

## President's Corner

### WAHQ President



**Mary Conti, RN, BSN, SSLBB**

### WAHQ Spring Newsletter 2023 President's Corner

Hello everyone. I am happy to announce we have a Newsletter Editor, Jill Lindwall. Jill kindly agreed to take on the WAHQ quarterly newsletter. We have been on hiatus for a couple of years. We tried news blasts but have decided a newsletter is what we need to keep the members informed of our quality work. Thank you very much Jill! We look forward to your contributions to our WAHQ membership.

As we relaunch our newsletter, I would like to invite our members to please reach out to Jill with quality articles that you think would be helpful to our members.

I am also happy to announce we have filled the President-elect position with Therese (Tracy) Dodd. Tracy has been a WAHQ member for many years and has served on the board as well. Tracy is a NAHQ fellow and will bring valuable information to our members about what is happening at the national level. Welcome Tracy!

We also have a new Northern Wisconsin representative, Becky Birchmeier. Becky attended the annual fall conference which was held at Glacier Canyon Lodge in the Dells. We look forward to Becky's contributions to our organization. Welcome aboard Becky!

Speaking of the Annual conference, we are

## Save the Date!

**NAHQ Next  
"Annual Virtual Conference"  
September 11-13 2023**

<https://Next.NAHQ.org>

in the process of identifying topics and lining up speakers for the upcoming fall conference. We are working on a title, but it will definitely be a conference you will not want to miss. Stay tuned for the details in the coming months. Tracy is working on a member survey to get your input. Please participate in Tracy's survey. We need your input.

We held our annual meeting in January, which was interactive with the members who attended. This format gives our members and BOD time to network and plan for meaningful discussions about Quality. Networking is one of the greatest benefits of joining WAHQ. We can learn so much from each other. We look forward to additional networking opportunities this year, especially at the conference. We will share the details soon.

Take care! Only six more weeks of winter according to the ground hog.



**To identify your WAHQ region ...  
See the WAHQ Region Map on  
Page 2**

**Thank you, Sarah Pouzar, for your  
dedication to the WAHQ Website  
development & WAHQ Board!**

**You will be greatly missed.  
Congratulations on your new journey!**

### Open WAHQ Position

### **Website Coordinator**

Do you or someone you know have a knack for web design and digital marketing? Are you looking for an opportunity to become more involved with WAHQ?

Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Contact Mary Conti at

[mary.conti@froedtert.com](mailto:mary.conti@froedtert.com)

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## Quality, Performance Improvement and Safety Websites

By Sheri Krueger Dix, WAHQ member

Looking for the latest WAHQ news? [www.wahq.org](http://www.wahq.org)

You can visit our Web site for the latest information on healthcare activities at home and around the country.

We are fortunate to have the expertise of MetaStar to guide us in the development of our Web page.

This avenue of networking would not be possible without Metastar's technical and financial support. Special thanks to Rich Chapman, webmaster, Metastar Inc.

### Wisconsin Healthcare Quality Websites

\*Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Quality

\*Assurance (WI DHS DQA): [Division of Quality Assurance \(DOA\)](#)  
[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

\*Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC): [Home \(rwhc.com\)](#)

\*The Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (ORH): [Home - Wisconsin Office of Rural Health \(worh.org\)](#)

\*Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ):  
<https://www.wchq.org/>

\*Wisconsin Hospital Association - Quality & Patient Safety  
<https://www.wha.org/Quality-Patient-Safety>

\*Wisconsin CheckPoint <http://www.wicheckpoint.org>

\*Wisconsin Price Point <http://www.wipricepoint.org> \*Wisconsin Quality Improvement Network/Quality Improvement Organization (QIN/QIO): Superior Health Quality Alliance

### National Healthcare Quality Websites

\*Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
<https://www.ahrq.gov/>

\*Center for Disease Control (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov>

\*CMS Internet site [Home - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services | CMS](#)

\*Health Grades <http://www.healthgrades.com>

\*Healthy People 2030 <https://www.healthypeople.gov>

\*Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) <https://www.ihq.org/>

\*National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ)  
<https://nahq.org/>

\*National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)  
<https://www.ncqa.org/about-ncqa/>



### 2023 Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) Study Course

NAHQ has published a new exam content outline that will take effect on March 15, 2023. Visit [CPHQ Certification | NAHQ](#) to learn how to prepare for and apply for the CPHQ Exam. Why CPHQ? Why Not! [Watch this Video!](#)

Act now to take advantage of the limited-time offer that the National Association for Healthcare Quality® (NAHQ) is providing Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality® (CPHQ) certification exam applicants! **Apply by March 6, to receive access to a free practice test\* and to be automatically entered in a drawing for a digital version of HQ Solutions™, a valuable resource for quality and safety professionals.** HQ Solutions™ features a full chapter on population health and more takeaways for the quality and safety professional.

## WAHQ Treasurer's Report

By Timothy Kamps

### ACCOUNT BALANCES

As of December 31, 2022

Checking	\$ 6,092.23
Savings	\$ 10,698.22
Annuity	\$ 8,092.82
Interest	\$ 242.78
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,126.05</b>

## From the office of Membership

### Kim Wildes WAHQ Membership Coordinators

**Join or renew your WAHQ membership today!** The WAHQ membership dues cost \$45/calendar year, making it one of the most affordable professional memberships available. WAHQ membership delivers discounts associated with educational offerings, the Wisconsin Association's Newsletters, job postings, networking and conference presentations opportunities, and more!

Download the annual membership application ([PDF](#), [Word](#)) or print the membership application on page 6. Make checks payable to WAHQ and mail to: *Tim Kamps, 360 W Washington Ave, #P110, Madison, WI 53703*

<b>Active Membership Total:</b>	52
<b>New Members:</b>	7
<b>% of Active with CPHQ:</b>	44.2%

Region	Active Members	New Members
Northeast	7	1
North Central	1	1
Northwest	5	1
Southeast	12	1
South Central	22	2
Southwest	5	1

## WAHQ Regions



# WAHQ 2022 Conference Summary of Presentations

## “Tackling Quality & Safety to Bridge Healthcare Gaps”

### WHA 2022 Legislative Update

Matthew Stanford, WHA’s Government Relations General Counsel, leads advocacy efforts and guides legislative and administrative advocacy on legal and regulatory issues impacting hospitals and health systems. Matthew presented an overview of the top 2022 member concerns – no small list – taking a deeper dive into Reimbursement & Coverage, Health Care Workforce, and Long-Term Care.



### Reimbursement & Coverage

Wisconsin’s population is aging. Many are moving to Medicare which reimburses approximately

73% of health care cost on average. Furthermore, inflation is increasing the cost of providing care. These conditions have focused WHAs work and collaborations closely with members, to:

- Ensure the WHA-created Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program remains permanent – which will continue to provide \$130 million annually in payment increases to 90 WI hospitals.
- Protect the WHA-created Rural Critical Care program – which provides \$5 million annually to Wisconsin’s 28 Critical Access Hospitals that cannot qualify for DSH.
- Fight in Washington:
  - For ongoing federal COVID-related support through CARES and ARPA.

- Big Pharma to protect the 340B drug program – a Critical program that many Wisconsin hospital and health system members qualify for, saving \$700-\$800 million annually in drug costs.
- A growing laundry list of insurance company practices, White Bagging, Prior Authorization and Utilization Review abuse, delaying payments and retroactively denying payments, And many others...

### Long-Term Care

Over 1600 Wisconsin nursing home beds closed during pandemic. WHA is offering input for a Baker Tilly study looking at the:

- Root-causes of challenges in the cost and reimbursement structures, labor shortages, operational impediments, and meeting federal and state quality assurance standards.
- Prospective analysis to forecast the future state of the long-term care industry to determine consumers’ preferences for long-term care in the next five to ten years, and whether Wisconsin’s LTC industry is positioned to meet these needs.
- Development of a set of recommendations for both the public and private sector to position the LTC industry as strongly as possible for the future.



### Patient Safety Awareness Week



The [Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s](#) campaign for Patient Safety Awareness Week is from March 12-18th, 2023. Patient Safety Awareness Week is an annual recognition event intended to encourage everyone to learn more about health care safety. What patient safety programs or activities is your organization focused on for 2023? Please share! WAHQ will share your story in an upcoming newsletter, and you will be invited to present your story at the 2023 Annual WAHQ Conference! See details below on how to submit your story!

### Call for 2023 WAHQ Conference Storyboards

**Call for Storyboards for the 2023 Annual WAHQ Conference** - If you are interested in presenting a Storyboard that demonstrates efforts related to Quality & Outcome improvements, please email a brief description (80 words or less) to Mary Conti [mary.conti@froedtert.com](mailto:mary.conti@froedtert.com). Storyboard presenters will receive a gift card with no limit on storyboards per facility.

Please submit a brief description (80 words or less) send to Mary Conti, [mary.conti@froedtert.com](mailto:mary.conti@froedtert.com)

<b>Storyboard topic/ title:</b>	<b>Contact person(s):</b>
<b>Summary: (80 words or less)</b>	

You will be asked to submit an article for the WAHQ newsletter that describes your project and tells your story.



## WAHQ Mission is to Advance Quality in Healthcare

Have you heard? The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA), Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC), and the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH) are excited to share registration information for 2023 WI Quality Residency Sessions. Sessions are held the first Wednesday of each month from 9am-3:30pm, through December 2023. The upcoming sessions are:

- **Wednesday, March 8:** Accreditation / Survey Readiness
- **Wednesday, April 12:** Hospital Compliance: State And Federal Oversight
- **Wednesday, May 1:** Quality Measure Requirements

Registration is required. Click on the [Wisconsin Quality Residency Program](#) link to learn more and to register!

## Call for Vendors for the 2023 Annual Wisconsin Association for Healthcare Quality (WAHQ) Conference

Please join us as a vendor  
**Wisconsin Dells, WI**

Would you be interested in being a vendor at our annual conference or know someone that would?

Our organization focus is education, we accept 6-8 vendors and have educational storyboards displayed.

For more details on the conference, please check the WAHQ website for the brochure and conference objectives at [WAHQ.org](#)

**For conference details check our site for regular updates** - <http://wahq.org/conf> - please scroll to the bottom for the vendor application and information.

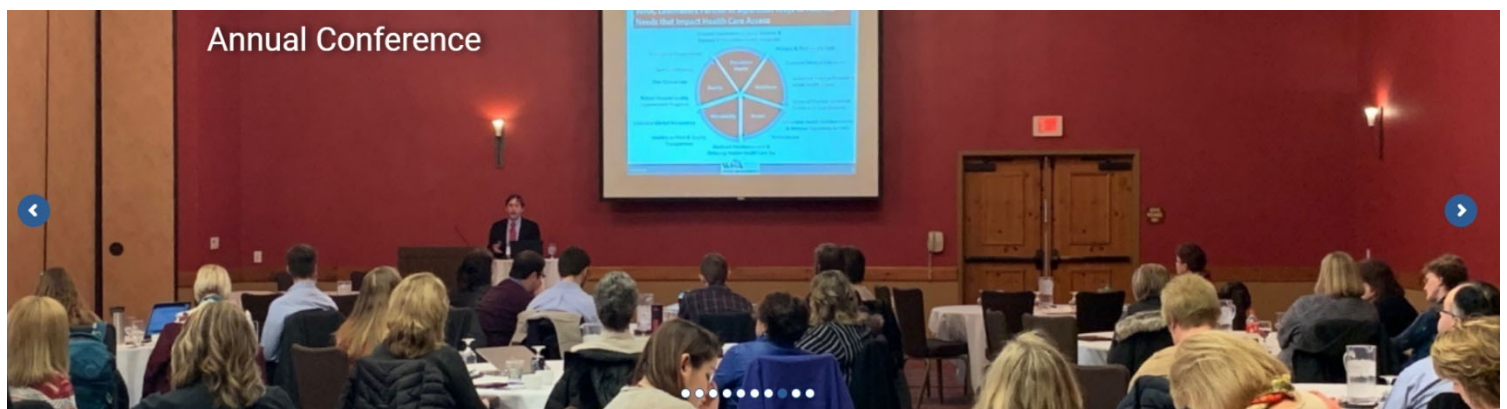
If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Mary Conti at [mary.conti@froedtert.com](mailto:mary.conti@froedtert.com) for more information.

Cost - \$500 for a table, and if you have materials to donate for drawings for our attendees, we are always thankful.

Year after year, the conference highlights hot topics for Healthcare Quality education and as always, promises to be an interesting event!

Thank you for your support.  
Please feel free to contact me with any questions.  
Mary Conti [mary.conti@froedtert.com](mailto:mary.conti@froedtert.com)

## Annual WAHQ Conference **Networking Opportunities!**



# WAHQ Board of Directors

## Officers

### President

Mary Conti

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### President elect

Therese (Tracy) Dodd

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### Treasurer

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### Website-Coordinator

vacant

## Regional Representatives

### North Central/North East/Northwest

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Janet Wagner

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[Carolyn.Anderson@richlandhospital.com](mailto:Carolyn.Anderson@richlandhospital.com)

### South East

Becky Steward

[bsteward@chw.org](mailto:bsteward@chw.org)

## Wisconsin Association for Healthcare Quality (WAHQ)

<http://www.wahq.org/membership.asp>

### 2023 Membership Application & Conference Registration/Fees

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Credentials \_\_\_\_\_ (CPHQ, RN, LPN, RRA, ART, Other)

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of NAHQ? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No (Please check)      Send more information regarding \_\_\_\_ NAHQ

Mail completed Registration to:

**Make check payable to WAHQ**

**Tim Kamps**

360 W. Washington Ave. #1310

Madison, WI 53703

Email: [TK.Kamps@gmail.com](mailto:TK.Kamps@gmail.com)

Phone: cell-(608) 217-1916