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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bariatric/Weight-Loss Management Information Session

Monday, Jan. 16: 6 p.m.
Health Center at Mountain Top
Presenter: Martin Walko, MD
General and Bariatric Surgeon
LVPG Surgery–Health & Wellness Center

Call **570-501-6322** to register or for more information.

What Every Person Should Know About Stroke

Wednesday, Jan. 4: 2-3 p.m.
Gunderson Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation

Call 570-501-4600 to register.

POCONO HEALTH SYSTEM WILL BECOME PART OF LVHN ON JAN. 1

Much has transpired during the last month regarding the merger of Pocono Health System (PHS) and Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). Most importantly, regulatory requirements to merge have been met. Effective Jan. 1, 2017 PHS will become part of Lehigh Valley Health Network and Pocono Medical Center will become Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono.

As PHS transitions into LVHN, leadership changes will also take place. PHS President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jeff Snyder has informed the PHS Board of Directors of his plan to resign from his role effective Dec. 31. Elizabeth Wise, PHS Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Nursing Officer, (CNO), will assume the role of Acting President of Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono on Jan. 1. Snyder will continue to provide consultation during a 30-day merger transition period.

Snyder's decision is based on a desire to lead in a new capacity. We have valued his leadership, including his role in facilitating our merger and elevating the overall quality at PHS. Under Snyder's leadership, the system has earned "A" grades for patient safety from Leapfrog, a 4-star rating from Medicare, and recognition from Healthgrades for Patient Safety Excellence and U.S. News & World Report for Best Regional Hospital.

During his three years as CEO, Snyder brought to Monroe County much-needed specialty services such as neurology, endocrinology, rheumatology and pain management. He enhanced the health system's cardiac surgery program and expanded access to care by growing the physician network and ambulatory care services. Our merger will continue on the path of growth with a strong commitment to community support.

When Wise assumes the role of Acting President of LVH–Pocono, she will report to LVHN's Executive Vice President and COO Terry Capuano, RN, MSN, MBA, FACHE, NE-C.

Wise, COO and CNO at PHS for the last two years, brings rich experience in hospital operations, service line development and nursing management. She is known for advocating to put patients first, and that aligns with LVHN's values. She understands operations, physicians and clinicians must collaborate to create ideal experiences for patients.

We welcome Elizabeth Wise to her new role and look forward to a successful merger. A colleague and media event is planned at LVH–Pocono on Jan. 3 to introduce LVHN and Wise to the Pocono community.

FRIDAY FACTS HAS A NEW NAME AND LOOK

As we turn the calendar to the year 2017, the community relations department is excited to introduce a new name and a new look for Friday Facts. For many years Friday Facts has been an important communication tool for colleagues of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) at Hazleton. Its new name — **LVHN Weekly-Hazleton** — and its new updated look is designed to provide even more information on local and regional health network news that will be of interest to colleagues.

The new two-page design provides more editorial space so that you can read more stories and information about happenings at LVHN entities in Hazleton, as well as regionally.



SOCIAL NEWS

Winter Bliss Dinner/Dance

*Friday, Jan. 27, 2017
6 p.m.-Midnight
Genetti's Ballroom,
N. Church Street, Rt. 309
Hazleton, Pa.*

The deadline to purchase tickets is Jan. 18. For more information and a reservation form, go to the LVH-H intranet, click "Recreational Activities," then "Colleague Special Events."

COLLEAGUE RECOGNITIONS

Please extend congratulations to the following colleagues who achieved professional milestones:

Molly Sweeney, dietitian, successfully passed her certification exam and is now a certified diabetes educator.

Clarissa Stauffer, ultrasound technologist, successfully passed her certification exam and is now a registered vascular technologist.

The enhanced communication will include information on new services, processes and procedures, patient comments, professional certifications, anniversaries, integration activities, Terry's Take (a blog by Terry Capuano, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), health network news, calendar of events and more.

We hope you like the new **LVHN Weekly-Hazleton**, which will continue to be distributed on Fridays. The more information community relations receives, the more informative LVHN Weekly-Hazleton will be to our colleagues. So, please forward any information you have to **Lisa Marie Halecky** at LisaMarie_E.Halecky@lvhn.org or **Jane Danish** at Jane.Danish@lvhn.org by Monday of each week.

COLLEAGUE RETIRES AFTER 19 YEARS OF SERVICE

Roseanne Korpalski, patient financial services, retires today after 19 years of service. Korpalski began her career with our organization in 1997 as an LPN at Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center and then later at Hazleton General Hospital. Currently, Korpalski works as a billing clerk for Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton. Upon retirement, she looks forward to sleeping late in the mornings, traveling and spending time with her family.

Roseanne, congratulations and best wishes in your retirement.



REMEMBRANCE WALL HONORS MEMORY OF STREET MEDICINE PATIENTS

Craig Vito was homeless. He continued to live on the street while battling a fatal illness because there were people in the hospital sicker than he was. He didn't want to take up a hospital bed until he absolutely needed it. Vito's is one of 15 names listed on a new Remembrance Wall at LVHN—One City Center. Located along Hamilton Street near the facility's main entrance, the wall memorializes patients of our Street Medicine program who lost their lives while homeless.

The wall was unveiled during a candlelight ceremony on Dec. 21, National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which is the first day of winter and the longest night of the year. The creation of the wall was a gift from LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer **Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP**, and his wife, **Tina Pippis-Nester, DO**, an emergency medicine physician.

The Nesters first experienced the tragedies and medical consequences of homelessness while working as emergency medicine physicians in Philadelphia. "The homeless people we cared for were often very sick," Pippis-Nester says, "but sometimes they just came to the ER for a warm place to rest and a simple meal." During her remarks at the ceremony, Pippis-Nester referenced LVHN's hospice program "No One Dies Alone," adding that with the Remembrance Wall, it is the hope that no one dies "unknown."

Colleagues in our Street Medicine program provide health care for homeless people in the Lehigh Valley in shelters, soup kitchens, on the street and under bridges. The Street Medicine team works on the belief that "everybody matters." They have served more than 2,000 unique patients over the past two years and receive support from more than 200 colleagues who volunteer to care for the poorest of the poor.

The Director of our Street Medicine program, Brett Feldman, says each time he passes the Remembrance Wall during his daily rounds, he will be reminded of all the things he learned from patients who passed away. "They are my greatest teachers," Feldman says. "They will remind me of my successes, the need to share my love and, most of all, the need to give until it hurts."

