Above: Ara Yanker and Judy Davis
Below: Gerry Allebach and Frances Arnold





Above: BHMC-NLR Auxiliary Planning Meeting
Marilyn Powers, Carolyn Wenger, Ara Yanker, Sharon Plate,
Frances Arnold, Judy Davis, and Ron Plate

Below: Products sold at Linen Sale
with some customers



North Central District

Baxter Health

Submitted by Joan Young

Well, we can finally breathe a little better now that the summer humidity has dropped. However, we are still a hustling and bustling with our volunteer activities.

We continue to be busy at our Bargain Boxes and Pink-A-Dilly gift shop. Sales are still very good. The Pink-A-Dilly Gift Shop has been receiving in fall merchandise and new colors in our hospital logo t-shirts. MH Bargain Box continues to have weekly specials. The Bargain Box in Flippin is holding their very successful “Dawg” Days of Summer Sale again this year for the entire month of August in order to prepare for the seasonal change in clothing.

Ron Peterson CEO came to our July Board meeting, gave us a hospital update and addressed questions on hospital happenings.

Becky Rose, DVS, Debbie Hess, President Elect and Judy Shaffer, North Central District Secretary and AHAA State President attended the presidents’ meeting in Stone County.

Our H.O.P.E committee is meeting again to prepare for our events and recruiting efforts after the summer break. The committee added 2 new members.

We are a sponsor for the Peitz Cancer House Outrun Cancer 5K Walk/Run to be hosted in September.

Turned in our convention registration and are making plans to attend AHAA Convention in November.

We have been working on our 1st annual Arts & Crafts Fair fundraiser. We did a preliminary layout for spaces, made the announcement and people are coming in for the registration forms.

“Nacho” Average Volunteer is the theme for our next general meeting in September. Sarah Edwards, Executive Director of Baxter Health Foundation will be our guest speaker. We will also present our by-law changes.

The Selection committee is currently taking nominations for our slate of officers next year.

Wishing you cool summer breezes.

Ozark Health, Inc.

Submitted by Betty Spencer

First of all I would like to make a correction on our last news article. We mentioned that we give 10% off on every sale in the gift shop over \$10.00. This is NOT TRUE. We allow 10% off on any sale greater than \$10 on the first Wednesday of each month. I apologize for any information that was given incorrectly.

We are entering into a very busy time of year. I know we are not alone since the holiday season comes with all sorts of additional sales for our organizations. We have our Uniform Sale to be held in September and we have been given authorization from Modern Woodmen to match funds on our National Hand Bag sale to be held on Tuesday October 10th . I know I have mentioned this in the past and I am interested if any other hospital in Arkansas is taking advantage of this additional \$2500.

November is next with our Annual Convention and I am excited to say we have 12 signed up to attend. Then comes our Silent Auction of Gift Baskets from November 6th until November 17th some of the baskets are Dog Lovers, Kitchen, Bath/Spa, Home Décor, Bird/Squirrel feeder, Desk set just to name a few.

Early December we will start our planning for activities to be held in 2024. I want to wish you all a SAFE and HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON.



Northeast District

Forrest City Medical Center

Submitted by Faye Caldwell-Steadman

Past Events

June: Installation of new 2023/24 Auxiliary Officers was officiated by Wilma Powell.

Welcomed two new Auxiliary recruits: Jean Moore and Lavena Proctor

July: Gift Shop closed July 3 & 4 for the 4th of July Holiday

Several FCMC Auxiliary members met on July 24 at 1 p.m. to go over all the EACC student nursing applications. Fifteen applications were accepted for a total of \$7,500 (each student receiving \$500).

Ronnie introduced and welcomed our new Director of Volunteer Services (DVS), Shelli Cissell, who will be on sight M-W-F due to a very busy FCMC/Helena work schedule.

Shelli also brought to our attention going forward, there will be a monetary CAP on all free lunches from the cafeteria provided to the Auxiliary members of \$15 dollars total per each day of volunteering at FCMC. If you wish to purchase a second lunch(es), they will be purchased separately and will be paid for by that Auxiliary member.

July 27 - Wilma Powell and Jean Moore registered donors for the American Red Cross Blood drive.

August:

August 10, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. – A Bake and T-shirt sale fund raiser for the American Cancer Society, “Relay for Life Foundation” was held and the following FCMC Auxiliary members participated with baking and manning the bake tables; Judy Armstrong, Wilma Powell, Lavena Proctor, Jean Moore, Faye Caldwell along with Shelli Cissell and the FCMC staff. The proceeds from the Bake Sale of \$866 went to the “Relay for Life Foundation” (T-Shirts are still being sold, more TBC). Thank you to all that participated.

Aug 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - A Student Nursing luncheon to meet and mingle with the 15 selected EACC nursing students (which also included 2 EMT's) and Mallory Adams, Director of Practical Nursing and Cathie Cline, EACC President was held at FCMC with a catered lunch. Dr. Ballard, FCMC CEO, gave a short speech on how much nurses are valued and needed. Each of the 15 students selected received \$500 each from the FCMC Auxiliary. Thanks to all the Auxiliary members (Ronnie Nix, Jean Moore, Eileen Snider, Wilma Powell, Dot Gores, Faye Caldwell, Dorothy Faulkner, Judy Armstrong) that helped make this event a success.

August 31, 2023 - Deadline to register for the Nov 1-3, 2023 State Convention held in Little Rock at the Embassy Suites.

September:

Sept 21, 2023 - FCMC Blood Drive: (volunteers TBC).

October:

Annual Flu Shots

Volunteer Thank You Hours/Certificates and Pins



FCMC and partnering with EACC Student Nursing Scholarship Luncheon held on Aug 24, 2023.





FCMC and partnering with EACC Student Nursing Scholarship Luncheon held on Aug 24, 2023. Each of the 15 Students selected received \$500 each from the FCMC Auxiliary funds.

NEA Baptist

Submitted by Kathy Miller

Auxiliary members who knit and sew will be making blankets and caps for Share Hope of NEA Baptist Hospital (babies who are still born or pass away shortly after birth).



Above: Installation of our 2023-2024 auxiliary officers, President-Betty Louy, Pres. Elect- Polly Clark, Vice Pres- Sandy Hughes, Treasurer, Donna Baker and Secretary, Teresa Vinson

Right: Auxiliary member Faye Haney went to the Las Vegas Market in July and ordered several new items for the gift shop



South Mississippi County Regional Medical Center

Submitted by Sonja Burnett

Osceola Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Reception

On July 23, 2023, the Osceola Hospital Auxiliary held their Scholarship Reception for 12 recipients. Each received a \$1,000 Scholarship. The event was hosted by Mary Bell, newly elected President and 10 Auxiliary members.



From left to right are the recipients: Caitlyn Fincher, ASU, Physical Therapy degree, graduating August, 2023; Caroline Booker, U of AR, Sr. yr, Medical Doctor degree; Grace Booker, U of AR, Jr, Pharmacy degree; Lauren Stuart, ASU, Sr, Radiology; Mary Bell, Auxiliary President, Railee Powell, ASU, Sr, Physical Therapy; Paxton Pierce, Ole Miss, Early Entry Pharmacy, Sr, 1 st yr Pharmacy; Sydney Lane, ASU, 2 nd year of Physical Therapy; Sydney Shempert, ASU, Sr, Physical Therapy.

Not pictured: Noah Brown, 3 rd yr, UAMS, College of Medicine, Danielle Johnson, ASU/AAS Nursing; Sierra Moore, ASU/AAS Nursing; Whitney Fincher, UT Dental, 1 st year.

Lovonda Carter Retirement Reception

On July 5, 2023, a reception for Lovonda Carter, 18 year Auxiliary member was held in the SMC Regional Medical Center's cafeteria. Lovonda is moving to Florida to live with family members. She has held every office and at the time of her retirement was President.



Paulette Booker, Shirley Stovall,
Mary Bell, Adele Black,
Lovonda Carter, Sharon Ragan,
Rebecca England, Rosie Fleming
and Sonja Burnett

St. Bernards Medical Center

Submitted by Dean Rossa

The St Bernards Auxiliary scholarship committee has selected 5 medical students for two thousand dollars scholarships each to help them with next year's studies. Scholarships will be presented at the September meeting.

Our summer Junior Volunteer Program was a success. We selected 16 students from 9 area schools. These students were either high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors. The program's purpose is to familiarize students with St Bernards Hospital and assist them in deciding on a medical career. During the month of July they worked at various stations in the hospital. Fridays were educational days. They got hands on experience with surgical equipment, dissections with Dr. Nair, practiced drawing blood (on fake arms) and also became CPR certified. We visited several departments with the guidance of many of the hospital employees donating their time to instruct them such as the ER, Blood Bank, Histology and NICU just to mention a few. St Bernards Auxiliary is proud to help with the Jr. Volunteer Program every year.



Mercy Hospital Northwest Arkansas

Submitted by Darlene Tuohy

Our 2024 auxiliary officers were installed by Neta Stamps, AHAA President Elect, on June 26, 2023. They are Christy Blackshear (President), Darlene Tuohy (President Elect), Denise McGlone (Treasurer), Linda Chrisope (Recording Secretary, Carolyn Johnson (Vice President), and Joyce Oler (Corresponding Secretary).

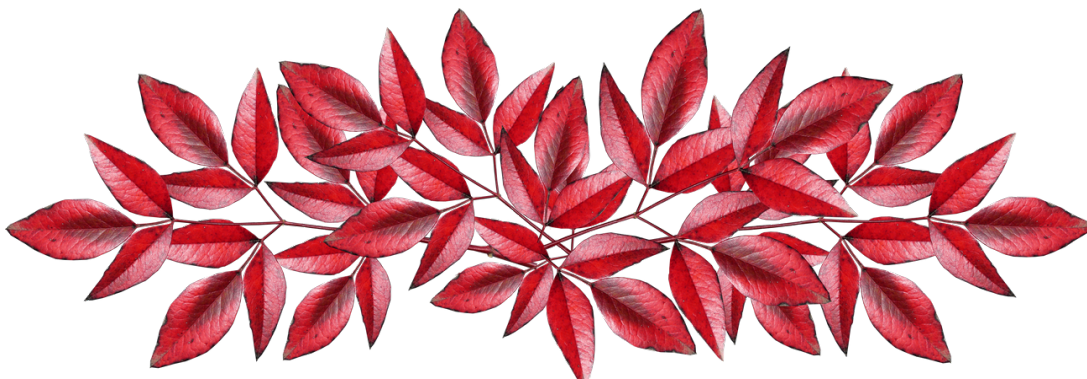


From left to right: Christy Blackshear, Darlene Tuohy, Denise McGlone, Linda Chrisope, Carolyn Johnson, Joyce Oler, Neta Stamps

Our summer volunteer program ran for seven weeks and included 72 teens who served more than 1800 hours.

In partnership with UAMS we were able to host a MASH (Medical Applications of Science and Health) camp for two weeks in June. Eleven participants were able to tour and shadow various health specialties all around the hospital from 8 AM to 4 PM each day.

We had a very successful Gift Shop Sidewalk Sale July 27 and 28. It enabled us to clear some back stock as we prepare for the fall and Christmas seasons.



Last, but not least, here are some photos of our wonderful Mercy Therapy Dogs who brighten the days for our patients and coworkers.



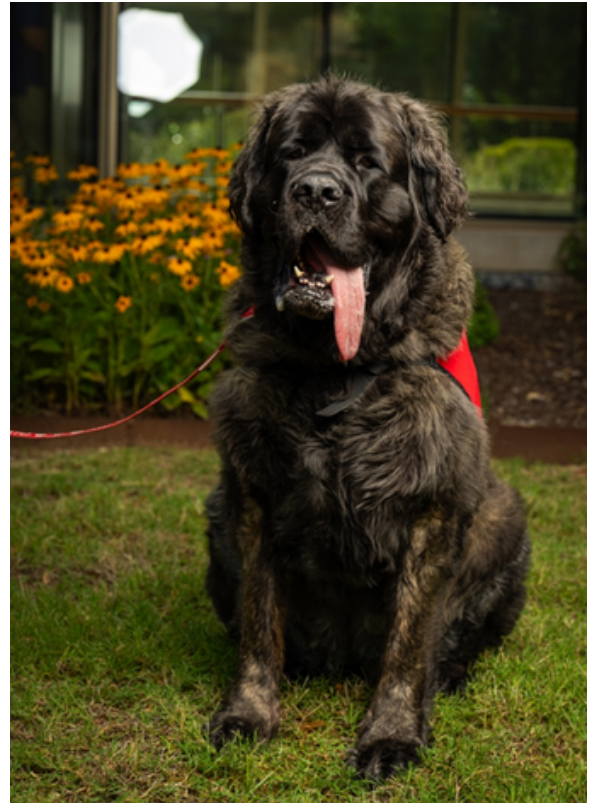
Pictured on the left is Pixy.

On the right, is Mercy .



Pictured on the left is Honey.

On the right, is Harry.





Southeast District

Chicot Memorial Medical Center

Submitted by Dean Ann Smith

In February, we held our annual fundraiser; our Valentine's Candy Sale. This candy is made by all auxiliaries. It is usually our biggest fundraiser.

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION: On March 1st, we honored the Dental Dept and on March 22nd, we honored Registration and Medical Records Depts. On April 19th, we honored the Lab Dept. and the CEO and Professional Offices. On May 1-5th, the nurses were honored during National Nurses' Week. On May 19th, we honored the EMT Dept.

Our auxiliary was also proud to honor 4 personnel by presenting them with blue CMA jackets. They are now honorary members of the auxiliary. These people do so much for the auxiliary. They are James Foster, Kim Rice, Robert Dickson, and Michael Jasay.

On April 12th, several of the auxiliaries attended the spring district meeting in Monticello.

Our annual awards meeting was held on May 17th. Dr. John Heard presented to us our bars for hours earned during 2022. Jill Wrezenski received the Auxiliary of the Year Award for 2022.

We held blood drives on Jan. 26th, March 23rd, May 18th, and July 18th. Our next blood drive will be Sept. 7th.

Our upcoming projects are: Prostate Cancer Awareness Week, Aug. 21 – 25th, Scrub Sale, Sept. 6 & 7th, Fall Mall – Sept. 21st, Breast Cancer Rally – Oct. 19th. We will resume employee appreciation the 2nd week of September.





Pictured on the left: Employee Appreciation honoring our Registration Dept.

Pictured below: Honoring the nurses during National Nurses Week



DeWitt Hospital and Nursing Home, Inc.

Submitted by Mary West

This summer the DeWitt Hospital sponsored UAMS Medical Application of Science for Health Training (MASH). Our Auxiliary had the privilege of providing lunch for the students and staff each day. Part of training involved shadowing and training at the following locations: Dental Office, Funeral Home, Pharmacies, Dumas Hospital – surgical, DeWitt Hospital - Dissected Pig, Casting, and Vitals, Mock car accident.



Get Ready Christmas is coming!!!!

Come to our annual Christmas Cottage on November 11, 2023. Located at the Arkansas County Fair Grounds, 1000 Liberty Drive, DeWitt, AR 72042. The hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

So far, we have booths that will be selling food including baked goods, skin care products, clothing, toys, household décor, and various crafts. Our Hospital Auxiliary booths will have a great assortment of stocking stuffers for sell.

You don't want to miss the Christmas Cottage. We hope to see you there.



Ouachita County Medical Center

Submitted by Linda L. Passafiume

The Auxiliary Board met in July. A report on food items collected during the month of June was made and the items were taken to the Fairview Methodist food bank on July 26th by Dorothy and Jerry Berley. The next community outreach program will be underwear and short and long pants for both boys and girls in sizes 6-12. A need for emergency clothing items had been requested by the schools. The collection will run from August 1st through September 14th. The Auxiliary agreed to continue with State projects especially HELP and Broyle's Alzheimer books.

OCMC gift shop is "jumping" with our new Gift Shop Manager Misty Hern. \$4,800 in the month of June working just three (3) days and 2 evenings. Barbara Bradshaw returned to active status and is scheduled to work the gift shop. The shop will now be open Tuesday making four (4) days. A big thank you to Misty for all the hard work, with a little help from her mom, member Jackie Hern.

Speaking of members returning we are up to 28. Barbara Bradshaw returned, Misty is considered a volunteer worker in areas NOT related to the gift shop and LaDonna Savonell is working the front desk after training in several areas.

July's uniform sale 27-28 was a huge success!!! Our commission \$3,979.80. The employees love the Uniform Shoppe. The next sale will be February 22-23, 2024.

The scholarship committee consisted of OCMC Melodee Sanders DON and Shannon Parker, Administrative Assistant plus 3 Auxiliary members Francella Sanders, Judy Foster and Scholarship Chair Donna Lowery. The committee awarded two (2) \$1,500.00 scholarship in August. Alesia Rhodes and Tristen L Turner are the deserving women. They will be attending SAU Tech this fall. Monies will be paid directly to the college while the ladies pursue their course careers. These are the first scholarships awarded since 2019 when the Covid pandemic curtailed fundraising activities. The Auxiliary is very proud of these young ladies.

The Boy Scouts have started a new program called "Explorer". This program is designed to help the scouts in determining a vocation later in life. They are allowed to go into local businesses and observe the duties entailed in that particular business. Our hospital is participating and will allow the scouts interested to come and observe all areas within the hospital. The goal is to hopefully have some scouts become interested in the medical field and pursue becoming doctors, nurses, lab technicians, etc. The Boy Scouts require a \$50 membership fee and since some of our youth may not be financially able to join, the auxiliary has agreed to pay this fee up to the amount of \$1,500. The board felt it would be a worthwhile project to participate in as it should benefit the hospital in the future.

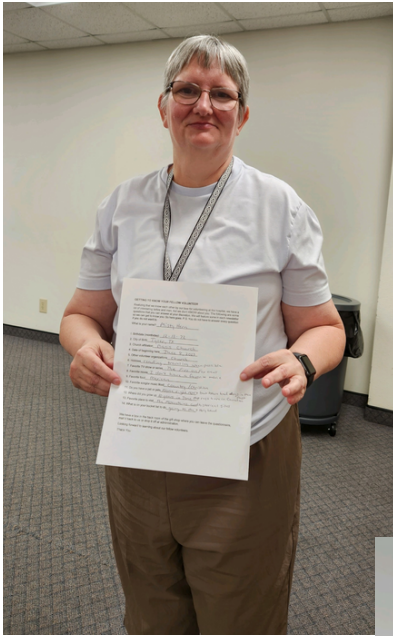
The hospital really needs to build a permanent decontamination room adjacent to the ER to replace the portable shower unit they are currently having to use. When someone comes in having been exposed to hazardous chemicals, they have to wait until the shower can be put up which often takes several minutes, plus in the winter during inclement weather it is very uncomfortable for the person being showered. The hospital has applied for a grant to help cover the cost of this project, and the auxiliary has agreed to cover the existing cost left after the grant, or if the grant is not awarded, then the auxiliary would cover the entire cost. Estimated cost is approximately \$6,000.

The Co-editors of the Auxiliary newsletter received approval to spotlight members in the next several issues. A questionnaire was composed and mailed as a supplement in the September newsletter. "GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW VOLUNTEER" will highlight nine (9) members in the September issue.

We are pleased to report NO Auxiliary members have been hospitalized and no deaths have occurred the last few months.

The next quarterly meeting will be September 14th. "Gift of Life in Lights" tickets will be disturbed at the meeting. This is the annual scholarship fundraiser.

Members filling out the "Getting to Know Your Fellow Volunteer" form.



Pictured on the left:
Misty Hern
Gift Shop Coordinator



Pictured on the above:
Jackie Hern
Auxiliary Secretary



Pictured on the right:
Dorothy Berley
Auxiliary Treasurer



Scholarship Recipients
Left to right:
Alesia Rhodes,
Scholarship Chair Donna Lowery,
and Tristen Turner.





Mena Regional Health System

Submitted by Sharon Jewell

The perfect summer treat! These ladies from our Auxiliary treated the MRHS employees to refreshing coke and root beer floats on a hot afternoon in August. We are so grateful for the many kind things our volunteers do for our hospital.



Pictured above:
Moppy Billingsley, Linda Johnson,
Toni Tilotta and Donna Montgomery.



Who doesn't
love
ice cream
floats!



Thank you to Michael Wood and Sara Mitchell from Mena Regional Health System for speaking at the De Queen Senior Networking.

Pictured: Michael Wood & Sara Mitchell



Our gift shop is receiving new fall merchandise.

Check out our newest gift shop items.

New fall handbags



Amisha Mosley

Laura Richardson

Lisa Wood

Amber Taylor

We love our customers

A promotional graphic for a gift shop featuring four women modeling different styles of handbags. The text "Check out our newest gift shop items." is at the top left. "New fall handbags" is in bold at the top center. The names of the women are listed below their respective photos: Amisha Mosley, Laura Richardson, Lisa Wood, and Amber Taylor. At the bottom center is a logo that says "We love our customers" with red hearts.

Up Coming Events:

We are currently taking scholarship application for fall semester.

The auxiliary will host a scrub uniform sale September 7.

Our Auxiliary will have a booth at the MRHS Health Fair September 16.

Looking forward to the AHAA Convention November 1-3, in Little Rock.





AHAA 65th Convention and Annual Meeting
November 1 - 3, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton
11301 Financial Centre Parkway
Little Rock, AR 72211

Please submit articles for the newsletter to charlotte.jackson33@gmail.com
The deadline for the November/December 2023 issue is October 31, 2023

There will be a *Special Edition* newsletter that will cover only the convention and will be published once the minutes have been approved, signed and a copy has been received by the newsletter editor.

AHAA now has a private Facebook group, Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association. The purpose of this group is to share pictures and news from your auxiliaries.

A scenic photograph of a calm lake reflecting the surrounding autumn foliage. The trees on the banks are in various shades of yellow, orange, and red. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The water is still, creating a clear reflection of the trees and sky.

*"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but
people will never forget how you made them feel"*
~ Maya Angelou