Lattea Named Employee of the Year; Dr. Snead Given Recognition Award

With tears in his eyes, Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s Jimmy Lattea accepted the honor as 2005 Employee of the Year. He was chosen from among the twelve SJMH Employee of the Month nominees. This was the second time Jimmy was chosen for Employee of the Year, having been selected in 1997 also.

Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker made the announcement during the 21st Annual Awards Dinner held at Mount Vernon Dining Hall at WVU Jackson’s Mill, on Sat., Feb. 18. Several hundred SJMH employees, family, and friends were present for the event. During her comments, Stalnaker noted that Lattea was friendly, dependable and always willing to help others. She also described him as “one of the dedicated employees.”

Lattea works in the Maintenance Department at SJMH as well as for Stonewall Home Oxygen Therapy at Garton Plaza. Stalnaker also said that Jimmy is devoted to his family. He has coached Little League Girls’ Softball and a softball team at SJMH. Lattea’s wife was present at the dinner.

During the evening, Dr. Joseph Snead was also honored as the 2005 Special Recognition recipient for the Hospital. Administrator David D. Shaffer spoke about the orthopedic surgeon and his 22 years of service for the Hospital.

Dr. Snead graduated from Duke University with a degree in chemistry. He graduated from Duke’s medical school in 1966 and began an internship at Tulane University School of Medicine. He served for two years of active duty in Vietnam and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He practiced medicine in Americus, Georgia, for ten years before moving to Weston in 1984.

His wife, Charlotte, is his college sweetheart. The couple has five children, Elizabeth, Candace, Thomas, David, and Stephen. Elizabeth and David were at the dinner. They also have two grandchildren, with another one on the way. Dr. Snead is an avid train buff. He enjoys golfing, gardening and skiing in the winter at Snowshoe. He and his family attend Faith Christian Fellowship Church in Stonewood, where he teaches Sunday school.

Shaffer concluded, “He (Dr. Snead) is a devoted family man who has given much more to his community and country than he will ever receive and I suspect that’s the way he wants it. He has only the Almighty as his master and we all consider him a dear and beloved friend.”
SJMH's Lab and Blood Gas Lab Pass JCAHO

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) conducted a surprise survey at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) on Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2006. The Hospital’s Laboratory, directed by Pam Thompson, and the Hospital’s Blood Gas Lab, directed by Respiratory Care’s Diane Ocheltree, were surveyed.

After the two-day survey, both departments were awarded continued accreditation.

In a memo to the departments, Administrator David D. Shaffer said, “In behalf of the Board, Medical Staff and all of your fellow co-workers at SJMH, I wish to thank you for your hard work and dedication in assuring our Jayco Accreditation. You have every reason to be proud of your endeavor.”

Diane Ocheltree, Respiratory Dept. head, said that her department was involved in this survey because the department has the Blood Gas Lab. In procedures conducted there, the patient’s oxygen and carbon dioxide levels are checked.

“It is significant that we were approved by JCAHO. This reconfirms that we provide excellent care for our patients,” said Ocheltree.

“The accreditation process helps promote continuous, systematic and organization-wide improvement in healthcare organizations,” says Joanne Born, executive director, Laboratory Accreditation Program, Joint Commission.

Members of the Respiratory Care Department were pleased to be reaccredited with the recent survey. Pictured above, left to right, are Veronica Crites, Department Head Diane Ocheltree, and Sandy McCartney.

Jimmy Lattea Employee of the Year

During the evening, service pins were awarded for number of years of service to the Hospital. Those honored included: five years of service – Barb Arble, Betty Brown, Melody Butler, Linda Bush, Sharon Cuppett, Mary Ann Forinash, Katrina Frederick, Frances Hagmann, Cynthia Harbert, Melissa Lattea, Debra Lipscomb, Sheila Lunsford, Sandra McCartney, Traci McGill, Tammy Mick, Kim Rifflé, Barb Ruble, Janet Scheuvront, Mary Anne Singleton, Sheila Spears, Donna Snyder, John Weber; ten-year pin recipients – Kim Ables, Margaret Blake, Barb Caffrey, Lisa Cogar, Julie Crowl, Matt DeGarmo, Joe Eisenbeis, Kristi Gannon, Earmie Greenlief, Mary Ann Hall, Ann Lamb, Paula Layman, Vanessa Lloyd, Michael Moody, Connie Rifflé, Judy Riley, Charlene Want; fifteen years of service – Beatrice Brown, Lee Ann Coffield, Mary Donaldson, Terri Hall, Susan Kraus, Jean Mick; twenty years – Susie Lohr; twenty-five years – Don Ables, Nat Auvil, Ellie Heath, Richard Moneypenny, Beverly Salisbury, Brenda Stewart, Gae Skinner, Edith Wendell; thirty years of service – Carol McCray, Robert Ogden, and David D. Shaffer.

The twelve Employees of the Month were also honored as follows: Samantha Bowen – January, Michael Moody – February, Vanessa Lloyd – March, Charlotte Workman – April, Debbie Gum – May, Jimmy Lattea – June, Dan Walker – July, Stella Ocheltree – August, Debbie Heater – September, Mary Donaldson – October, Linda Corley – November, and Dorothy Posey – December.

The dinner was followed by a dance at the West Virginia Building with music by The Rock Hounds.
Mary Ellen Bragg Named SJMH Chief Nursing Officer

Longtime Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital nurse Mary Ellen Gissy Bragg has been named SJMH’s Chief Nursing Officer. She is stepping into the position recently held by Tim Harclerode. Harclerode took a position in Bluefield, WV.

Mary Ellen began work at SJMH in 1976, shortly after receiving her nursing degree from Salem College.

Mary Ellen is very knowledgeable about all nursing departments at SJMH. She worked on SJMH’s Med/Surg Unit; spent seventeen years in the Emergency Department; for two years was a pediatric clinician; spent ten years as day shift supervisor; and most recently held the title of assistant nursing officer.

She is held in esteem by her peers at the Hospital and was honored by SJMH staff once when she was named Employee of the Year.

Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker was complimentary of the new CNO.

“The great thing about Mary Ellen is that when there are problems, she doesn’t let them rattle her. If a patient, staff, or physician has a concern, Mary Ellen can always find a solution. Plus, she is a whole lot of fun to work with,” commented Stalnaker.

Mary Ellen has been married to Frank Bragg for the past 27 years and the couple has twin sons. Aaron is currently receiving training from Allegheny Wireline for an engineer certification. Eric works at Pratt Whitney as an engine mechanic.

She is the daughter of the late Paul and Kathryn Gissy of Weston. She graduated from Saint Patrick High School.

Gum - Jones Wedding

Congratulations to Mandy Gum on her March 4 marriage to Jeremy Jones at Vandalia Church in Lewis County. Mandy works at Dr. Snead’s office and Jeremy is employed by Waco Oil and Gas Company. The couple will reside at Burnsville with Mandy’s daughter, Ashtin.

From The Executive Corner

By David D. Shaffer

Annual Awards Banquet

Some rambling thoughts and observations from our awards banquet:

- I have been here 30 years – one need only look at the picture of Carol McCray and myself to verify the tenure.....

- By the way, numerous people have confirmed the magnitude of my presence embellishing Carol’s picture – or do I have that backwards.....

- Jimmy Lattea almost made me cry when he began to cry.....

- Can you believe just how much Charlotte Snead’s daughter, Beth, looks like her.....

- Did a dance choreographer program Carol James or what?.....

- Could anyone be more deserving of a Special Recognition Award than Joe Snead.....

- The “Rock Hounds” were very good – just ask Lee Ann Coffield – someone tell her to dance on the floor, not the aisles.....

- Whoever taught Rusty how to dance was, in no way, related to Carol James’ tutor – oh, well, at least he didn’t sing - just joking Rusty – well, sort of.....

- Thanks to the Soc/Rec Committee for all the hard work they do to make the event a success..... See you next year!
Go,
Avah,
Go!!!

Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker got her shot at stardom at the WVU/Cincinnati basketball game on Sat., Feb. 4, at the WVU Coliseum. Kroger’s Food Store selects one person out of the crowd for a special game and Avah was the star that day. The contestant tries to throw a basketball into four carts to win groceries. Avah made the ball into all four carts and won $100 worth of groceries. Now we know where her grandchildren get their athletic ability.

Irvin Buys Video Business
Letha Irvin is very, very proud of all of her children and their continual achievements. Recently, her son, Rodney Irvin, Jr., bought Mountain State Video Imaging in Buckhannon. The company provides website and logo design; television commercial production; DVD, CD, and VHS duplication; VHS to DVD transfer; and computer repair.

Notes of Thanks
To SJMH,
A special thanks for all your hard work and effort you extended to our Mom on the night of 1-9-06. We truly appreciate it.
The family of Teresa Moran

To the Dietary Dept. and Cooks
The lunch of sloppy Joes and cream of celery soup was very good. The Wed. dinner was good, too. The meat loaf had very good flavor and was tender. The potatoes with parsley were also good. Thanks for the hard work. Thank you all for feeding us good-flavored “hospital” food. Have a good day.

a Happy Patient

Tim,
...Be proud of your nursing staff, ER staff, all the doctors, Dr. Gregory and all the nurses. I wish I knew all your names and Marcia and all other staff. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for handling our son and daughter so tenderly and managing all the invasion...

Love,
Dave, Sue, Coty, Josie Landacre and Jacob, too!

ATLS Certified
Dr. Salvatore LaNasa was ATLS (Advance Trauma Life Support) certified in January. He was tested at Morgantown. The test was given by Dr. Larry Roberts, who was involved with the recuperation of Randall McCloy, the lone Sago mine survivor. SJMH’s Dr. Jennifer Shreves was one of the instructors. This certification is necessary for SJMH to fulfill trauma designation requirements.

Our Sincere Condolences to these members of our SJMH family on their losses:
Sandy Coffman on the loss of her father-in-law;
Mindy Randall on the loss of her children;
Debbie Randall on the loss of her grandchildren;
Libby Brown on the loss of her mother;
Dan Walker on the loss of his grandmother;
Sheila Spears on the loss of her stepfather.

UPCOMING SOC/REC EVENTS
March 16 - Skating Party at Skateworld in Bridgeport
April 30 - Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball game at Pittsburgh. Call Marketing to reserve a seat. Deadline is March 30
May 7-13 - Hospital Week activities
June - Covered-dish cookout
July 14 - Pool party at Lewis County Park, includes putt-putt golf, swimming, volleyball, horseshoes, and picnic.

Maintenance’s Chuck Simpson, pictured above, continued the tradition of giving flowers to all the SJMH employees on Valentine’s Day.
KUDOS TO:

▲▲ The Theresa Snaith Auxiliary for their wonderful donations to the Hospital and our Employees. Plus, the Floating Punch Bowl on Valentine’s Day was fun!

▲▲ All the student nurses for the many nice things done for our patients and staff.

▲▲ Pam Thompson for her work on the JCAHO survey (from your staff).

▲▲ Soc/Rec Committee for the nice Awards Dinner and Dance.

▲▲ Diane Ocheltree for her work on the

One hundred skiers trekked to Canaan Valley on Sun., Jan. 29, for the annual ski trip. Conditions were much warmer than last year when frost-bite conditions existed at the Resort. The day was beautiful and sunny, but there was a cold wind blowing across the mountain. In addition, there had been several days of warming during the previous week, so on the cold morning, the ski slopes were quite icy.

Vickie Wiseman with husband, Bub, son, Luke, and nephew, Gerad, had a great time on the ski trip.

Brigetta Fisher and friends posed nicely for the photographer. The happy group is, left to right - Wendy Craig, Brett Miller, Brigetta, and D.J.

Mindy Hall and her son, Dalton, were cold but happy during the ski trip.

Donna Mills and her daughter, Tiffany, loved the outing. Donna didn’t ski but enjoyed cocoa by the fire in the lodge.
Service Pin Recipients

30-year service pin recipients, left to right, are: David D. Shaffer and Carol McCray.

AT RIGHT - 15-year service pin recipient Lee Ann Cofield.

AT RIGHT - 10-year service pin recipients, seated, left to right, are: Judy Riley, Matt DeGarmo, Kristi Gannon; standing, left to right, are: Charlene Wiant, Lisa Cogar, Kim Ables, Vanessa Lloyd.

5-year service pin recipients pictured above, left to right, are: seated, Missy Lattea, Sheila Spears, Sheila Lunsford; standing, left to right, are: Barb Arble, Sharon Cuppett, Fran Hagmann, Betty Brown, John Weber, Donna Snyder, Mary Ann Forinash.

AT LEFT-25-year service pin recipients - seated, left to right, are: Richard Moneypenny, Brenda Stewart, Ellie Heath; standing, left to right, are: Beverly Salisbury, Gae Skinner, and Don Ables.
**Snyder Picked for January**

Donna Snyder, of Radiology, has been selected as Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s employee of the month for January 2006. She began employment at SJMH in November 2000.

Donna graduated from Lewis County High School in 1984. She received her training as a radiologic technologist from United Hospital Center in 1986. She is registered in radiology and mammography.

Donna’s original nomination came from a patient’s family member. The nominator wrote:

“Donna exhibited extraordinary professional and personal skills in performing a CT scan on my son. She explained in detail every aspect of the procedure. This helped ease his stress level and comforted him during the test. She is remarkable.”

Donna is also described by her co-workers as a “very dedicated employee.”

Donna enjoys her work at SJMH, and said, “I love it here. I enjoy all of the people I work with. It is all good.”

She is married to John, who is an animal control officer in Harrison County. Her daughter, Samantha, is a junior at LCHS. Her parents are Irene Paugh and the late Argil Paugh of Lewis County.

In her spare time, she enjoys being with her family and crafting. She said, “I am just a homebody...not a traveler.”

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**Singleton Chosen for Feb.**

Stephanie Singleton, of Med/Surg, has been selected as Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital’s employee of the month for February 2006. She began employment at SJMH in February 2005.

Stephanie is a graduate of Braxton County High School. She attended Fairmont State College and Glenville State College. She received her LPN training at the Fred Eberle Technical School in Buckhannon, and graduated in December 2004 from there. She is presently working on her nursing degree.

Stephanie is the daughter of Kevin and Betty Singleton of Gassaway. She has one brother, Michael. Her boyfriend of seven years is Jason Jackson.

Several of Stephanie’s co-workers signed her nomination, which read, “Stephanie is a hard-working, kind, and outgoing person. No matter how far behind she is with her work, she always finds time to help patients, nurse aides, other nurses and patient families. When a patient or their family needs something or has a question, she drops what she is doing at that second and goes to them to see how she can help. She always has a smile on her face and never a complaint comes from her mouth. She truly deserves employee of the month.”

Stephanie was extremely complimentary of her co-workers at SJMH and said, “It is a great job and I get along with everyone. They are all very helpful and answer all of my questions. As a new LPN, I have lots of questions, too.”

In her spare time, Stephanie enjoys the outdoors. She has a favorite pet, her Doberman pinscher, Boomer. She also says that she enjoys spending time with the other family pets.

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Pictured at left, Regina Taylor is presented a check by Julia Spelsberg on behalf of the Hospital. Regina was one of 226 SJMH employees who filled out a wellness survey provided by the American Cancer Society. A $100 prize was the incentive to encourage employee participation and Regina won!

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The Lewis County Relay for Life will be held on Fri., June 2. Organizers are looking for more Teams and Captains. If you are interested, call Julia at 8167.
Billie Harris Retires

Postage stamps cost four cents and John F. Kennedy was still president when Billie Harris walked through the doors of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital on Main Avenue in Weston as a new employee. It was November 1, 1963, and Billie began work as a nurse aide that day.

“I didn’t have school training as an aide,” said Billie. “There was a retired Army nurse by the name of Rosalia Shearer there at the time. Between her and Madge Lockard, I was taught everything I needed to know as an aide.”

Healthcare was slightly different than it is today, too. Billie said that there were times when the nurses might get tied up with a problem in the Emergency Department, so the aide would be responsible for running the floor. At that time, the med/surg and ob units were on the second floor of the hospital. The first floor included a medical unit, as well as x-ray and emergency room.

When Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital moved to the new facility in 1972, Billie made the move, also, and she took over Central Supply.

“In Central Supply I was responsible for sterilizing equipment. It was also part of my job to check the floors and take supplies to them. I even helped out in surgery on occasion,” recounted Billie.

Young people may not realize, but in 1972, just about everything in the hospital had to be sterilized. The idea of disposable equipment was unheard of. That meant bedpans, needles, syringes, and towels—everything—had to be sterilized. Billie also had to cover the storeroom on occasion and do the ordering. When she moved to the storeroom, the administrator at the time, Emil Baldwin, wanted Billie to become an LPN. So she took classes at the old State Hospital from Teresa Messenger.

In 2000, she was promoted to distribution coordinator in Materials Management.

After 43 years at SJMH, Billie decided that Friday, February 3, would be a good day to retire and take it easy.

“I plan to do whatever I want to do whatever that may be,” said Billie. “It could be fishing, traveling to Texas, or just sitting on my behind reading a book. My husband has been retired for four years from the state hospital and now we can spend time together.”

Family, friends, and co-workers of Billie attended a retirement reception on her last day in the Boardroom at the Hospital. Several other retirees attended the event, including Marjorie Ruppert and Patty Heath. Billie received several retirement gifts, including a jewelry box from Materials Management and a gold necklace from the Hospital.

Billie was born in Gilmer County. When her mother died in 1950, Billie was only in first or second grade. Her grandparents took Billie and her sister to live with them in Lewis County.

“We grew up on a farm out in God’s country, Cove Lick. I graduated from Lewis County High School. My class was the first class in that building. My son Eric was the last class to graduate from there,” she said.

In retrospect, Billie says that her time was enjoyable at SJMH.

“I had a variety of things to do in that 43 years at the Hospital. Most of the time it was enjoyable and I liked working. There are a lot of nice people here and I made some good friends. I will always treasure these years,” she concluded.

Billie has two sons, Tom and Eric. She and her husband, Tom, live in Weston.
From Human Resources

SJMH is implementing Direct Deposit as a payroll benefit. Employees can eliminate the need to deposit their check each pay day. Employees can choose up to two accounts and/or banking institutions for dispersal of the paycheck. Many banks offer free checking if one elects direct deposit with your employer. Enrollment was held the week of March 13 and kicked off with informational meetings held throughout the afternoon on Monday, March 13, to introduce the benefit and enrollment process. Huntington Banks offered some exciting benefits with their Huntington At Work program. Employees may choose any bank or credit union.

The Hospital-sponsored Pension and Tax Deferred Annuity Programs will be converted from a Nationwide Product to using one through American Funds that allows 60% American Funds and a 40% blend of other funds. This conversion will take place March 31, 2006. There were informational inservices Wed., March 15, and Thurs., March 16, throughout each day to educate employees on this process and allow updates to beneficiary forms for the plans. We apologize, but a fourteen-day period will occur, April 1 through April 14, when you will not be able to access your account. This is the period of time in which the conversion of individual accounts will take place.

Scholarships Available

If you know of a high school senior in Lewis or Gilmer County who plans on pursuing a career in healthcare, remind him/her of the William Adler Healthcare Scholarship offered by SJMH. Both Lewis County and Gilmer County high schools have applications available. Deadline is April 1.

Aimee Green, of the Human Resources Dept., would also like students to be aware of the scholarship offered by WV Healthcare Human Resources Association. For more information, see her. Deadline is April 8, 2006.

New employees attending orientation on Feb. 20, 2006, were, left to right: Melissa Alfred - Med/Surg; Becky Warder - Med/Surg; Kimberly Kelly - Sleep Lab.

NOTICE - We are again collecting old cell phones to be used by clients of H.O.P.E., Inc. The phones are programmed to dial 911 when a battered person is in danger. The collection basket will be at the front desk.

New employees attending orientation on Feb. 6, 2006, were, left to right, seated: Tina Jordan - Dietary; and Kay Parker - Med/Surg. Standing, left to right, are: Josh Brewer and Donna Dilsworth - Med/Surg.

Monday, Tuesday, TWINSDAY!!!

That is the special day that Rick Simpson (on left) and Rusty Simpson decided to dress alike from top to bottom, though Rusty does have a little more gray in his goatee. The brothers said they didn’t plan it that way... it just happened.
We almost didn’t use this picture, but her co-workers thought we should. She was a dance machine the night of the Awards Dinner. We won’t name names, but suffice to say that she wasn’t imbibing - she was just full of fun.

Girls from Housekeeping, Vonda Straley, Dorothy Posey, Debbie Sholes, along with Debbie’s husband, Mike, were pleased with the music.

Jennifer Barnes and Cheryl Davis enjoyed the music. Cheryl and her husband, Doran, could really “cut a rug.”

Dusty and Kristi Hall made a cute couple.

Ellie Heath and Brandi Burkhammer had a good time.
PYXIS

Small amounts of the Pyxis equipment have begun to arrive. The main console in the pharmacy department and a test station are already here and set up. More medstations will be arriving over the coming months and will allow for staff to be trained as needed prior to full implementation of Pyxis. If you already have experience with Pyxis, please let pharmacy or a nurse manager know. Experience counts for a lot, and you may be able to help other staff along during this implementation process.

NEW THERAPEUTIC SUBSTITUTION

Xopenex has been added to our list of approved therapeutic substitutions. Please keep this in mind as you see orders for this medication. As always, physicians may still order the medication as written, but must designate their preference by writing “Do Not Substitute” or a similar order. If you have any questions about the medications in question or would like a copy of the entire substitution list please contact the Pharmacy department.

REMINDERS

Please remember to enter height and weight on a new admission as soon as possible so pharmacy can enter the orders and fill the medications in a timely fashion.

When using stock after hours, please remember to fill out the after hours communication form as completely as possible. It helps us replace your stock to the units and allows us to see which medications are used more often after pharmacy leaves.

When a crash cart or paralytic box is used, be sure to replace it as soon as you can. If pharmacy is here (7am-7pm), give us a call and we’ll replace it ourselves. If it is after our regular hours, a replacement may be picked up in the night locker in the 1st floor med room.
Blood Screening

The Weston Rotary Club, in cooperation with Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, will have the annual blood screenings on two consecutive Saturdays, May 13 and 20, from 7 to 10 a.m. It is not necessary to register in advance.

Free Women’s Health Screening

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital will be working with the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program to provide a Free Women’s Health Screening on Fri., May 12, and Fri., May 19, at the office of Dr. Tony Naim/Dr. Cormier. Participants will have to register to be seen. Registration will begin in April.

Security Doors in Place

Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital is changing the visiting policy at the facility to provide better security for patients and staff. The Hospital has installed security doors in the hallway adjacent to the SJMH emergency room. After visiting hours, these doors will prohibit the entrance of anyone into the main Hospital who has not been approved by SJMH’s staff. The Emergency Room is open 24 hours a day and is not affected by the new system.

The doors throughout the Hospital (except for the ER) will be locked at 8:30 p.m. Visiting hours at the hospital end at 8 p.m. each evening. To gain entrance after hours, visitors will receive a visitor’s pass from the Registration Department, located by the Emergency Room. The pass must be visible at all times the individual is in the Hospital. With the pass, visitors can then access the appropriate area and will be asked to remain in that area until leaving.

Address Correction Requested