



May 1, 2021

# The Courier

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Council on Volunteer Services Georgia Health Care, Inc.

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#### **Message from President Martha Greene-Tucker Stars Connecting with Stars**

Greetings Everyone,

There was no better way to start the Spring Season than ZOOMING with all of you at your Spring District Meetings. Thank you for doing a phenomenal job.

It is great to talk with others by way of Zooming, a phone call, or email but, that is just not as good as the old fashion way of face to face. I think we are gradually making our way back to a new norm so, let's take what we get and build off of it by putting the star power from each other together to make the Council on Volunteer Services Georgia Health Care strong and shine brighter than anyone can imagine. Let's look ahead and be filled with wide-eyed wonder at the opportunities awaiting us as Healthcare Volunteers.

I'm so excited about the upcoming Conference in October, 2021. It will be an event you will not want to miss. Linda Holloway, the conference chair, is working hard to assure you of an enjoyable and informative conference. Packets with information and forms to register will be mailed out August 1, 2021; the **deadline** for registering is September 1, 2021, so register early.

I'm looking forward to getting together, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. In the meantime, have a wonderful Summer and be safe.

**Martha Greene-Tucker, COVSGHC President**





## Message from Cathy Hefner *President-Elect*

Happy Spring Everyone!

Flowers are in bloom and pollen has taken over the state! Yes, it does seem Spring is in the air!

Our ZOOM Spring District meetings have been held and with great success.

I want to give a lot of praise to all the District Directors for getting the hospital members in their district to participate. A job well done ladies and gentlemen!!!

All the meetings were interesting, fun, and highly informative. We are all “Shining Stars,” and that became obvious time and time again during these five meetings. What a privilege it was for me to attend each one and to hear the reports concerning what each hospital auxiliary has accomplished during this pandemic. Hospital volunteers certainly do not let moss grow under their feet!!!

Our 2021 Conference Chair, Linda Holloway, has a wonderful conference planned for all of us, and I hope I get to see many of you in attendance. It is being held in a new place, has new dates, new city, and lots of fun times coming our way! I cannot wait! Enjoy these lovely spring days and all the beauty that surrounds us.

*Cathy Hefner*



On March 19, Lisa Parker, Meadows Auxiliary President, presented a donation of \$50,000 to **Meadows Health** for a new 3D mammography machine that will be placed at Meadows Health Imaging Center. “This equipment is an incredible addition to our imaging center and helps provide access to early cancer detection for more women in our community,” said Alan Kent, President & CEO. *Kent is pictured left with Lisa Parker.*



## Message from Linda Holoway

*1st Vice President-Conference Chair*

### *Stars Are Shining For Conference 2021*

Anderson Conference Center, Macon, October 4-6, 2021



**Amazing!!!** That's the best word I can use to describe how everyone has cooperated to make the COVS/GHC Conference for 2021 happen, from the BOM to the staff at Anderson Conference Center in Macon, to district directors who have stepped up to help carry out the events, to the speakers and workshop leaders, to vendors willing to be sponsors, and beyond. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

And now that the basis has been established, it's time for you to make plans. If you have not made hotel reservations and you plan to stay overnight, I encourage you to do so soon. District Directors have been given names of some of the hotels near the conference center. The Comfort Suites on Plantation Inn Drive has set aside 30 suites for our group—ask for COVS group rate. If you would rather stay at another site, be sure to ask if they have reduced rates for seniors or other travel groups, such as AARP and AAA. Unless you have a job that needs you to be at the center early Monday morning, you probably will need to reserve room for Monday and Tuesday nights only, as the registration will not begin until 12:30 p.m. on Monday. Registration packets will be distributed at the July BOM meeting. Everyone should receive your packet by the end of July. Again, I encourage you to return your registration as quickly as possible at that time. We have contracted for 250 attendants. If we have more, you may have to be put on a waiting list.

The NEW news, if you were unable to attend your Zoom Spring District Meeting, is that we are planning to have a **Talent Show** prior to the installation of officers on Tuesday evening. I have asked each district to enter at least one talent performance. We want to showcase the talented stars we have in COVS. So if you or someone you know has a talent that we would enjoy, please sign up for this event. Entry forms will be included in the July packet.

*Looking forward to seeing you, Linda Holloway*

**Wellstar Douglas Hospital Volunteers** in a unanimous vote on August 24 of the Board of Directors approved a motion to purchase a new golf cart. After a bidding process, the West Georgia Golf Cart in Douglasville was chosen for the purchase. The new cart comes with maintenance-free lithium ion batteries, a DOT windshield, LED lighting, turn signals, storage bin in the rear, weather enclosure, USB ports, onboard charger, rear view mirror, strobe light, and a fold down rear seat for wheel chairs.



## Our Volunteers Around Georgia



**Wellstar Sylvan Grove Hospital Auxiliary (Jackson), Update:**  
 Regardless of the challenges our auxiliary continues to thrive. After the pandemic hit in 2020, we fed the hospital staff three times, one of which was a holiday meal in December. In addition, we raised Love Lite donations which totaled \$2600 (an increase of \$600 over 2019 Love Lite donations). The auxiliary committees are still intact, in fact, the scholarship committee will be convening soon. The executive board continues to meet on a regular basis. We said goodbye to Nancy Rollins and hello to our new Director of Volunteer Services Kristie Stodghill.  
 - Nancy Lee, President

**Atrium Navicent Auxiliary (Macon), Update:**  
 When you have the heart of a volunteer, it's difficult to go for such a long period of time without a project. I hope everyone is finding safe things to do at home and with your families. I encourage you to register and receive your COVID vaccinations when they are offered to you. There are some exciting things in the works for our October conference! We will need everyone on board when the all clear is sounded.  
 - Mary Parks, President

Albert Schweitzer, an Alsatian Missionary and Philosopher, once wrote  
*The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.*

In January 2021, the **Memorial Satilla Health Hospital's Auxiliary** (Waycross) conducted an in-house outreach project for their patients. The Unit, Three Main, and Two Main received boxes with shampoo, deodorant, and Fixodent as the hospital does not supply patients with these products.



In January, the winner of the Employee Engagement Holiday Game was announced. The game was started to help raise morale during this time of COVID. One lucky

employee guessed how many ornaments were inside the glass Santa in the Gift Shop and won all the ornaments (381) and \$50. **Great idea**

**Waycross!**  
**Memorial Satilla Health Hospital's Auxiliary** is asking their membership to weigh in on how they feel about doing away with the service pins. They would continue to recognize volunteer service in other ways. **Let us know how this one turns out!**

# Our Volunteers Around Georgia



**Wellstar Cobb Leadership** (Austell), chaplains, and the Wellstar Foundation were pleased to open the

doors of their new chapel recently.

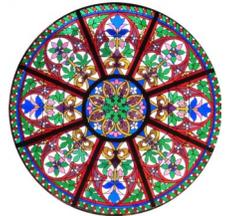
This project was completely funded by donations to the Wellstar Foundation from Wellstar Cobb Hospital Volunteers, team members, regional board members, grateful patients, and individual donors.

The chapel includes many carefully thought-out features that welcome individuals of all

faiths. For example, guests can place prayer requests for the chaplain team to pray over at the prayer wall, which is modeled after the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. Additionally, a Himalayan sea-salt wall brings a calm, soothing element to the chapel.

In recognition of his commitment and long-time service, the chapel is dedicated in honor of hospital chaplain Raymond Coffman.

Thank you to the **Wellstar Cobb Hospital** Council on Volunteer Services for helping to make this beautiful place a reality!



The **Emory University Hospital Midtown Parking Deck** (Atlanta) opened in March 2021. The structure houses 2,989 parking spaces. The planning, design, and construction of the new parking deck totaled 39 months and will ultimately be regarded as one of the nicest parking structures in Atlanta.

This is a major win for **Emory Healthcare** employees and volunteers, who will now be able to park in one structure, instead of multiple sites around the hospital. We hope that by opening this new employee parking deck, it will also allow us to ensure our patients have a smooth arrival and departure experience in the Summit Visitor’s Deck at Midtown. The parking deck is named **“The Beacon,”** a name that represents hope and improving lives, just as our employees do every day at Emory University Hospital Midtown.



# Our Volunteers Around Georgia



In order to keep **Wellstar Cobb Volunteers** (Austell) engaged during quarantine, volunteer services developed a walking challenge to motivate our volunteers to stay active during quarantine/isolation. We created a virtual vacation opportunity for our volunteers to walk the equivalent of 328 miles, which is the distance from our hospital to St. Simons Island, Georgia. There were milestone stops along the way to celebrate the progress made and also to provide education about various locations in our state. Volunteers were provided with a pedometer and a chart to track their daily steps and exercise. Each week they submitted their steps and when they reached a milestone they would receive a route map showing their progress and a fact sheet about their location. Participants received a t-shirt once they walked 100

miles. And, if they completed the challenge, they were entered into a drawing for a \$100 Publix Gift Card.

Thirty-five percent of our volunteer base participated in the challenge. Seventy percent of participants completed the challenge, and 100 percent walked at least 100 miles. Fifteen percent of participants continued walking into Florida and the challenge was expanded to Miami, FL. Two participants walked over 900 miles! As a group, we walked a total of 14,712 miles during the challenge. Every participant stated they were thankful they took part in the challenge and felt it made a difference in



his/her overall health to stay active during the pandemic.



**The Emory University Hospital Midtown Auxiliary** (Atlanta) donated \$59,175 to fund three new

Panda Warmers for the NICU. The Auxiliary is delighted to support this wonderful project for the newborn babies at Emory Midtown.

**The Memorial Satilla Health Hospital's Auxiliary** (Waycross) did a

Christmas Community Outreach Project with approximately 16 organizations around Waycross in order to show Christian love to the prisoners at Ware State Prison. They filled bags with a Little Debbie Christmas Tree Cake, a Ginger Bread Man, a Candy Cane and a tract of Christian literature.



## Our Volunteers Around Georgia

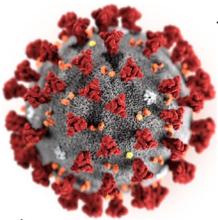


### Emory University Hospital (Sandy Springs), Update:

A group of musicians wanted to show some healthcare workers their appreciation for all they

were doing especially during the Christmas holidays. On a quiet Saturday Night (December 12), around 6:30 p.m. Emory University Employees while coming in for the night shift were greeted by a lot of banging on Clifton Road! Drums, that is! The group call themselves the “Stampede” - and stampede they did! There were over 25 drummers that gathered on Clifton Road outside of Clinic A and greeted workers coming into the hospital.

It was cold, then it started drizzling, but they kept drumming! At 7 p.m. they circled around to the Winship Cancer Institute and played for the CHOA staff. You could see children at the windows and some staff. Visitors and curious folk came outside to see what it was all about. The “Stampede” circled back to Emory and surprised the employees leaving for the day and heading to the garage. The “Stampede” lined up between Clinic B and the lower gate west garage and greeted the staff coming out of Clinic B. Employees were dancing, taking videos, and pictures. A good time was had by all, and the “Stampede” was appreciated by all!



### Emory University Hospital (Sandy Springs)

Led by long-time volunteers, our Emory Volunteers found a novel way to serve their local community. When COVID-19 strikes and for months you’re sequestered in your senior-living residence for safety with centrally-prepared meals that come to your door on plastic trays and picking up the mail is the highlight of your daily routine, your mind begins to make a plan.

Volunteering and helping others remain part of who you are, but how to do it right now? How can you stay sane and hopefully ease the burden of loneliness and fear around you? You build a six-foot, pop-art version of the COVID-19 virus from those used plastic food containers, of course!

You display the “bug” for all to see and to make comments on what it’s like to be in isolation for so long. You put a whimsical face on “the enemy” and give people a way to express their fears, needs, hopes, and perspective. You do what you can to help others that are forced to be alone feel the support of their community.

The plan works, and fellow residents come together (socially distant with masks). Hope returns and the burden lightens a bit when carried by so many. You feel useful again awaiting for the time you can return to rejoin the **Emory Volunteer Community** once more.

## Meet Your New Courier Editor



Hello, my name is **Anna Best**. I have been a volunteer at Wellstar Cobb Hospital in Austell, Georgia, for five years. I started at the Main Entrance of the hospital welcoming people and helping them find their way. Now, the Main Entrance is closed and everyone enters and exists through the Women's Center, so I have relocated to Employee Health for now. I currently serve on our volunteer board as President-Elect, and I am due to assume the President's position in July 2021. My hope is that we will have a great relationship with each other and our information will flow both ways. Please contact me with your auxiliary information pieces for the *Courier* newsletter at [best.dewitt1968@gmail.com](mailto:best.dewitt1968@gmail.com).

The Georgia Department of Public Health, Cardiac Care recently designated **Wellstar Douglas and Paulding Hospitals** Level II Emergency Cardiac Care Centers. The designation signifies that these facilities provide outstanding advanced emergency cardiac care aimed at improving survival rates for heart attacks and cardiac arrest.



**Congratulations to Wellstar Douglas Hospital** for being named *Newsweek's* best maternity care hospital for 2020.

**Board of Management  
Committee Chairs and  
Their Contact Information  
along with  
Other Important Information,  
including the COVS Calendar  
and Forms can be found at  
[covsgeorgia.org](http://covsgeorgia.org).**



**The Colquitt Regional Medical Center Volunteers  
donated \$10,000 to  
Colquitt Regional for COVID-19 relief**

*Pictured is Jim Matney, CEO and Martha Greene-Tucker, Volunteer President*