



The
Chronotype



RICE LAKE ONLINE

Thursday, May 08, 2008

Health foundation starts with \$4 million

Thursday, May 08, 2008

The Rice Lake Area Health Foundation has held its first meeting, where Jerry Gerber was named acting chair.

The foundation will be responsible for awarding health-related grants to organizations and individuals located within the 45-mile radius that is served by Lakeview Medical Center and Marshfield Clinic Rice Lake Center.

"We are very excited about continuing and expanding upon the Lakeview Medical Center mission of enhancing health care in the communities we serve," said Gerber.

The new foundation will be administered and governed separately from Lakeview Medical Center and the clinic. It is funded by \$4 million of seed money, which was part of the agreement leading to the combining of Lakeview Medical Center and Marshfield Clinic.

After the new hospital is completed and occupied, 100% of the proceeds from sale or disposition of the existing hospital building will also go to the foundation.

The foundation is to be self-perpetuating, using only the interest earned from the original lump sum and proceeds from fund-raising activities.

It will take approximately 12-18 months for the foundation's nonprofit status to be approved by the Internal Revenue Service. Once approved, the board will begin its work of awarding grants for health-related activities.

Foundation board members, all of whom come from Rice Lake and surrounding communities, are:

- Ray Doring of Cameron, a consultant, primarily for financial services companies.

"The foundation has an outstanding mission," he said, "and I am exceedingly excited about being on the ground floor and creating a plan and executing it well."

- Jerry Gerber of Rice Lake, president of Brill State Bank since 1994.

"I want to help continue the hospital's mission to enhance the health care of the communities we serve, help protect the legacy of those who donated to the hospital in the 1970s and maximize the use and value of the Lakeview Medical Center properties," said Gerber.

- Nancy Glynn of Sarona, a retired university administrator and part-time professor.

"It is an exciting opportunity to be able to develop [something as important as] this foundation from its inception, and I look forward to working with the new foundation board members," Glynn said.

- Trudy Kroeger of Chetek, divisional dean for WITC-Rice Lake.

"I am looking forward to participating with a group whose mission is to educate and promote good health and provide charitable support in endeavors to improve community health," said Kroeger.

- James Larsen of Chetek, vice president of transportation for C.H. Robinson Worldwide.

"I have supported several causes in the area [scholarship foundation/food shelf and nursing home] and I believe I have a talent for fund-raising, including my own personal giving," Larsen said.

- Carla Powers of Rice Lake, director of the Rice Lake Public Library.

Powers said, "I have always believed that good health is the foundation for a good life. I am looking forward to being part of a group that will help the Rice Lake community enhance its quality of life by improving the health of community members."

- Donald Storm of Rice Lake.

"This is a great opportunity to provide health education and promote health services in the community," said Storm, a retired orthodontist.

- Laura Suave of Cameron, a public health nurse for Barron County Department of Health and Human Services.

"Working in public health, we often see a health issue that needs to be addressed but funding is usually limited. The opportunity to be on this foundation board and to be able to offer funds to improve the health and wellness of area residents is incredibly exciting," said Suave. -05/07/08