

May 24, 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Thanks to our superior team of dedicated and high-quality caregivers, we have earned significant recognition from independent rating organizations in recent years.

Latest to arrive is from *Becker's Hospital Review*, which selected NCH as one of its "100 Great Hospitals," selected for "having a special place in the story of American healthcare and have demonstrated greatness through clinical accolades, innovation in care delivery, recent capital developments, and the offering of new services, specialty programs or technology." (<http://www.beckersasc.com/lists/100-great-hospitals/all-pages.html>) – look under "D" for Downtown Naples Hospital.

One reason we have been able to attain the recognition and respect we have: The leadership and inspiration we receive from our devoted 22-member Board of Trustees. Each spring, the Board selects new members and officers and bids adieu to retiring contributors. This year's new Board members in alphabetical order are:

- **Michelle Barrett**, RT, is the non-nurse employee colleague. She has been a respiratory therapist for more than 20 years at NCH and was one of the early clinical colleagues at North Naples in the NICU and Pediatrics area.
- **Elizabeth Foster**, RN, is the nurse colleague. Elizabeth is the night charge of 3 South and has been the Clinical Ladder Champion since its inception. She has been with NCH for five years.
- **Ken Plunkitt**, MD, is an electrophysiologist on staff since 2001 and past Chairman of Credentials and a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee, Professional Capabilities Committee, and Physicians Excellence Committee, among others.
- **Greg Russo** is the retired Vice Chairman of KPMG with a career spanning 35 years in leadership positions, serving prestigious clients including General Electric, Emerson Electric, Aetna, Pepsi and others. He is also on the Boards of John Hancock Mutual Funds and Moorings Park.

The Board's new officers are **Mariann MacDonald**, Chairperson of the Board; **Tom Gazdic**, first Vice Chair; **Kay Gow**, second Vice Chair; Mr. Gazdic as Treasurer; and Dr. **John Lewis**, Secretary.

At the same time, **Joe Perkovich**, Chairman for the past two years, retired after 13 years of valuable service to NCH. A resolution was passed citing Joe for sharing "his wisdom, guidance, and dedication as a valued leader." Ambassador **Francis Rooney** was also recognized for his service as past second Vice Chair, as were **Joann Jenner** and RN **Greg Wilkerson**, the past Board non-nurse and nurse colleagues.

National recognition, such as that cited by *Becker's Hospital Review*, depends largely on a committed Board with one vision, working collaboratively with a dedicated team of exceptional caregivers to make a true difference in the health of the communities we serve.

Respectfully,



Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

P.S. Feel free to share *Straight Talk* and ask anyone to email me at [allen.weiss@nchmd.org](mailto:allen.weiss@nchmd.org) to be added.