



Grateful for The Incredible Opportunity to Serve!

We carry out our Order of Malta mission through our worship and works, living an exemplary Catholic life, regularly attending Mass and frequenting the Sacraments, along with serving the sick and the poor. We thank God for the opportunity to worship Him and serve our neighbors in need.

While COVID-19 has unfortunately limited our opportunities to help others and engage in personal interaction, including cancelation of our annual meeting, we are grateful for your involvement and hope you find this update informative and helpful in maintaining the connection with others in our local Northeast Wisconsin Area. We hope to see you soon!

Northeast Wisconsin Leadership Team

We've Come A Long Way

It has been 4 years since Bishop Ricken asked us to form a new Area for the Order of Malta in Northeast Wisconsin. It all started with Bishop's 7:00 AM Mass for the Area on December 8th, 2016, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Our mission of working toward our personal sanctification by doing good works to help the poor and the sick, and defending our Catholic faith, was introduced and the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Area was launched.

Since then, God has sanctioned our work, bringing together a growing number of engaged Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Volunteers who participate in many good works. We have been truly blessed with the support of Bishop Ricken and Father Girotti serving as our Chaplains to guide our local works and spiritual growth.

We now have two Chaplains, a deputy Chaplain, 17 Knights and Dames, and 3 Auxiliary Members in our 4 short years and have spent hundreds and hundreds of hours in worship of God and serving our brothers and sisters in need.

Thank You Team

Five founding members of our Area have served as officers with zeal and commitment since the beginning and have been tireless in their support of works and mission for us all. Thank you to Rose Snorek, Walt Fountain, Joe and Robin Lasnoski, who have worked alongside me to establish and build up our NEW Area.

Mark Follett, Co-Chair



In These Uncertain Times!

I wish I could be welcoming you in person, but these times are certainly uncertain! Thank you all for your stewardship of our organization over the past year and especially, thank you for your service to the sick and poor and defense of the Faith as you've continued to be involved in our works projects. Our works are what separate us from many other organizations, and I'm sure, are the reason you decided to join with us. Please continue your active service as we all work for our sanctification and greater honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While we regret not being able to join together for the August 2020 Wisconsin Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, I hope you were able to participate virtually. In the event you missed it, I hope you will take the time to check out the inspiring reflection Fr. Girotti delivered virtually to pilgrims. Click on the link below to hear the reflection:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/4tluib79giukf24/Fr%20Girotti%20audio.mp3?dl=0>

Walt Fountain, Co-Chair

Our New Identity

The Northeast Wisconsin Area of the American Association

While our region was established as The Order of Malta Green Bay Area, we are called to serve throughout Northeast Wisconsin in all parts of the Diocese of Green Bay. To dispel any perception that our regional scope is limited to Green Bay, and to more appropriately reflect the broader geographic area we serve, going forward our area will now be known as The Northeast Wisconsin Area of The American Association.

It is vitally important that our future growth be developed from throughout all of Northeast Wisconsin opening additional opportunities to serve others.

Hospitaller Works

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the sick through our existing works at the Order of Malta Hospitality and First Aid Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, St. at Gianna Clinic, and through the Hospital Eucharistic Ministry. We are also blessed to have many opportunities throughout the year to enhance our personal spiritual growth and contribute to a growing fraternity of friendships and prayer partners through participation in liturgical celebrations, devotions, evenings of reflection, and the annual Wisconsin pilgrimage. While COVID-19 has curtailed our activities, we continue to serve as we are permitted.

Shrine Project - After a brief 4-month hiatus caused by COVID-19 from March thru June 2020, we are grateful to once again be able to open the Order of Malta Hospitality and First Aid Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help on the last Saturday of each month. Under the leadership of Walt Fountain, NEW Area members and volunteers provide hospitality and a complimentary lunch to pilgrims who visit the Shrine on the last Saturday for the monthly Mass, Healing Service and Anointing of the Sick. In the six months the Healing Service has been held in 2020, a total of 855 attended Mass; 716 participated in the healing service; 245 were anointed and NEW members and volunteers served lunch to 628 people.

St. Gianna Clinic - While COVID-19 has also had a negative impact on our work to support St. Gianna Clinic behind the scenes with non-medical activities, we continue to serve in this capacity as needed under the leadership of Joe and Robin Lasnoski.

Eucharistic Ministry - Regretfully, our Hospital Eucharistic Ministry was suspended because of COVID-19 and we now look forward to resuming this vital work as soon as possible. Members and Volunteers who wish to serve in this important work should contact Joe or Robin Lasnoski.



Hospitality & First Aid Center

The Order of Malta Hospitality and First Aid Center (Center) at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help which opened on October 1, 2019, is a collaborative effort of the three United States Associations. Walt Fountain, Co-Chair of the NEW Area, serves as Secretary of the Tri-Association Board and handles scheduling of events and workers in the Center. The plan is to have medical and non-medical volunteers on hand when the Center is open for as many as 30 regularly scheduled events each year.

In the past year, such events have included the Mass and last Saturday healing service; the Shrine's 2019 and 2020 nine-day Apparition Anniversary activities; the 2020 Feast of the Assumption; and a well-attended Youth Conference hosted by Bishop Ricken.

We invite members to suggest additional projects that allow us to carry out our mission of serving the sick and the poor thru face-to-face interaction.

Joe & Robin Lasnoski, Hospitallers

Wisconsin Pilgrimage Update

The Wisconsin Pilgrimage is jointly sponsored and supported by all three United States Associations. Our American Association has the responsibility for planning and implementation of the event for 2020, 2021, and 2022 and NEW Co-Chair, Walt Fountain, currently serves as Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Pilgrimage Committee.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 pilgrimage was a virtual event watched by about 1,000 participants each day with viewers in 44 states, the Armed Forces in Europe, and 10 countries/territories outside the USA. It is anticipated that all pilgrimages will likely be virtual events until next summer. Interest has also been expressed in having a virtual component to all future pilgrimages to allow for participation by those who are unable to attend in person.

It is expected the 2021 Wisconsin Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help will be held as originally planned – in person - from August 5–7, 2021. Current plans are to have the pilgrimage begin about noon on Thursday, rather than the usual 5:00 pm start as in the past so the National Shrine of St. Joseph can be included on the Agenda. All members and volunteers are encouraged to attend.



2020 Grant Recipients

A portion of our annual contribution to the American Association comes back to our local area as funds to be distributed to one or more local causes designated by the local area. Those funds are to be granted for emergency or non-anticipated needs and not normal operations. In the face of the COVID emergency, the American Association requested the amount available for grants in 2020 be awarded to organizations that feed the hungry.

The NEW Area invited two local charities to submit a grant application. St John's Homeless Shelter in Green Bay received a grant of \$2,667, which will provide one night of lodging and food for about 70 persons. Paul's Pantry was also awarded a grant of \$800 to help provide food to the hungry.



Membership Report

Dr. Karen Konz, who successfully completed her year of formation in 2020, now holds the official designation of a Dame in the Order of Malta. Congratulations Karen! Unfortunately, COVID-19 interrupted the 2020 investiture ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, so for Karen that celebration has been put on hold and she has it to look forward to in 2021.

Congratulations to Rich Heidel, Gladys Hansen and Caitlyn Trader who joined our ranks as Auxiliary members since our last annual meeting. We are grateful to have all of you working with us in the NEW Area!

Need for Healthcare Volunteers

We hope to increase our involvement and effort to carry out our three existing work projects and want to consider taking on some additional works suggested by our members and volunteers. Our current and most pressing need is to engage more healthcare workers to help fill the gap that exists in the First Aid Center at the Shrine on feast days and pilgrimages throughout the year.

We need your help to engage more healthcare workers!

Our Call to Action

This is a special appeal for you to make a special effort in the coming months to bring new hearts and healthcare talents to join us in this small but meaningful way.

We need the help of all our members and volunteers to engage more committed healthcare workers in this important work. Each of us needs to make a special effort in the coming months to help expand our service to "the least of our brothers and sisters" by inviting those in our NEW circles who we think may consider joining us; and then introduce them to the Order and our work.

We likely all know people who want to reach out and help others – to give back for the many blessings received. The Order of Malta provides the perfect opportunity for these individuals, and each of us need to invite those we know who are seeking a way to fulfill their desire to help others to join us.

We are pleased that Dame Karen Konz, who joined us as a volunteer in the spring of 2018 and is now our newest NEW member, has expressed a desire to help each of us, members and volunteers alike, as needed, to achieve a goal of personally "gathering two or more" going into 2021. We have also produced the enclosed brochure that can help you introduce the Order and invite your contacts to take a closer look. And finally, you may also consider inviting new prospective healthcare volunteers to attend the 2021 Order of Malta pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help which is attended by many in healthcare and other professional disciplines with various and similar interesting service projects across our country. You may also consider using this annual update when introducing others to our local area works.

Rose Snorek, Membership Chair



2020-2021 NEW Area Activity Calendar

A copy of the NEW Area 2020-2021 Activity Calendar is enclosed. Kindly note these pilgrimage highlights driven by COVID-19:

- * The 2021 annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, has unfortunately been canceled.
- * While the 2021 Pilgrimage for Life scheduled for January 30 in Washington, D C is shown on the calendar, that event may also be canceled.
- * The good news is the Wisconsin Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is expected to be held as usual on the first weekend in August, 2021.

Upcoming Events—Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to participate:

- ◆ **American Association Election**—Knights, Dames and Chaplains are reminded to cast your vote by the end of the day on **November 9** for the Association President and members of the Board of Councilors.
- ◆ **Virtual Annual Meeting**—The American Association Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for **November 13**. This virtual meeting will begin at 3:00 PM Eastern (2:00 PM Central) Time and Mass will be live streamed from St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City at 7:00 PM Eastern (6:00 PM) Central time.
- ◆ **Advent Evening of Reflection**—The Advent Evening of Reflection is scheduled for Monday, **December 7, 2020**. This event will begin with Mass at 6:00 PM, followed by a potluck dinner and Fr. Girotti’s inspiring Advent reflection.
- ◆ **Respect Life Celebration**—Scheduled for Saturday, **January 23, 2021**, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass and the day will be filled with presentations and breakout sessions.
- ◆ **Spring Evening of Reflection**—Bishop Ricken, along with Fr. Girotti, is planning to join us for our Spring Evening of Reflection scheduled for **May 17, 2021**.



NE Wisconsin Area of the American Association Protocol & Expectations

Members and Volunteers are expected to:

- ◆ Attend Mass on the following special days in honor of our patrons and works:
 - ◇ February 11—Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes—World Day of the Sick
 - ◇ June 24—Feast of St. John the Baptist
 - ◇ September 8— Feast of Our Lady of Philermo - Nativity of Mary
 - ◇ October 13—Memorial of Blessed Fra' Gerard
- ◆ Participate in the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Area Evenings of Reflection
- ◆ Participate in a minimum of one work project every other month and advise the project organizer in advance whether or not they can participate.
- ◆ Contribute annually to the American Association by January 31.
- ◆ Contribute annually to the NEW Area by February 28.
- ◆ Assist with and participate in the annual Wisconsin Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help on the first weekend in August.
- ◆ Monitor NEW Area Activity Calendar and participate in events as able.

Members and Volunteers are encouraged to invite those in the healthcare field as well as friends, neighbors and relatives to join us at one or more work projects and/or events each year.

NEW Area Leadership Team Contacts

Mark Follett—NEW Area Co-Chair - (920) 858-1247

Walt Fountain—NEW Area Co-Chair - (920) 770-5457

Joe Lasnoski—NEW Area Hospitaller - (920) 621-2441

Robin Lasnoski—NEW Area Hospitaller & Treasurer - (920) 621-2440

Rose Snorek—NEW Area Membership & Communications Chair - (920) 360-5989

**Check out the American Association website regularly for updates on events & activities
orderofmaltaamerican.org**