

NEWS BRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

Volume 45, Number 18

May 2, 2014

WHA Calendar:

WHA Board Meeting
Casper 5/15

Trustee Educational Program
Casper 5/16

Other Events:

AHA Annual Meeting
Washington, DC 5/4-5/7

Western Regional Trustee Symposium
Henderson, NV 6/11-6/13



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Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (with others)



It's early May, meaning that it's the time of year for the American Hospital Association to hold their Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

It also means that members from the Wyoming Hospital Association will be traveling to our nation's capitol to learn the latest from an impressive gathering of policy, healthcare and hospital experts.

We are pleased to announce that Memorial Hospital of Converse County CEO Ryan Smith is the Wyoming recipient of this year's Grassroots Champion Award and will be recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of the WHA's mission.

Ryan will join 50 other award winners at a special breakfast of Grassroots Champions at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6.

Other WHA CEO's going to the national meeting include Rick Schroeder - North

Big Horn Hospital, Vickie Diamond – Wyoming Medical Center, Charlie Button – Star Valley Medical Center, Margo Karsten – Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Doug McMillan – West Park Hospital, and Eric Boley – South Lincoln Medical Center.

The meeting's theme, "Ensuring a Healthier Tomorrow", lays the foundation for our message.

On Tuesday afternoon, May 6, we will be meeting with all of the members of Wyoming's Congressional Delegation.

Our message will be three-fold: (1) to tell the positive hospital story on how hospitals are transforming healthcare delivery and improving quality, (2) to stress the need for predictability as hospitals grapple with these seismic changes amidst the repeated threat of payment reductions, and (3) to urge help to protect vulnerable populations as payment cuts and regulations threaten to reduce access to care.

We must stress to our elected officials that as the healthcare system continues to be transformed, we must be given the tools to redesign ourselves so that we can continue to provide the best care to our patients.

For many Wyoming hospitals, just keeping the doors open remains the number one goal.

Shifting gears slightly, I want to put in a plug for our upcoming Trustee Education Program in Casper on May 16. To date, we have over 60 people registered for the event.

As you know, we are showcasing quality improvement issues featuring the unveiling of our quality reporting tool – CheckPoint, as well as sessions with Mountain Pacific Quality Health and the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety.

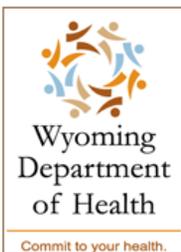
Additionally, we will close out the program featuring Ron Mischke and Robert Kayser, two prominent Wyoming hospital board chairmen representing Sheridan Memorial Hospital and Memorial Hospital of Converse County, respectively.

Their presentation is designed to describe the strategic issues involved in a well-functioning board and they will lead an interactive session discussing the most pressing topics on hospital trustees' plates presently.

There is no fee to attend this year's program, so please take advantage of this excellent opportunity to learn the latest in quality improvement and board development.



Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight



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ERH Accredited Chest Pain Center

Evanston Regional Hospital (ERH) has been accredited as a Chest Pain Center by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care (SCPC) and is the first hospital in Wyoming to receive this accreditation.

SCPC is an international not-for-profit organization that focuses on transforming cardiovascular care by assisting facilities in their effort to create communities of excellence that bring together quality, cost and patient

satisfaction.

To become an Accredited Chest Pain Center, ERH engaged in rigorous evaluation by SCPC for its ability to assess, diagnose and treat patients who may be experiencing a heart attack.

To the community served by ERH, this means that processes are in place that meet strict criteria aimed at:

- Reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment
- Treating patients more

quickly during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved

- Monitoring patients when it is not certain they are having a heart attack to ensure they are not sent home too quickly or needlessly admitted to the hospital.

Evanston Regional Hospital is a 42-bed Joint Commission accredited facility.

Central Wyoming Healthcare Coalition

Several health and emergency responder agencies have formed the Central Wyoming Healthcare Coalition, a collaboration designed to provide a unified response to regional disasters.

The coalition will coordinate medical response to regional disasters.

The new coalition is a partnership between the five Region 2 Trauma area counties – Carbon, Converse, Fremont, Niobrara and Natrona. It enhances the region's ability to meet emergency preparedness

goals recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Mike Magee, emergency preparedness coordinator for Wyoming Medical Center.

"In a disaster situation, everyone has some sort of plan – from the local police department, to the fire department, to the hospital. However, when it comes time to support one another, particularly in health care, there is really no plan that brings us together in such a way that we communicate

and share resources," Magee said. "This coalition will put all those plans together, and when you put us all together, we are going to be able to share information and allocate resources where they are most needed."

Similar coalitions are being set up in the state's other trauma regions, and fall under the umbrella of the state's Hospital Preparedness Program through the Wyoming Department of Health.

National Hospital Week

Each year in May the nation celebrates National Hospital Week, a celebration of the history, technology and dedicated professionals that make our hospitals exceptional places to receive care.

National Hospital Week is a time to recognize hos-

pital staff and promote hospitals' mission of health and wellness.

The 2014 National Hospital Week is May 11-17.

National Hospital Week dates back to 1921, when it began at the suggestion of a newspaper editor who hoped a community wide celebra-

tion would alleviate public fears about hospitals.

Hospitals are encouraged to plan activities throughout the week to recognize staff and celebrate the top quality care that hospitals provide.