How the Past Influences the Present

This is third in a series of stories about the presidents of our hospitals. As these leaders begin to play a greater role in keeping you informed through our Communication Cascade, their stories will give you a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities, and help you get to know them better.

Bill Reppy credits his past with helping to define who he is personally and professionally. The LVH–Schuylkill President recalls an incident many years ago when, while working as an emergency medical technician, he and his colleagues responded to an accident on a stormy night.

Reppy and the rescue team extricated the victim from his vehicle and provided stabilizing care. As the patient was being readied for helicopter transport, Reppy discussed the challenging weather conditions with the pilot. A short time later, the patient was loaded into the helicopter, and it lifted off. Within minutes the chopper was down in a nearby field.

“We immediately responded to the new accident scene,” Reppy says. “In minutes, we went from a sense of optimism to being in complete shock.”

The event impacted Reppy. “It influenced my daily approach to family, leadership, colleagues and facing challenges,” he says. “While there are never guarantees to the outcome of a situation, I’ve learned how important it is to adapt to your environment, persevere and move on.” That valuable lesson provided guidance throughout Reppy’s career. The event also influences how he views situations as a leader. “I always look for the positive and believe that is key when one assumes a leadership role,” he says. “As LVH–Schuylkill President, it is incumbent on me to set the tone for this organization. Positivity drives change and allows colleagues to overcome hurdles.”

Professionally, Reppy has come full circle. Early in his career, he served as Director of Radiology and Medical Diagnostics at what is now LVH–Schuylkill. Later, he served as the Chief Administrative Officer and County Administrator for Schuylkill County government. Reppy returned to health care at what is now LVH–Hazleton, first as Director of Diagnostic Imaging and most recently as Vice President of Operations and Corporate Safety Officer. He actively participated in LVHN’s merger and integration with LVH–Hazleton and now leads the LVH–Schuylkill integration. A veteran, Reppy served six years in the U.S. Navy before being honorably discharged. “I was fortunate to have had strong mentors who gave me the opportunity to improve my skills beyond a job description or organizational chart,” he says. “I try to do the same with our team.”

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Reppy is leading the integration of the two LVH–Schuylkill hospitals. LVH–Schuylkill also includes a Rehabilitation Center, School of Nursing, Imaging Center and home care. Growth of LVPG practices and service lines also is on the horizon. Visiting with patients and colleagues is part of his daily routine. Reppy is readily visible throughout both Pottsville hospitals and other facilities as he introduces the LVHN culture and practices to colleagues.

Reppy says finding the proper work-life balance is key. In addition to an active LVHN life, he has a very active family, church and community life. On any given day, you can find Reppy and his wife, Nancy (a registered nurse), in the stands of the local high school athletic fields watching their son, Kyle, play soccer or in the high school band, or at a local chorus, church or civic event. “I have a strong sense of family and believe in serving my community,” Reppy says. “We enjoy family dinners. We worship together. We are active in each other’s lives. The values my parents instilled in me have remained.” Reppy is actively involved with the Lions Club, EMS Board of Directors, Penn State Schuylkill Advisory Board, Schuylkill County Vision, Schuylkill Economic Development Corporation, and has served with the American Cancer Society and Make-A-Wish Foundation.

As for LVH–Schuylkill, Reppy is energized about opportunities that lie ahead and what the results will mean for the community. “In just a few months, we have celebrated successes both big and small,” he says. Colleagues are embracing the “LVHN Way” with the introduction of daily huddles, visibility walls, Gemba walks, PRIDE behaviors and more. “From a new emergency department and plans for other physical and program improvements, to changing our culture,” Reppy says, “I’m very encouraged with how colleagues are adapting.”

Looking back to that stormy night so many years ago, Reppy says he is reminded that even though we cannot always control outcomes in difficult times, we are capable of learning, adapting and being able to move forward. That, he says, is a valuable lesson on a professional and personal level and part of our mission to heal, comfort and care for the people of our community.

**Options for Weight Loss**

Martin Walko, MD, has joined Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) to lead the bariatric surgery program at Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Hazleton.

Walko offers weight-loss surgeries in Hazleton and will host a Community Info event on March 27 from 6-8 p.m. in conference rooms A and B at the south campus.

A native of New Jersey, Walko graduated from Rutgers University with a bachelor’s degree in biology, and earned his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. He performed his general surgery residency – serving as chief resident – at Abington Memorial Hospital located outside of Philadelphia. He recently completed a year-long fellowship in bariatric surgery and minimally invasive surgery at the Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Maryland.

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**IronPigs Ticket Pre-Sale for Colleagues**

Now through March 2, all LVHN colleagues can get Lehigh Valley IronPigs single-game tickets before they go on sale to the general public. Here’s how:

Visit ticketreturn.com
Search “IronPigs”
Select the game you would like to attend
Enter promo code: BACONUSA

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**A Future in Health Care**

LVHN is part of a program that may produce future health care practitioners. Children of LVHN colleagues in grades 9-12 are invited to participate. On Friday, April 14, LVHN’s department of education (DOE) and The Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust will offer Health Care Career Discovery Day. LVH–Schuylkill will join other LVHN hospitals to offer the program, which will include tours and educational presentations. Registration information will be forthcoming. Registration is limited and slots are expected to be filled quickly.

Mary Bardell, Director of Volunteer Services, is coordinating the program here at LVH–Schuylkill and will be providing managers with registration information at the next Leadership Council.

**Bill Reppy continued from page 1**

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