

Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN

Get merger details; meet LVH–Pocono's Acting President.

Celebrating the Pocono Merger—PHOTOS & VIDEO

Read stories about our newest colleagues.

First Baby Born at LVH–Pocono

The baby's name is the fulfillment of a promise.

Attend the HPV Community Forum

It will be held Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. at LVH–Cedar Crest.

Retirement Income Strategies for Women

VALIC will host this seminar five times in January.



Information on LVHN Weekly is for LVHN colleagues only and cannot be accessed on smartphones or computers outside of LVHN's network.

Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN

BY [BRIAN DOWNS](#) · JANUARY 3, 2017

Pocono Health System (PHS) is now part of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). Representatives from both organizations made the announcement at a news conference this afternoon at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono, the new name of our East Stroudsburg hospital.

“Our organizations came together to ensure people receive the quality health care they expect and deserve right here in the Poconos,” said LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP. “We are committed to further investing in services such as obstetrics, surgery, cardiology,



neurology, stroke care, orthopedics and others that make LVH–Pocono the region’s only full-service hospital.”

Dr. Nester said the integration of the two organizations will take time. LVHN will build upon the strong foundation of health care excellence established at PHS with a multi-year plan to grow services, improve technology and recruit more physicians to the region. Investments will be made to keep people from having to leave the area for care, including cancer services, more outpatient services, advanced intensive care services through LVHN’s advanced ICU and integration into LVHN’s electronic medical record system, Epic.

In addition to formally announcing that the merger was official, Dr. Nester also introduced Elizabeth Wise as LVH–Pocono’s Acting President. For two years, Wise served as Pocono Medical Center’s Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer. Dr. Nester pointed to Wise’s career progression starting as a nurse, then a nurse manager and joining PHS in a senior leadership role. During her tenure, Wise helped expand numerous services, empowered nurses to participate in decision-making, and furthered Pocono’s reputation as a provider of high-quality care demonstrated by its recognition from Healthgrades for Patient Safety Excellence and a 4-star rating from Medicare, among other accolades.

During the last 20 years, Wise has held leadership positions at health care systems throughout the country. She served as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services at St. Peter’s University Hospital, New Brunswick, N.J. and Chief Nurse Officer and Senior Vice President at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. Additionally, she has served in leadership roles at Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Del. and at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Jersey. “Elizabeth is the right person for this job,” Dr. Nester said.

Wise’s passion for helping people remains as strong as ever. “In my leadership role, as I’ve worked with colleagues to strategize and plan ways to make our organization even better, I knew we would always make the right decisions if we considered the most important thing: The patient,” she said.

Also at today's announcement were family members of the late Dr. Joseph 'Doc' Mattioli, Pocono Raceway Founder and Chairman of the Board, who passed away in 2012 at age 86. The Mattioli family has generously supported trauma and emergency care at both PHS and LVHN over the years. Mattioli's grandson, Brandon Igdalsky, the President and CEO of Pocono Raceway, spoke about what this merger means for the community. "Quality health care has always been something that is important to our family," Igdalsky said. "As members of the business community, we're excited about this merger because convenient access to quality care is essential to attracting new jobs to the area."

A celebration also is being held today at LVH–Pocono for LVHN's newest colleagues. Check back tomorrow for photos and stories from the day's festivities.

[□ Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Tags: [LVH-Pocono](#)

NEXT STORY

[Attend the HPV Community Forum](#)



PREVIOUS STORY

[VALIC – Retirement Income Strategies for Women](#)





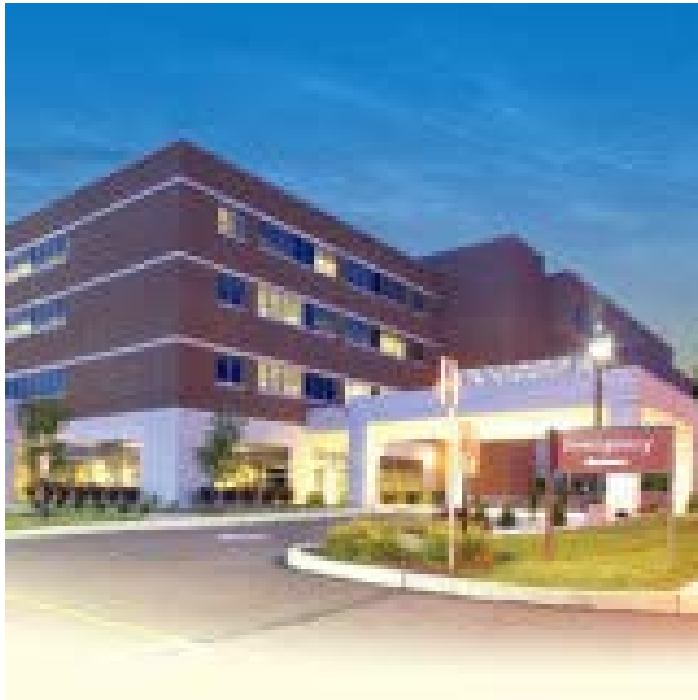
'Amazing' Day for Parents of First Baby Born at LVH–Pocono

6 JAN, 2017



Celebrating the Pocono Merger – PHOTOS and VIDEO

4 JAN, 2017



Pocono Health System Will Become Part of LVHN on Jan. 1

28 DEC, 2016

Celebrating the Pocono Merger – PHOTOS and VIDEO

BY [RICK MARTUSCELLI](#) · JANUARY 4, 2017



The merger is official

Pocono Health System is now part of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN). After a news conference and ribbon joining ceremony with (l-r) LVHN Board Chairman John Stanley, LVHN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, LVH–Pocono Acting President Elizabeth Wise and Pocono Health System Board Chairman Andy Worthington, a celebration was held for the newest members of the LVHN team. Meet some of them, and enjoy stories, photos and video from this historic day.



Meet the Acting President

Elizabeth Wise (left), Acting President of LVH–Pocono, and anesthesiologist Musa Tangoren, MD, share how they will help make our mission possible by signing our commitment wall in the LVH–Pocono cafeteria. Wise previously served as the hospital’s Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Nursing Officer. She is a devout patient advocate who understands operations, physicians and clinicians must collaborate to create ideal experiences for patients. “As I work with colleagues to strategize and plan ways to make our organization even better,” Wise says, “I know we will always make the right decisions if we consider the most important thing: The patient.”



Support from Pocono Raceway

At the news conference, Brandon Igdalsky, President and CEO of Pocono Raceway, spoke about why his family is excited about the merger. Igdalsky's grandparents, Doc and Rose Mattioli, have generously supported emergency and trauma services at both Pocono Health System and LVHN over the years. The family has firsthand experience of the excellent care both organizations provide. Examples include the lifesaving trauma care NASCAR legend Bobby Allison received following a crash at Pocono Raceway, and the care Igdalsky's twin daughters received in LVHN's neonatal ICU after being born prematurely. "I'm confident people will come to realize what my family already knows," Igdalsky says. "When a great local hospital and health system becomes part of an integrated, cohesive health network, it will create a better – healthier – community."



All in the family

For Marianne Kostenbader and Steve Kulick, the merger is like a family reunion. Kostenbader, the director of LVHN's Emergency Medicine Institute, and Kulick, LVH–Pocono's EMS Continuing Education Administrator, are brother and sister. Now they're also colleagues who will be working together in the same organization. "We were competitive," Kulick says, "but now we're together again."



Embracing the LVHN brand

Our senior leaders met new colleagues as they toured the hospital and visited our health care facilities throughout the region. Executive Vice President and COO Terry Capuano (right) stopped in the nurse staffing office. LVH–Pocono’s Director of Nursing Gina Reider (front) explained how they use the staffing board to ensure the units are properly staffed. Holly Shelly even made sure the colors on the board were changed to match LVHN’s colors on the first day of the merger.



Wishes do come true

During a morning walk in 2015, Richie Crocono suffered cardiac arrest. His wife, Annette, dialed 9-1-1, and Richie was taken to Pocono Medical Center. Richie remained in an induced coma for six days while Annette stayed by his side and prayed. On day 7, he was able to breathe on his own again. After triple bypass surgery, the happy couple is back to walking as well as volunteering at LVH–Pocono. “There was a time when we considered moving to the Lehigh Valley to be closer to LVHN,” Annette says. “We wished that one day these two great organization would come together, and our wish came true.”



Laughter is the best medicine

Penny Dee lives to make people smile, but she's alive because of the cancer care she received at LVH–Pocono. A breast and cervical cancer survivor, Dee gives back by volunteering in the hospital's infusion department. She wears funny wigs and glasses, and tells silly jokes to keep patients' spirits up. "The merger will only improve the quality of care here," she says. "My role in the merger is to keep people laughing."



The first signatures

Bob Samra and Fred Wager Jr., work for Metz, the organization that provides food and environmental services at LVH–Pocono. Wager was the first person to sign the commitment wall. He wrote, “To a good relationship,” because strong relationships and family are important to the hospital’s cafeteria team. It’s mirrored in their work. For example, the night before parents are discharged from the mother-baby unit, the cafeteria staff prepare a special meal served on a cart complete with sparkling cider. “We want new moms and dads to enjoy a quiet meal together before they go home to the chaos of a new child,” Wager says.



Reasons to be excited

(L-r) Periop Nurse Educator Barbara McHale, and Central Sterile Processing colleagues Maryanne Benenato and Penny Sevek are excited about the merger for different reasons. McHale is eager to meet new colleagues and hear new ideas. “I like good change, and that’s what will happen here,” she says. Benenato is glad to know that both organizations share a culture of teamwork, while Sevek is proud to work for an organization recognized for providing quality care. “My daughter received great care at LVHN,” she says with a tear in her eye. “Everyone was so helpful and all her needs were met. We’re thrilled about the merger.”

N01241-Pocono-Merger-4207-crop



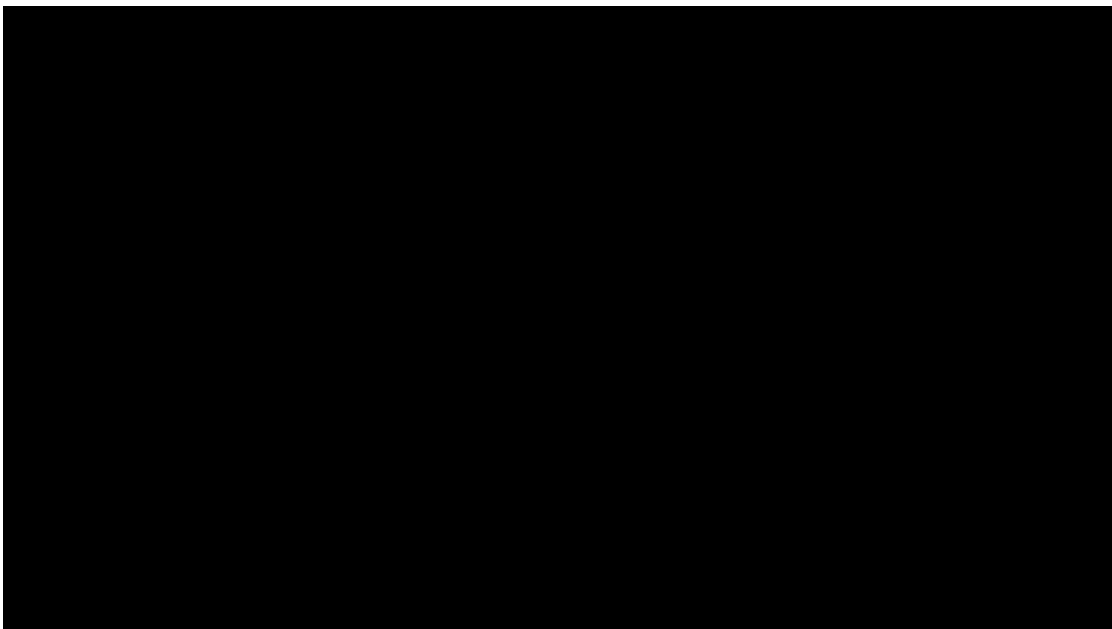
[◀ Back](#)

Picture 1 of 5

[Next ▶](#)

Brian Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP, and Elizabeth Wise visit the patient registration department to talk with Candice Pesotine (second from left) and Jennifer Dillon (right).

The video below will only play in Google Chrome. If you are using Internet Explorer, click [here](#) to watch.



2 [Share](#)
[Print Email](#)

Tags: [LVH-Pocono](#)

NEXT STORY

[‘Amazing’ Day for Parents of First Baby Born at LVH–Pocono](#)

PREVIOUS STORY

[Attend the HPV Community Forum](#)

RELATED CONTENT



[‘Amazing’ Day for Parents of First Baby Born at LVH–Pocono](#)

6 JAN, 2017



[Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN](#)

3 JAN, 2017



Pocono Health System Will Become Part of
LVHN on Jan. 1

28 DEC, 2016

'Amazing' Day for Parents of First Baby Born at LVH–Pocono

BY [BRENDON ABBAZIO](#) · JANUARY 6, 2017



When Monroe County's first official newborn of 2017 came into the world, Jexy Hernandez made good on a pledge made long ago.

"When my brother (Jimmy) was alive, we told each other we would name our children after each other," says Hernandez, whose son, Jimmy Alfredo Hernandez, was delivered by wife Mery Castellon de Hernandez at 8:30 a.m. on New Year's Day at LVH–Pocono. "I kept that promise."

The Stroudsburg couple also honored Mery's father, Alfredo, with their new son's middle name. "It was a wonderful experience," Jexy says after becoming a father for the first time. "All the staff treated us like family – anything we needed they were prepared."

Mery was experiencing contractions when she arrived at LVH–Pocono's labor and delivery department shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve. Just over 32 hours later, Jimmy made Monroe County history at 9 pounds, 9 ounces and 21½ inches – a moment his parents describe as "amazing." It was also a milestone moment for the hospital as Jimmy was the first baby born there under the LVHN brand.

Jexy and Mery, originally from El Salvador, moved to Stroudsburg in 2010. Jexy runs his own home-remodeling company, Hernandez Brothers, based in Stroudsburg. The two plan on having another child in the near future. "We will absolutely come here again for the birth of our second child," says Jexy.

All parents who entrust the delivery of their newborns to LVH–Pocono receive a special meal compliments of Metz Culinary Management with the choice of stuffed chicken, New York strip steak, mushroom ravioli or crab-stuffed flounder and a bottle of sparkling apple cider along with other beverages, salad, soup and dessert. Parents also receive a stuffed teddy bear, blankets and – for the New Year's first baby – an infant car seat.

In 2016, LVH–Pocono delivered nearly 1,000 babies. The hospital has been nationally recognized for its labor and delivery services by Healthgrades. Recently, it was cited as a Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology by the Advancing Minimally Invasive Gynecology Worldwide and Surgical Review Corporation.

2 [Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Tags: [baby](#) [LVH-Pocono](#)

NEXT STORY

[Join the 2017 United Way Campaign Committee](#)



PREVIOUS STORY

[Celebrating the Pocono Merger – PHOTOS and VIDEO](#)





Celebrating the Pocono Merger – PHOTOS and VIDEO

4 JAN, 2017



Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN

3 JAN, 2017



Pocono Health System Will Become Part of LVHN on Jan. 1

28 DEC, 2016

Attend the HPV Community Forum

BY [JENN FISHER](#) · JANUARY 4, 2017

Very few viruses are associated with cancer. Among those few, the human papilloma virus (HPV) family includes about 40 types that can infect the genital areas of men and women. In some people, those infections will lead to cancerous changes. As an example, most cases of cervical cancer start following an HPV infection. More than 30,000 women and men are diagnosed with a cancer caused by HPV every year.

To promote a greater understanding of HPV, as well as help you understand the toll HPV takes on women and men who develop HPV-associated cancers,



LVHN is hosting a special HPV Community Forum on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 5 p.m.

The forum will include the screening of a documentary, “Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic.” It recounts the stories of five cervical cancer survivors who reveal the impact cancer and HPV has made on their lives. Following the documentary, LVPG gynecologic oncologist Martin Martino, MD, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Ulla Martz from the Cancer Support Community will lead a discussion about HPV, risks of infection, as well as prevention and detection tactics. Light refreshments will be served.

HPV Community Forum

Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m.

LVH–Cedar Crest Kasych Family Pavilion, ECC room 5

Register Now. Call 610-402-CARE (2273) or [register online](#).

[Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Tags: [cancer awareness](#) [cancer prevention](#) [HPV](#)

NEXT STORY

[Celebrating the Pocono Merger – PHOTOS and VIDEO](#)



PREVIOUS STORY



Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN

RELATED CONTENT



New Campaign Focuses on Reducing Colon-Rectal Cancer in Northeastern Pa.

20 JUN, 2016



Lehigh Valley Health News Digest: March 16-20

27 MAR, 2015



Prevent Colon-Rectal Cancer

23 MAR, 2015

VALIC – Retirement Income Strategies for Women

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · JANUARY 3, 2017

VALIC Retirement, the company managing our retirement plans, will host this seminar at the following locations:

Jan. 10 – 12-1 p.m., LVHN–Mack Boulevard room 6B

Jan. 11 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–Cedar Crest ECC room 5

Jan. 12 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–17th Street auditorium

Jan. 18 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–Muhlenberg ECC room D

Jan. 25 – 12-1 p.m., LVHN–One City Center room 7
East 2

Registration is required to attend one of these seminars. [Click here to register](#) and enter one of the



following codes:

For LVHN–Mack Boulevard seminar: LVHALL11BL

For LVH–Cedar Crest seminar: LVHALL11BC

For LVH–17th Street seminar: LVHALL11BJ

For LVH–Muhlenberg seminar: LVHBET11AR

For LVHN–One City Center seminar: LVHALL11BC

VALIC Retirement advisors are available to help you at:

LVH–Cedar Crest:

Jeff Hofmann: 610-402-8801

Michael Ryan: 610-402-8801 (advisor for LVPG colleagues)

LVH–17th Street:

Tim Schroyer: 610-969-2625

LVH–Muhlenberg and Health Network Laboratories:

Kevin Gertz: 610-392-9912

LVHN–One City Center:

Michael Ryan 601-402-8801

Tim Schroyer 610-969-2625

[□ Share](#)

[Print Email](#)

Tags: [retirement planning](#) [retirement seminar](#) [Valic](#) [valic seminar](#)

NEXT STORY

Pocono Health System is Now Part of LVHN



PREVIOUS STORY

Service Anniversary List – January 2017



 **RELATED CONTENT**

VALIC® VALIC®

VALIC – The Investment Planning Seminar

VALIC – Social Security Seminar

30 NOV, 2016

2 NOV, 2016



Introducing RetireFIT

11 OCT, 2016