BC Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries

December Newsletter 2024

THE BCAHA

WELCOMES WINTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has certainly been a fall to remember! My tenure as your president has been an amazing experience connecting with our BCAHA members via our Outreach programme. I haven't yet touched base with all 63 member auxiliaries, however I'm nearly finished with 8 visits in September/October. One more northeast swing next spring will complete a three -year project started by P. President Diane Thornton and me three years ago! Each visit has been a valuable learning and sharing experience. I would like to thank Ladysmith, Port Hardy, Terrace, Smithers, Burns Lake, Stuart Lake, Quesnel and Merritt for their great hospitality.



Ladysmith



Port Hardy



Smithers

Congratulations to three new BCAHA Life Members for being honoured by their auxiliaries. Marie Hunter and Carole Dickson (both with Comox Valley Health Care) as well as Sharon Egglestone (UHNBC) in Prince George, all received certificates and pins as recognition of their long time and extensive service. Besides the honour of receiving this award, it helps build our Bursary Fund that is then, in turn, given back to our communities in the form of annual Provincial bursaries.



Comox Valley

BCAHA Life Membership Awards were granted to Carole Dickson and Marie Hunter from the Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Health Care.



Auxiliary to UHNBC

Prince George, volunteer Sharon Egglestone (in red) , was presented a BCAHA Lifetime Membership at the North AGM.

Our Provincial membership numbers continue to gradually grow, as do the totals for donations to our hospitals and clinics many and varied needs. Of special note is the increase in our donations to other healthcare related, community outreach programmes. Our Area AGM's have proved to be a great venue to share new ideas and ways of moving forward. I was pleased to be included in discussions with Vancouver Island (Ladysmith), North (Terrace), Lower Mainland (N. Vancouver), Fraser Valley (Abbotsford) and Okanagan Mainline (Zoom). My regrets to Kootenay Boundary for being unable to attend your AGM meeting in Kaslo.



Burns Lake


Stuart Lake


Quesnel



Merritt

Our October Mid-Term meetings in Vernon were a time to welcome three new Area Directors to the Board team. From the Lower Mainland, Barbara Worwood (Eagle Ridge), from Vancouver Island, Vicky Stubbs (Campbell River) and from Fraser Valley, Margaret Watson (Mission) will prove to be fine additions to represent their areas. Please checkout their photos and biographies on our website. However, after several years working with the previous ADs, Yvonne Chard (LM), Nadi Bottomley (VI) and Joanne Bydal (FV) I must thank them for their service. Their presence and good counsel will be missed.

As we head into a festive December, may I wish you and yours the compliments of the season!
Happy New Year! Carole

Carole Murray
BCAHA President





NEW BCAHA BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Worwood (Eagle Ridge)

Lower Mainland Area Director



Margaret Watson (Mission)

Fraser Valley Area Director



Vicky Stubbs (Campbell River)

Vancouver Island Area Director



Cathy Bayley (Delta)

BCAHA Secretary



AUXILIARY NEWS

Vancouver Area AGM

Ladysmith Health Care Auxiliary hosted Vancouver Area District AGM - Sept. 6/24



Enjoying the delicious lunch are (l-r) AD Nadi Bottomley, Past President Marge Anderson, Pres. Carole Murray and VP Ian Burke.

Port Hardy

Looking good in Port Hardy Hospital Aux. Society's Thrift Store boutique selection is their Vice President Jo-Anne Beek!





THRIFT SHOP Humour??

Dr Helmcken Memorial Hospital Auxiliary



A farewell BBQ for Dr Phillips was held at the hospital October 10/24. A much loved doctor, she has spent the last 2 years here. She certainly will be missed. At the BBQ, everyone welcomed Dr Ben Suleiman. He has been practicing here since late Sept. It was especially nice to visit with the doctors in a social setting. Attending were doctors, hospital staff, representatives from the Medical Clinic, District of Clearwater, YCS, and the Hospital Auxiliary.

At the Albernie Healthcare Auxiliary…..

…..the Grannies Luncheon and Fashion Show had ladies modelling items purchased from their thrift store, The Attic!







AUXILIARY NEWS

News from Alberni



Alberni Healthcare Auxiliary provides hot meals for hospital patients (*Albernie Valley News)*

Thanks to volunteers with the Alberni Healthcare Auxiliary, the food at West Coast General Hospital in Port Alberni will be a little tastier. The Alberni Healthcare Auxiliary recently purchased five new food carts for the hospital. The carts are specifically designed so that one side can keep food hot, while the other side keeps food cold as it is delivered to patients. The carts also come with supporting equipment and new dishes for patients to use.

On Monday, Sept. 23, members of the auxiliary received a special demonstration from hospital staff and got to test out the new carts with some hot food and cold drinks. Roberta Jensen, the president of the auxiliary, said she was "very impressed" by the quality of the food.

"It's exciting to see the benefits of some of the things we do," she said.

The Alberni Healthcare Auxiliary raises funds through operation of The Attic Thrift Shop on Johnston Road, as well as the hospital gift store. Each year, the auxiliary gives the hospital a financial commitment and hospital administration in turn gives the auxiliary a "wish list" of extra items they would like to have for the hospital. The auxiliary chose to spend their latest $250,000 donation on the food carts.

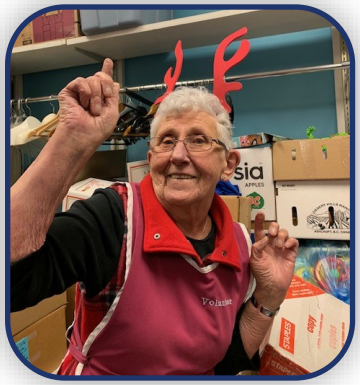
"Often when we buy equipment for the hospital, we buy specific things," Jensen said. "But food is something that affects every patient in the hospital. No matter why you're in the hospital, you can still benefit from it."

Jensen reiterated that proceeds from The Attic and the gift shop helped the auxiliary to make their latest donation. She said the auxiliary has raised close to half a million dollars in the last year.

"The community has been very, very supportive, not only in what they purchase but what they donate to us," Jensen said.

Brian Spencer, the food service manager at WCGH, says the hospital's old food carts will be donated to another health care facility and re-used.

News from Prince George



Each year the Auxiliary to UHNBC in **Prince George,** decorates a tree for the Spirit of the North Festival of the Trees fund raiser. All decorations were homemade by auxiliary volunteers.



Above: Long time Prince George volunteer **Alma Cunningham** celebrates her **90th birthday** by working in the Thrift shop.

Below: Alma is honoured at the October General Meeting with a birthday cake and flowers.



Auxiliary News

The Northern Area AGM

Terrace September 13-14 2024

A Thrift shop poem was performed by Sally Smaha from Mills Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Terrace. It was originally written by her mom Marion Clift.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.

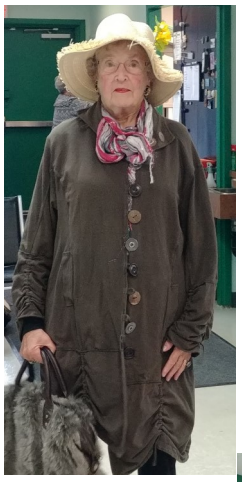
You can see and will agree that the Thrift Shop is the place to be.

They have bargains, really lots. Some have stripes and some have dots.

My whole costume came from there and I'm sure 'twill wear and wear.

Even shoes they have there too. Some are old but some quite new.

Don't you like my pretty coat? And in this hat I seem to float. (I added that maybe it's because it's as big as a boat.)



My dress is of the latest style, and I plan to wear it for many a mile.

Jewellery too is there in plenty. I picked these up for five and twenty.

I even found this real nice purse, and I really think I could do worse.

My undergarments once were there. One of them had just a little tear. But if you're handy with needle and thread you can stitch it up just as I did.



I dressed like this for the Seniors' Tea and now I'm off to the R.E.M. Lee theatre that is). (Mom's said I dressed like this for the Easter Parade and now I'm off to the Ladies Aid..)

So visit the Thrift Shop soon and save. It's open Tuesdays to Saturday from 11 to 3.

Bye now.

The musical entertainment was fun! Here are the northern presidents with the men of the Dr Fishy band.



The Terrace ladies cooked up a storm.



The Quesnel auxiliary was represented by the whole Beaulieu Family!!



Thanks to Carole for coming all the way north to Terrace.



The Lower Mainland AGM

Getting down to serious auxiliary business at the Lower Mainland AGM.





Auxiliary News

Ellen Miller, president of **Nicola Healthcare Auxiliary,** presents a cheque for $5870.00 to Nicola Valley Search and Rescue for much needed medical supplies.



Albernie Healthcare Auxiliary members get a very interesting demonstration of the new food cart system and dishes.



Mission Health Care Auxiliary Society!

Mission Memorial Hospital has received a generous donation of essential medical equipment from the Mission Health Care Auxiliary Society. This donation significantly enhances the hospital's capacity to provide high-quality patient-in-care care.
The donation, valued at $35,160, includes items from the Mission Memorial equipment needs list. Among the donated equipment are:



4 O2 tank stands with wheels: $600.00
1 Vein Finder: $9,620.002
Four-wheeled walkers (regular height): $200.00
2 Four-wheeled walkers (tall height): $200.00
1 Pediatric syringe pump: $4,540.00
3 Vital signs machines (Medical): $15,000.00
1 Vital signs machine (PATH): $5,000.00

The auxiliary members, pictured here with the vital signs machines, have worked tirelessly to support the hospital's needs. Their dedication and fundraising efforts have made this significant contribution possible, ensuring that the hospital is well-equipped to meet the demands of patient care.
The Auxiliary's commitment to the hospital exemplifies the power of community support in enhancing healthcare services in the Fraser Valley. Their efforts not only provide immediate benefits but also inspire others to contribute to the well-being of the community.





Auxiliary News

The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary is always looking for new ways to raise money for the Hospital. This fall we decided to hold a pre-loved clothing and mini white elephant sale in front of the Hospital. Auxiliary members, staff and friends of the Auxiliary donated clothing for the sale. The sale was well received by our customers who enjoyed going through the clothing looking to find one or more hidden gems.



The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary also participated in the annual Brackendale Fall Fair which was held Sept. 7, 2024. It was an excellent opportunity to become better known in the community. We received so many positive comments regarding our booth.



Pumpkin Patch in the Park in Squamish

The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary participated in the Pumpkin Patch in the Park event that was held October 19, 2024. The event was sponsored by the Downtown Squamish Business Improvement Association. The pumpkins were donated by Save on Foods and moved to the site by Sea to Sky Courier. The Rotary Club of Squamish helped set up.

In spite of the cold and the atmospheric river bringing torrential rain, five members braved the weather so that we were represented. The sponsors planned park activities for the whole family to enjoy. The Squamish community came out with their umbrellas to support the event.

The proceeds from the sale of pumpkins will be divided between the Squamish Accessibility Commitment and the Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary Society.



Robert Otto manning the Auxiliary's booth.

Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary

Who We Support at Eagle Ridge Hospital!

In addition to the **$125,000.00** we have pledged towards two Orthopedic Video Towers that will support nine surgical services including orthopedics at Eagle Ridge Hospital, we have also authorized an astounding $**250,000.00** to fund our hospital wish list over the next two years. Some of the items on the wish list are:

18 Vital Signs Monitors, Lift Scales, Portable Otoscope, Bladder Scanner, 14 IV Pumps. As well as many items toward the Hospital's Emergency Response program. A Seacan stationed in the Hospital parking lot will be equipped by us with Shade/Shelter tents, 100 Cooling neck wraps, igloo coolers, headlamps, and 2-way radios.



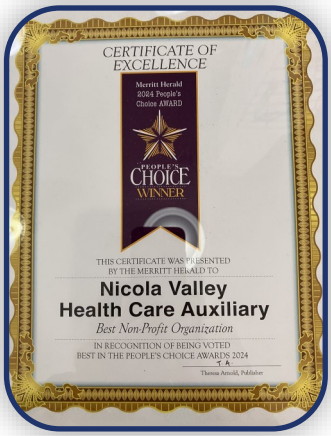
Sample photo of a container that will be stationed in the hospital parking lot and equipped with Emergency response equipment, some of which will be donated by the auxiliary.

Auxiliary News

Bella Coola Auxiliary was celebrated by recognizing their 45th anniversary.



Nicola Valley Healthcare Auxiliary was recently chosen as The Best Non-Profit Organization in the People's Choice Awards in Merritt, BC.



Eagle Ridge Hospital Auxiliary presents service pins at their October General Meeting.



Betty – Nancy – Barb M -Wai Wah Receiving their Service Pins from Barb Worwood

Dawson Creek Hospital Auxiliary

Wheelchair purchase!

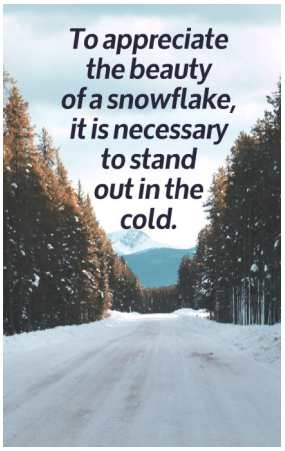


Dawson Creek Hospital Auxiliary was also happy to be able to get a photo of our bursary recipients in the nurses teaching lab at Northern Lights College. Each student received a cheque for $1000. to help defray some of the costs of their training.



Port Hardy Auxiliary is planning to start their own website to advertise their Thrift Shop.







Auxiliary News

In 100 Mile House

Our Auxiliary gathered for Auxiliary day lunch social in May and had our annual garage sale in June 2024. This fall we are attending two Christmas craft sales and have a raffle going to







News from Shuswap Lake Health-Care Auxiliary

Our Auxiliary is a small but ambitious group, and we have had amazing support from our local community in 2024! Thanks to a successful Spring Book Sale, we were able to provide two new cedar planters for the staff and patients at Bastion Place to enjoy their summer flowers. Following another successful Book Sale this fall, we have been able to pledge $500 toward the purchase of four Distraction Boxes for our pediatric surgery patients. And, through revenue generated by Gift Shop sales and fund-raisers, we have been able to purchase a blanket warmer for our hospital. This has been a major expenditure for our group, and we are proud to contribute to the comfort and care of the SLGH patients. We hope to end our year with a busy Christmas Gift Wrapping Station at the local mall before gearing up for more fund-raising activities in 2025!





Auxiliary News

In Abbotsford

Our Auxiliary started a very rewarding and emotional program about 8 months ago called Puppy Love.
The book cart, located just outside our Gift Shop, has proven to be worth while maintaining. We are lucky to receive books from The Book Man, a second-hand book store in Abbotsford. Our Volunteer Resource Co-Ordinator, Laurie Albertson, very kindly picks up the boxes of books for us and we store them in our workroom. The Gift Shop volunteers keep the cart filled and tidy.
We generate approximately an average of $100 weekly and it is all cash donations. Our Gift Shop is debit/credit only since CoVid and it works out well.

With respect –
Abbotsford Hospital Auxiliary.



Abottsford's—PUPPY LOVE PROGRAM

The money, from the book cart donations go to fund the **Puppy Love** program for the ACE unit (Acute Care for the Elderly) located on the 3rd floor. My Schnauzer's, dog breeders supply these adorable 6 – 8 month old Schnauzer puppies with arrangement, through Volunteer Resources, to bring puppies to the Ace unit for patients and staff to hold, cuddle and love. Many a tear is shed to watch the interaction between patient and puppy.



In Squamish

The Squamish General Hospital Auxiliary held its annual Christmas Bazaar on November 23, 2024 at the Sea to Sky Hotel. The week prior to the Bazaar, the Auxiliary mounted a silent auction in the lobby of the Hospital. The bid sheets were then taken to the Bazaar and customers had another opportunity to place their bids. Our customers were very pleased with the variety of home-baked goodies, crafts, knitted and quilted items, plants and Christmas décor available for purchase. The Bazaar certainly was a resounding success.



Auxiliary News

In Kaslo

News from the Victorian Hospital of Kaslo Auxiliary Society: As we head into 2025, I find that 2024, has been, and still is an exciting year for our auxiliary. We have been fortunate to acquire quite a few new members; members who also volunteer in our thrift store. We are now able to open for five days; two days with longer hours to better serve our clients. In June for our AGM, we acquired three new board members, Chair- Tyler Dobie, Vice Chair- Dona Cormie, and our new Secretary- Molly Leathwood. Three amazing people full of new ideas; bringing positive energy to keep our auxiliary instep with new technology, and current social problems. In February, the auxiliary held a fundraiser - "Gala of Services Auction". Local individuals, and business, volunteered their services, that were actioned off to the highest bidder. Not only was this a fun event to all who attended, but the gala was a financial success. In April we started a new project to improve and update our dilapidated thrift store's storage shed. With a grant from Colombia Basin Trust, our contractor, Dominique Fraissard, insulated the shed and put in new walls. He installed a new roof with solar panels, a heater, and better lighting. We are now, able to use the shed comfortably for sorting, and storage during the winter.

The summer was also very busy for Kaslo. With a wild fire up the lake, residents from that area were evacuated to Kaslo. Our auxiliary used its resources to provide clothing, and other essentials to those who needed them. Then come September, it was our turn to hold the annual "Kootenay Boundary Area Fall Conference. Our board, and members, quickly organized and set the conference for Sept 27. We had three guest speakers: Alexandra Haliday spoke about "Tech Support for the Visually Impaired"; Leni Neumeier from the Kaslo Acupuncture Society, spoke about Alternative Health Services; and Barb Szuta from Colombia Basin Alliance for Literacy spoke about better Communication. How did our small auxiliary manage to have such a successful year? Since its origin in 1902, our members have always managed to find that spark of energy and determination, to come through for whatever needed to be done. MAY PEACE AND COMPASSION BE OUR GUIDE IN SERVING OTHERS. -





News from Vancouver Island AGM – September 6, 2024



Port Hardy Hospital Auxiliary

Know the true meaning of community support! Awarded the 'Most Outstanding Volunteer Service Group' in their community. Bursting with new ideas!

Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society

Expansion has meant an increase in sales and membership! Scholarship and bursary awards for local students increased to $27,000!

Cormorant Island Auxiliary

Their own words sum up it up best – "our members remain loyal and buoyant, enjoying their volunteer hours together in work and friendship".

South Cowichan Healthcare Auxiliary

Calling themselves 'small but mighty' their 21 members raised over $22,000 last year. Hospital equipment, bursaries and meeting their community healthcare needs always at the forefront.

Alberni Health Care Auxiliary

Making good use of online auctions. Bursaries of $4,000 for each of 5 students

Recognition of dedicated volunteers an important key to success!

Ladysmith Healthcare Auxiliary

Over 250 energetic volunteers, media savvy, with good management, enabled a very successful donation year. Improving governance and best practise policies.

Auxiliary to the Cowichan District Hospital

A year of challenges overcome! Teamwork in spades - raising over $81,000 for the Cowichan District Hospital.

Auxiliary Society for Comox Valley Healthcare

In honour of their 110th anniversary, gave away $110,000 to 11 selected non-profit healthcare related organizations! Donation for new hospital equipment over $300,000.

Campbell River Hospital Society

New Social Media presence, as well as a recent partnership with No. 3097 Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary. Supporting Long Term placement residents with expanded 'Healthy Music Programme'.

Gold River Health Care Auxiliary

Supporting local Health Clinic and Ambulance Station. Donated substantial funds to North Island 'Home Away from Home' facility in Campbell River.

Chemainus Healthcare Auxiliary

Set a record year for donations in 2023 - $371,000. Celebrating 125th anniversary this year. Not forgetting infrastructure with new roof and freight elevator.

Gabriola Auxiliary for Island Health Care Society

Organizes volunteer drivers for 'Meals on Wheels' as well as 'Drivers to Doctors'. Distributed over $28,000 to local healthcare organizations. Love their seasonal ice cream cart idea!

Tahsis Hospital Auxiliary

One of their most recent donations provided 'Nurse on a Stick' for their important EMT crew.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALBERNIE

THE ATTIC version of *The Night Before Christmas*

T'was the month before Christmas
When people from town
Were happy and smiling, with nary a frown

The Attic was hopping
As people were shopping, shopping, shopping.

The ladies were working as fast as they could,
With hopes that their customers understood.

The donations were coming in, way too fast
And time just seemed to be flying past.
From clothing, shoes, jewellery and dishes.
Curtains, bedding, toys and fishes.
Book, puzzles, decorations and trees.

The ladies hollered "Slow down please".
Now Judy, Jenny, Ursula and SHARON
Donna, Sandra, June and Karen,
Were dressed in their aprons and gave a big huff.
As they were all covered in glitter and fluff.

The staplers were clicking.
And the stickers were sticking.
The pens were pricing, but never too high.
"Price it low, so it will go"
They remembered with a sigh.

When out in the store, there arose such a clatter.
Not 1, but 2 plates had shattered.
The ladies were quicker than you think
And had it all cleaned up before you could blink.

The aisles were clogged with Christmas cheer
As the December "Bag Sale" was finally here.
The baskets and carts were full to the brim,
As the shoppers found many treasures within.

We often had to stop and pause,
Knowing that it's all going to a very good cause.

As the end of the day draws near,
We have nothing to fear.
All of our hard work deserves a big cheer.

As the customer leaves
It's not too hard to believe,
What a wonderful community it is for you and for me.

From SHARON, Ursula, Jenny and I
We wish you all a very Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year.

By Alison Daniels.
Albernie Healthcare Auxiliary



Image created by AI!!

Our BCAHA History #6

Lower Mainland Part III

St. Vincent's Hospital Guild

The informal, friendly organization was formed in 1959. Their purpose was to build a bond between patients and volunteers to make the sick welcome in their 'home away from home'.

Several working groups were established, as earned funds and donations went a long way towards making the hospital well-equipped.



The Ladies Auxiliary to Surrey Memorial Hospital

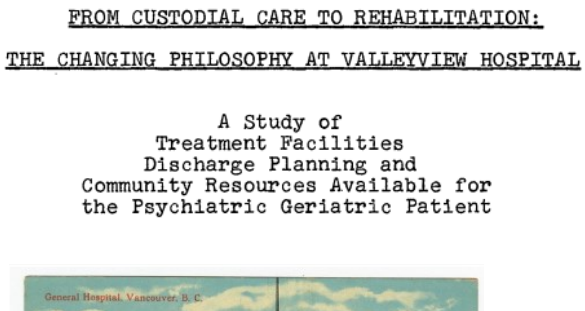
This auxiliary was formed in 1947, however multiple bureaucratic delays prevented hospital construction and opening until 1958. To assist with the immense task of fundraising, the Auxiliary opened a Thrift Shop in 1959 and a large hospital Gift Shop in 1970.



Valleyview Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary

The original group of volunteers organized themselves as an official auxiliary in 1973-1974.

They provided care and comfort, serving the elderly patients by enhancing their quality of life.



FROM CUSTODIAL CARE TO REHABILITATION:

THE CHANGING PHILOSOPHY AT VALLEYVIEW HOSPITAL

A Study of
Treatment Facilities
Discharge Planning and
Community Resources Available for
the Psychiatric Geriatric Patient

The Auxiliary to Vancouver General Hospital

A horse-drawn ambulance was one of the first goals of the small committee of women formed in 1889. Following construction of the new hospital (1906) the Auxiliary was instrumental in supporting innovative care needs for the growing community – beds for the destitute, Social Work services, maintaining a Military Annex and establishing a camp for sick mothers in Crescent Beach. Trail blazers indeed!



TESTIMONIALS

Part of our mandate is to provide "Education, Resources and Support" for our members ! Here is what some had to say about our effort to do this.

Another fabulous newsletter! It is so nice to read/see what our provincial Auxiliaries are up to.

Thank you,

Judi Cozzetto

September 2024

Nicola Valley
Healthcare Auxiliary

Thank you so much Carol. Appreciate the advice.

Ellen

Re: Mission Statement
Hi Carole,

Thank you very much that is very helpful

Shannon

Re:
Dec. 1/23 - Nov. 30/24 is a calendar year.

Carole: Thanks for getting back to me. You're right, it'll all work out in the end.

Lindsey



Carole,

Thank you for your advice on 'duty of accommodation' for disabled volunteers!

Auxiliary to UHNBC

WHAT FABULOUS THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN YOUR AUXILIARY?



If you would like to have anything published in the BCAHA newsletter, please send to the newsletter editor, Sharon Egglestone at:

bcahanewsletter@gmail.com. The newsletter is published four times a year! April, June September and December!

If you would like to have anything published on BCAHA Facebook page or Instagram please send to Cheryl Fry at:

commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com

We love to hear from our Auxiliaries, and we love to BRAG about what you do in your communities. If you publish your own newsletter, we'd love to have a copy so we can share your successes with other auxiliaries. Please include us in your newsletter email list (**bcahanewsletter@gmail.com**) so we get a copy.

If you don't already receive our newsletter and would like to, please go to bchealthcareaux.org and go to the news section and click on 'newsletter'. You will be able to request to sign up by putting your information in, or you can send an email to

commdirector.bcaha@gmail.com and I will sign you up.

Thank You so much, " We LOVE to hear what you are up to"!

Cheryl – Communications Director



WE MAKE A
LIVING BY WHAT
WE GET
WE MAKE A LIFE
BY WHAT WE GIVE
Winston Churchill

THE BCAHA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
WISH ALL OF OUR AUXILIARIES
A HAPPY AND JOYOUS
HOLIDAY SEASON.