



## MASSENA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY'S 70TH YEAR CELEBRATION

The Massena Hospital Auxiliary was formed in early April 1952 and officially organized in 1953 with approval from the Hospital's Administration and Board of Directors. The Auxiliary was incorporated by New York State in April 1953.

Officers were elected in April 1952 as the group was taking form and actively seeking members. Nominations for officers included Mrs. Walter S. Wilson, Mrs. Frank Morrell, Mrs. Abe Kauffman, Mrs. Ira Matthews, Mrs. Paul Nurnberger, Mrs. John Lenney, and Mrs. Thomas Doud. J.R. Ibach conducted a meeting to select the officers, where Hospital Superintendent E.G. Saunders also spoke. First Officers of the Massena Hospital Auxiliary were President Mrs. Philip Mardon, First Vice President Mrs. Emmett. T. O'Neill, Second Vice President Mrs. Marvin Nichols, Secretary Mrs. Russell Andrew, and Treasurer Mrs. Daniel MacKenzie.

Special focus was given to the Maternity and Children's wards when the Auxiliary distributed its donations to fund projects. In 1954, spending totaled nearly \$1,500. Main items included an obstetrical table and two sewing machines, among other donations. Sewing was a major contribution with diapers, towels, and sheets sewn by volunteers.

The group officially adopted the Hospital Auxiliary name in May 1952. The Auxiliary resolved to meet the second Tuesday of each month. An Auxiliary Constitution was adopted at the June 1952 meeting. Early on, members were asked to bring at least one new member to meetings to boost membership. In August of that year, the Auxiliary joined the National Hospital Auxiliary Association.

The new Hospital opened during the summer of 1952. The Auxiliary served as tour guides for the facility once contractors had wrapped up their work. An open house was held in October. Guided tours included 10-15 people per group. The Hospital expected 5,000 people to attend the opening ceremonies.



# Cheers to 70 Years



Dear Massena Hospital Auxiliary Members,

Throughout 2023, Massena Hospital realized growth and gained a more positive reputation, due in large part to the unwavering support of our Auxiliary. You influence and inspire better healthcare every day and our team members, providers, patients, and their loved ones notice. Our Patient Satisfaction Survey results are trending upward, as are our service volumes. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you. We hope you know how much we appreciate your service as volunteers and ambassadors of the Hospital.

Through the hard work of our dedicated team members, volunteers, and providers, the Hospital reached many notable milestones in 2023.

- MH recruited and hired eight new providers, which included two physicians in Primary Care, one physician in Psychiatry, one in Pain Management, one in Wound Care, and one Advanced Practice Provider (APP) in each of the following areas: Cardiology, Pediatrics, and Neurology.
- We completed the construction of our \$1.2M Wound Care Center project, which will consist of a hyperbaric chamber treatment area with two chamber units, and five exam rooms. With the onboarding of our Medical Director, we are staged to hire all support staff and department leaders with a target to start the service in April 2024.
- The Hospital has relocated its cardiac rehab to the 1st floor and given the space a full refresh. This relocation provides a greatly expanded environment for our patients needing this service, along with the ability to add new and more equipment for care.
- We are in the home stretch of achieving our Critical Access Hospital Designation. This is a federal designation providing rural hospitals cost-based reimbursement for Medicare services. This is anticipated to provide MH considerable improvements towards our financial situation and has long been in the works. With this status change, there will be no changes to the services we currently provide and will be a seamless transition for our community and patients.
- MH received a Grade A in our most recent Leapfrog rating in the fall of 2023. Leapfrog is a hospital rating that is focused on patient safety. There have been tremendous levels of work from all teams across Massena Hospital, along with our St. Lawrence Health leaders, to achieve this milestone, and is demonstration of our commitment to patient safety and quality.
- At the end of 2023, MH received full approval to proceed with a complete refresh of our Emergency Department. This refresh will be comprised of a new nurse station, flooring, paint, and wall protection throughout all of the ER, new sinks and countertops, an updated behavioral health room, new patient registration space, medical supply room, and a dedicated patient family consult room adjacent to the ER. This project is being made possible through the tremendous support from our MH Auxiliary and the MH Foundation. THANK YOU ALL for your support!
- Lastly, we want to extend a sincere thank you to David Bender. Dave served with St. Lawrence Health over the past 11 years and most recently as the President of Massena Hospital. During his time here at MH, Dave helped to integrate and transition from Massena Memorial Hospital to Massena Hospital, a subsidiary of St. Lawrence Health. We wish Dave all the best as he starts a new venture as the CEO of Community Health Center of the North Country.

While we have more work to do as we expand services in Massena and remain focused on quality and patient experience, we are headed in a great direction. I am extremely thankful to have such dedicated providers and team members throughout our hospital and health system for the betterment of services here in our community. I look forward to all we have ahead of us.

Sincerely,

Brent Bishop  
Massena Hospital Associate COO

# Treasurer's Annual Report for General Fund

For the year January 1– December 31, 2023

**General fund balance end of 2022** **\$10,695.46**

## Deposits:

Fundraising	\$6,694.50
Vending	\$5,750.22
Donations	\$2,309.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00
Membership	\$710.00

**Total deposits** **\$17,463.72**

**General fund balance** **\$28,159.18**

## Disbursements:

Donations	\$11,000.00
Fundraising	\$3,023.37
Scholarships	\$2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,459.31
Supplies	\$393.17
Sewing supplies	\$285.31

**Total disbursements** **\$19,661.16**

**General fund balance as of December 31, 2023** **\$8,498.02**

## KeyBank savings account:

<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$33,270.16</b>
Total interest	<u>\$3.33</u>

**KeyBank balance as of December 31, 2023** **\$33,273.49**

Respectfully submitted,



Christy L. Lazore  
Auxiliary Treasurer



Dear Fellow Auxilians,

Our involvement and contributions to Massena Hospital might not be as they were pre-COVID, but we are still going strong.

We donated a check in the amount of \$1,000 to the Massena Hospital Foundation's Giving Day to help refresh the courtyard.

A very successful second Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was held at the Italian-American Club in October, and because of its success, we plan to make this an annual event.

The holiday trees we set up at Massena Hospital brought smiles and appreciation from the staff and visitors.

Staff members were also very happy that we were again able to hold our Holiday Bake Sale at the Hospital. Thank you for your contributions.

Our \$10,000 donation towards the Massena Hospital Emergency Department Refresh was because of your contributions, donations, and volunteer efforts at events.

Your ability to donate your time in any way is appreciated. Whether it be making phone calls, an hour or two volunteering at an event, or supporting us however you can, we are grateful to have you as part of our team.

Thank you for everything you do!

Sincerely,



Maria Macaulay  
Auxiliary President

# 2023-2024 Board of Directors



*(Directors Karen Wilkins and Mara Pelifian are missing from photo)*

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President     Maria Macaulay  
 Vice President     Kay Romeo  
 Secretary     Julianne Fowler  
 Treasurer     Christy Lazore

## DIRECTORS

3 Year     Lee LaRosa  
 3 Year     Fran Orlando  
 2 Year     Patty O'Connell  
 2 Year     Karen Wilkins/Mara Pelifian  
 1 Year     Elizabeth Barnes  
 1 Year     Judy Durant

## CHAIRPERSONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Fundraising     Kay Romeo  
 Membership     Mara Pelifian  
 Secretary and Publicity     Julianne Fowler  
 Patient Gifts     Becky Shaw  
 Scholarships     Elizabeth Barnes  
 Sunshine     Lisa Long  
 Sewing     Holly Derouchie

# Auxilian of the Year

## JUDY DURANT

Judy Durant was honored as the Massena Hospital Auxiliary's 2022 Auxilian of the Year. She has been part of the Auxiliary for more than nine years, during which time she has served as Secretary and on the Board of Directors. Community members may recognize Judy from various fundraising events, as well as her time as a sales member in the Gift Shop, where she worked countless hours. Judy is currently serving as a Director of the Auxiliary, and she continues to be involved in a multitude of projects.

*Congratulations Judy!*



# Donations to Massena Hospital

## COURTYARD

During the Massena Hospital Foundation's Giving Day, the Auxiliary made a \$1,000 donation to help refresh the Hospital's Courtyard. This project included new furniture, a shade sail, and brick cleaning and sealing.



## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

The Auxiliary made a \$10,000 donation to Massena Hospital for an Emergency Department Refresh Project happening in 2024. Auxilians Kay Romeo, Debra Willer, Mara Pelifian, and Maria Macaulay presented the check to SLH President Donna McGregor, MH Associate Chief Operating Officer Brent Bishop, and MH/GH Vice President of Nursing Julie Smithers.



*In Loving Memory of*

*Stella Jessmer*

*Jean LaPlante*

*Viola Podgurski*

*Muriel Reynolds*

Massena Hospital Auxiliary Volunteers

2023



# Membership

Year	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Membership Total	99	102	95	95	100



# Fundraising Events

## BAKE SALE

The Auxiliary held a Holiday Bake Sale for the Hospital's team members, along with a gift basket raffle. We profited \$969.50 from sales and the raffle. Emergency Department Registered Nurse Meghan Carr won the gift basket.



## SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Auxiliary held its second Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser at the Italian-American Club in October. We profited \$3,822.25 from this event.



# Activities and Services

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

We were very happy to put up and decorate trees for the Hospital's team members, patients, and visitors to enjoy throughout the holiday season.



## MASSENA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

The Auxiliary volunteered to help the Massena Hospital Foundation with the following:

- 2nd Rescue Me Golf Tournament, which supported area rescue squads and fire departments
- 35th Annual Golf Tournament at the River Course at Louisville Landing
- Helped organize scarves and candy canes handed out to Massena Hospital team members as a gift of appreciation

## TOASTY WARM

Thanks to our members and generous community, we collected over 200 winter wear items for students in need throughout Massena Schools in Pre-K—Grade 8. Among the items collected were 80 jackets, 75 pairs of gloves/mittens, 46 hats, 21 pairs of socks, 14 scarves, and 3 pairs of ski pants. We also received \$170 in monetary donations for items for the students. Auxilians Kay Romeo, Maria Macaulay, Lisa Long, and Mara Pelifian delivered the items to Massena High School on December 14.



# Meetings

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors' meetings were held on the second Wednesday of January through June, and September through December at 10 am in the Massena Hospital Board Room or Community Education Room. Hybrid meetings were held for Board Members unable to attend in person.

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Two General Membership meetings/luncheons were held in 2023. The Spring Luncheon was at the Massena Elks Club on May 17. The Fall Luncheon was at Chase's Riverside Dining on October 18. The Luncheons were organized by the Directors.



# Committee Reports

## PATIENT GIFTS

Patient Gifts Committee members Cathy Faucher, Rosalie Hamel, and Becky Shaw assembled and distributed a total of 48 handmade gifts for Hospital inpatients and Infusion patients for Valentine's Day.

As of March 2023, we are no longer able to distribute patient gifts due to health concerns. The remaining kits and supplies were sold at the Rotary Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair.

A letter was sent to Committee members to thank them for all their help over the years. We have received many positive comments about the goodwill these gifts gave to patients. Thank you again to all who helped.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee was made up of three members: Chairperson Elizabeth Barnes, Judy Durant, and Patty O'Connell. We awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two students entering a field of medicine in 2023. Scholarships were awarded to:

**Logan Eggleston** is attending Juniata College in Huntington, PA. He is pursuing an education in Pre-Med, Bio Chemistry.

**Madelyn Blanchard** is attending St. John Fisher University in Rochester, NY. She is pursuing a degree in Nursing with a minor in Psychology.

The awards were given in two sums of \$500. One sum was given at the award ceremony in June, and the remaining \$500 was given to the students after completing their first semester of college in December.

Two previous scholarship recipients were given their awards in four sums. Their final awards were given upon completing the fall semester as well. This completes the scholarships awarded in the past. Total amount distributed for awards in 2023 was \$2,500.

Future awards will be divided into two sums. The first will be given to selected students at the award ceremony in June, and the second will be given upon completion of their first semester, as long as they remain in a program relating to health care.

This year we received the following note from Logan Eggleston, who gave us his permission to share with our fellow Auxilians:

*"Thank you again for your wonderful work in providing students like me a supplement for their education. It is kindhearted, generous people like you who make college a possibility for many individuals like myself. Every little bit helps. Feel free to reach out to me anytime if you would like to know where I am in my journey. I would be happy to reconnect with you."*

*Sincerely, Logan*

# Committee Reports

## SEWING COMMITTEE

January – 42 pillows for Progressive Care Unit

February – 24 pillows for PCU; 8 pillows for Infusion

As of March 2023, we are no longer able to deliver pillows or critters to patients due to health concerns. To be sure our supplies were put to good use, we donated most of the materials.

### **March 25**

- Rented a table at the Rotary's Pancake Breakfast and Craft Fair to sell pillows and craft kits  
Profit: \$75.00

### **April**

- Donated 60 pillows each to the Massena Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, and the North Country Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
- Donated most of the fabric to Jefferson Elementary School for their Sewing Program

### **December**

- Made eight handmade blankets for children
- One blanket was purchased with funds going to the Auxiliary
- Seven blankets were donated to the Massena Fire Department



## SUNSHINE

Lisa Long mailed 33 cards on behalf of the Auxiliary in 2023. (Two thank you notes to Letter to the Editor were not included.)

Breakdown by card type:

- 8 Thinking of You
- 12 Sympathy
- 13 Thank You