

UPDATE

FROM THE BOARD

JUDGE HENRY V. SCHEIRER was welcomed as a new member of the Board of Directors at the June 27 meeting. At the same time, the Directors expressed their sincere gratitude to J. MAUSER LERCH whom Judge Scheirer succeeded as President of The Allentown Hospital Association's Board of Trustees.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING has been scheduled for Thursday, July 25, at the Center. The Board of Directors will meet at 4:00 P.M., the Annual Meeting of the Corporation will begin at 5:00 P.M. and the re-organization meeting of the Board will follow immediately.

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DEDICATION WEEK has been designated as the period Tuesday, September 3 through Sunday, September 8. The primary objective, of course, will be to permit as many interested persons as possible to visit the new Hospital Center. Toward that end, a series of Open House and Guided Tour programs are being planned for service clubs, civic organizations and other groups. Saturday has been set aside as Hospital Family Day, so that employees of all the hospitals can tour the facility with their families. Focal point of the week will be the formal dedication ceremony on Sunday afternoon, September 8, and a special program is being planned for that occasion. The Hospital Center will be open for public viewing following the special ceremony. Briefly, that's the plan. There are many details to be finalized, but mark your calendar now . . . September 3 through September 8!

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BED OPENING AND CLOSING SCHEDULE

THE THREE-HOSPITAL COMPLEX will provide a total of 860 beds for the community. Although it is recognized that a bed-opening-and-closing schedule that encompasses three general hospitals requires a measure of flexibility, here is the plan as approved by the governing boards of the three hospitals:

On September 16, Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center will open with 73 beds . . . 52 medical-surgical, 6 acute coronary care, 9 intensive care beds and the 6-bed Burn Unit. Each week thereafter, a 32-bed medical surgical unit will be put into operation, the balance of the acute coronary and intensive care beds phased in, until the 350-bed complement is achieved.

At the same time, The Allentown Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital will each be phasing out obsolete beds. That means all three hospitals should achieve their respective bed complements by mid-November . . . 350 at the Hospital Center, 205 at Sacred Heart and 305 at Allentown . . . to meet the total of 860.

GETTING TO KNOW THE SYSTEM

This is the fifth in a series of articles designed to acquaint all hospital personnel with some of the programs, practices and procedures under which the Hospital Center will operate as well as with those programs which involve the participation of all three hospitals. The subject for this issue is . . .

7/1/74

The Hospital Center Pharmacy will provide a Unit Dose Medication System and IV Replacement and Medication Additive Program. The IV and IV Additive program in the Pharmacy insures an aseptic environment for IV and Admixture preparation. A key piece of equipment in that program is the laminar flow hood, an enclosed hood with a filtered air system projecting outward from a horizontal grid which removes airborne particles to produce a clean-air environment. Additional measures include sterile technique, screening for physiochemical incompatibilities by a registered pharmacist, a check system for accuracy of preparation, centralization of responsibility for preparation and control of all IV and IV admixtures, standardization of labeling, special concentrations of additives in quantities of solutions not readily available to the medical or nursing staffs, maintenance of up-to-date patient profiles for control and billing purposes, and reduction in costs of auxiliary items used in the preparation of IVs and IV admixtures.

The Unit Dose Medication System will provide for the preparation and distribution of single-dose, pre-packaged medications in individualized patient cassettes over a 24-hour period. Patient medication profiles will be maintained in the Pharmacy and will parallel the patient's medication chart on the floor. This permits closer coordination between medical, nursing and pharmacy services concerning interpretation of medical orders, missed drug or dose orders, potential interactions and hazards, increase of pharmacy responsibility in patient care and safety, and ease in preparation of final medical financial statements. This system of single-dose, pre-packaged medications in individual patient cassettes reduces or eliminates potential hazards in patient safety with respect to preparation, labeling, administration, charting and control of medications often found in traditional methods of preparation and administration. Such loss of effective control of medication therapy can greatly jeopardize the patient's health and safety.

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MEDICAL STAFF NOTES

THE MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE is currently setting up a schedule for the rotation of House Staff through the three-hospital complex, where such rotation is appropriate. Dr. Fred Fister, Director of Medical Education for the Center, reports that there will be as many as 18 House Staff officers at the Hospital Center when full bed complement is achieved.

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AUXILIARY NEWS

THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM will be organized and operated by the Auxiliary during the opening months. The organization's board agreed to take on that service until a full-time Director of Volunteers is appointed. Mrs. Doris Gill will supervise volunteer activity for the Auxiliary.

TOUR GUIDES are currently being recruited to assist in the conduct of tours for small groups, primarily personnel of the parent hospitals. The tour program will be held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:00 P.M. beginning July 16 and extending through August. Orientation for volunteer guides will be held July 9th and 10th at 10:00 A.M. in the foyer of the Hospital Center.

Look for UPDATE NO. 14

in two weeks!