

JMHCC reports highlights at annual meeting

Highlighting the past year's achievements and sharing photos of the extensive renovation that's nearly complete, Jacobson Memorial Hospital Care Center (JMHCC) CEO Theo Stoller reported to members during JMHCC's annual meeting and community appreciation event held in Elgin Nov. 9.

"We've been financially strong the last four years," Stoller reported, sharing statistics that compared JMHCC with similar hospitals. "Less than half of the critical access hospitals in North Dakota have positive operating margins. That's why nonoperating revenue of \$200,000 or more a year is super important."

JMHCC was able to show a positive bottom line in 2016, continuing a four-year trend. This was accomplished with approximately \$430,000 in grant revenue and donations of approximately \$85,000 from the Jacobson Memorial Hospital Foundation.

"We have a very, very supportive Foundation," Stoller said. The Foundation, which is overseen by a seven-member board, received \$85,615 in donations in 2016, including \$30,180 during Giving Hearts Day. The 2017 Giving Hearts Day will be held Feb. 9. The Foundation launched its "Share the Gift of Life" campaign in 2016, with the goal of raising \$100,000 to help fund the renovation project. The campaign has reached approximately \$35,000 so far. Current Foundation board members include Chairman Robert Larson, Linda Koeplin, Jeff Hillius, James Schmidt, Kaci Ulrich and Misty Stanszyk

Renee Gravalin, a partner at Eide Bailly, reviewed the audit and financial information in-depth for those attending the meeting.

In 2016, JMHCC completed many significant events, including completing a three-phase renovation project and installing a new 32-slice CT scanner, which was purchased with grant funds. The three-phase \$997,000 renovation project began in May and should be completed this month. The project renovated the lab, radiology and Elgin Community Clinic. The clinic now has seven exam rooms, rather than three, and will be able to accommodate visiting specialists and telemedicine. The renovation project has been partially funded with a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Loan.

"We now have more patient privacy," Stoller said. "That's one of the things we wanted to accomplish with the renovation."

The new CT scanner has also improved patient care, and has already been instrumental in saving lives.

"It is a live-saving piece of equipment that we have here," Stoller said.

Other highlights from 2016 include:

- JMHCC welcomed a new medical director and maintained a strong medical staff.
- The hospital transitioned to a group purchase organization, which is projected to save \$70,000 annually.
- JMHCC implemented a 340B program, a government program that helps patients save money on their medications.
- The hospital expanded its number of in-patient hospital beds from 25 to 30 through a Frontier Community Health Integration Project (FCHIP). The national pilot project puts JMHCC at the forefront of demonstrating the viability of increased beds at a critical access hospital.

“It really puts us on the map,” Stoller said, as the project could be instrumental in changing critical access hospitals across the nation.

As the hospital moves toward the future, it will be implementing telemedicine services and visiting specialists to continue to meet its mission, Stoller reported.

During the annual meeting, incumbent board members Ron Bartz, Marci Koepplin and Marcy Haase were re-elected to the board. Other board members include Chairperson Leslie Niederman, Vice Chairperson Kim Oien, Clair Hauge, Joel Klein, Ann Hertz and Eugene Zimmerman.

Diane Friesz, president of the JMHCC Hospital Auxiliary, presented a report, indicating the auxiliary needs more volunteer members. Linda Koepplin presented a volunteer report, thanking those who spend time with the residents. “They look forward to those events,” she said, encouraging volunteers to continue visiting, even if it’s just for a few minutes.

During the annual meeting, Stoller thanked the leadership team, staff and directors of both boards. He announced the retirement of Linda Duppong at the Glen Ullin Family Medical Clinic and the addition of Carrie Gerving, a certified family nurse practitioner who will serve the Glen Ullin clinic.

JMHCC employees were also recognized for their years of service, including: Tim Pruitt and Nola Zacher, five years; Michell Brabazon, Linda Duppong and Peggy Imhoff, 10 years; Marcy Hochhalter, Angela Pruitt and Doris Weikum, 15 years; Linda Koepplin, 25 years; Melvin Bruhn, 40 years; and Marcy Haase, 45 years.