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## Hospital CEO outlines responsibilities of board members

*Editor's note: This is part of a continuing series of articles on Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. This piece, written by CEO Frank Caruso, details what it takes to be a member of the board of directors.*

Many times the question is asked, "If the hospital is a **community** hospital, why don't we, the residents of Hoopeston, elect the board of directors, like electing the city council members?"

The simple answer is because the hospital is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, not a public institution or body like governments.

However, the community does have an opportunity to nominate residents for a board position. This opportunity is presented annually at the public forum, Hoopeston Healthcare Highlights. This year's the event was held Tuesday at the American Legion.

When considering whether to join the board, there are several things to consider. There are many responsibilities that each member must take seriously. These responsibilities range from a commitment to the community to a commitment of time to attend monthly Board meetings and committee meetings.

Each month, the board meets to discuss operations, policies, and strategic planning. These meetings typically last up to four hour. In preparation for these meetings, each member spends at least an hour reviewing a comprehensive packet of information.

In addition to the monthly meeting, each member is assigned to a committee which meets regularly. The committees that meet monthly are the finance and building/grounds. The strategic planning committee meets twice a month and the quality committee meets every other month. Some meetings are during lunch and some are at 7:30 a.m. Each usually lasts at least 1.5

hours. Special Board meetings are often scheduled to discuss significant issues, trends, or opportunities instead of filling the regular meeting with such issues.

Each member must be committed to devoting up to eight hours per month on board activities, which does not include special events such as open houses, visits by legislators, or special employee meetings.

Board members give this time and effort free of charge. There are no benefits given to members for serving. Serving is voluntary - there is no pay or stipend given to members; there is no free health care or other benefits given to members.

The role of a board member is difficult, and not just because of the items mentioned above. As a board member, the community expects the individual to listen to complaints or concerns that arise about service. This puts the Board member in a difficult position because he/she may not be aware of the day-to-day operational issues that affected the community member.

Furthermore, members serve as "trustees" of the organization. This is an incredible burden for a "volunteer" to carry. Besides the complaints/concerns, members must consider financial decisions regarding raises for employees, hiring physicians, purchases of major equipment, and planning for the future. All of that pressure can result in many sleepless nights.

The hospital bylaws list several qualifications that potential members must meet. Several of those qualifications have been identified above. Another expectation of board members is their financial support of the hospital and the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation. Each current board member is a recurring donor to the Foundation. Board members believe they must lead the community in supporting the hospital and the Foundation by giving of their time and money.

See HOSPITAL on other side

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Briefly

Games, anyone?

County Terrace hosts area seniors for an afternoon of euchre and other games, the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.  
The fun begins at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and is open to the public.  
For more information, call Charlene Ervin

Tree replacement

Hoopeston residents who had trees on city property damaged in last July's storm and who want the trees replaced are asked to call city hall, 283-5833.  
The city has a program to replace damaged

at 283-9215.

New Books at the Library

Fiction:

The Wailing Wind by Tony Hillerman  
In This Mountain by Jan Karon  
Sin Killer by Larry McMurtry  
Kentucky Heat by Fern Michaels  
Long Lost by David Morrell  
The Golden Angel by Gilbert Morris (inspirational, House of Winslow #26)  
The Heavenly Fugitive by Gilbert Morris (inspirational, House of Winslow #27)  
Where Two Seas Met by Lynn Morris (inspirational, Cheney & Shiloh #1)  
Sula by Toni Morrison (Oprah's Book Club)

Non-fiction:

Fatal by Michael Palmer  
Noble Norfleet by Reynolds Price  
Mortal Prey by John Sanford  
Midnight Voices by John Saul  
The Diabetes Food & Nutrition Bible by Hope S. Warshaw  
Anybody's Sports Medicine Book by James G. Garrick  
The World Book Encyclopedia of Tractors &

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Week 1

Won  
Lost

Police News

An employee of Hoopeston Convenience Food Mart, 714 W. Orange, reported Sunday that someone pumped \$15 in gas and left without paying

Hospital continued from other side

There are nine board member positions. Each member serves a term of three years and each year three positions are up for re-election. In some instances, members will ask to leave the board when their term ends. In other situations, the full board will request the member to seek re-nomination. After the annual public forum, the six members whose terms are not expired vote for three members.  
Current members are Russ Leigh, Dick Doyle, Dick Read, Lynn Galloway, Dave Ervin, Tom Maire, Ed Layden, Debby Dixon, and Karla Coon. Dixon has submitted her resignation from the Board with the expiration of her term this month.  
So, while there are not "public elections" of

hospital board members, the community does have a specific opportunity to nominate or request to be considered for the position of a board member.  
Always feel free to contact me (Frank Caruso) if you have any questions or concerns regarding any facet of our organization. I can be reached at (217) 283-5531.

Weather

Chance of showers, thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 82, low 70. Tomorrow's high 83, low 65.  
For current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

Guadalupe Society sets drawing

The Guadalupe Society of St. Anthony Catholic Church is sponsoring a benefit raffle. Tickets are \$2 each to win a chance of a \$100 grand prize. Second prize is a bicycle and third prize is \$50. The drawing will be held June 16 after the 10 a.m. mass at the parish hall.  
For tickets, call Margarita Linares at (217) 283-7838 or Inez Ortiz, 283-9319.  
Rifia - \$2 el boleto para beneficio de St. Anthony's Grupo Guadalupano, Hoopeston. El dia de rifia sera Junio 16 en St. Anthony's despues de las misa de 10 a.m. Primer premio, \$100; Segundo premio, bicicleta; tercer premio, \$50. Para boletos, llama a Margarita Linares al (217) 283-7873 o Inez Ortiz,

Classifieds

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