The Board of Directors at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) has appointed Avah Stalnaker, MHA, of Weston, as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Weston facility. She has served as Associate Administrator since 1990 for the 70-bed hospital. She replaces David D. Shaffer, who retired in December 2011.

As the new administrator, Stalnaker’s goals revolve around maintaining the financial strength of the Hospital. That effort includes the recruiting of physicians; improving the appearance of the Rt. 33 facility; and continuing to give quality care and great customer service to patients.

“Our goal is to build a new hospital in the near future and all of these goals are integral to our financial soundness,” she explained.

She noted that the economic benefit SJMH provides for the area is substantial.

“Stonewall is one of the larger employers in the county with 520 people. Our payroll is approximately $20,000,000 annually. We delivered 330 babies in 2011. More than 15,000 patients used our ED last year. Those kinds of statistics are a testament to the economic engine that we are for the area,” she added.

Stalnaker is very familiar with all aspects of SJMH since she began work as a nurse’s aide in May 1972. While working part-time, she was also studying nursing at West Virginia Wesleyan College. She graduated with her WVWC nursing degree in 1977. Her first full-time nursing position was as a staff nurse on the first floor of the Hospital. In 1985, she began pursuing a graduate degree and obtained a Master in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota in 1991.

Before stepping into the Associate Administrator position, Stalnaker accrued a wealth of experience in many aspects of healthcare. Some of those positions included: clinical instructor for nursing students at Salem College; staff nurse in the SJMH medical, surgical, emergency, and obstetrics units; supervisor of medical and intensive care units; nursing supervisor and IV therapist supervisor; assistant director of nursing and acting director of nursing.

During her 21 years as Associate Administrator, she added to her resume with responsibilities that included the recruitment of physicians for SJMH. An indication of her abilities is that she was able to recruit at least 30 new physicians during her tenure as Associate Administrator – an important factor in the Hospital’s success. She was responsible for the management of physician offices. Six clinical departments and five ancillary departments reported to her.

One of those new physicians is orthopedic surgeon Doyle R. Sickles, M.D.

“Avah has been very helpful and receptive to my employment here,” he said. “If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t be here. She listens and is very kind.”

Stalnaker has managed three major Hospital renovations and two smaller projects at SJMH. In the fall of 2010, she spearheaded a remodeling project for areas of the 40-year-old building that included patient rooms, front lobby, Theresa Snaith Gift Shop, and administrative area.

She is a member of the marketing, ethics, finance, medical executive, Joint Commission, HIPAA, and corporate compliance committees.

During her career, Stalnaker has exhibited the qualities of a good leader with her open-mindedness, dedication, assertiveness, integrity, humility, and sense of humor. With her leadership ability and vast knowledge of all aspects of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, she was the perfect choice for the SJMH Board of Directors.

Jean Bennett, who has been a board member for at least 20 years, had good things to say about Avah.

“Avah is an exceptional leader. She has been the Associate Administrator for many years,” explained Bennett. “She was certainly the right choice to take over the reins because she knows it all.”

Stalnaker has been a very active member of the Lewis County community. She coordinated the annual Weston Rotary Club...
Gallien Named to Board

Gallien, Jane Lew and enjoy raising

dairy goats and caring for their
many pets.
"Dave was very appreciative
of the honor and noted, "It is
truly an honor to have been
selected to serve as a Board
member of Stonewall Jack-
son Memorial Hospital, West
Virginia's best rural Hospital."

Gallien is the administrator of
Crestview Manor Nursing
and Rehabilitation in Jane
Lew. He is an active member
of the Jane Lew Lions Club,
which he also serves as trea-
surer. Gallien is on the Region
VII Aging Service Board of
Directors. He is the WVHCA
Service Corporation president
and an AARP Foundation Tax-
Aide Volunteer. He received
his Bachelor of Science in
Economics from West Vir-
ginia University and a Master
in Business Administration
from West Virginia Wesleyan
College.

John Wyllie, M.D., Named to Board

John Wyllie, M.D., to the Hospi-
tal Board of Directors recently. Dr. Wyllie is a board-certified Ot-
olaryngologist who began
his practice at Weston Ear,
Nose and Throat and Audi-
ology in May 2008.

John Wyllie, M.D., Named to Board

A positive attitude helps us
to cope more easily with the
daily affairs of life.

Avah Stalnaker

blood screening for years. She
has served as a member and
officer of the Lewis County
Chamber of Commerce and
was named Chamber Mem-
ber of the Year in 1993. She
was a Lewis County United
Way board member and also
chairwoman of the campaign
in 1994-1995. She has also
served on the Lewis County
Economic Development Au-
thority.

She is married to Jerry A.
Stalnaker and the couple lives
in Weston.

They have three children,
Lisa Debar, of Weston, and
Duane Stalnaker and Dee
Ann Reichner, both of the
Atlanta area. The couple’s
grandchildren are: Kyle Hay-
hurst, Kayla Hayhurst, Rickie
Hayhurst, and Ryan Reichner.

Stalnaker is pleased with
the role SJMH has played
in the healthcare of the local
population.

"By having a busy hospital
in a rural area of West Vir-
ginia, we are providing our
local residents with a source of
healthcare that they might not
have because of our location,"
said Stalnaker. "That alone
makes me very proud of the
job we do here."

Stalnaker is Chief Operating Officer

Kevin Stalnaker, C.P.A.,
accepted the position of
Chief Operating Officer at
Stonewall Jackson Memorial
Hospital effective June 11,
2012.

Kevin’s varied and
impressive background
includes 15 years of business
experience in financial and
operational capacities. Most
recently, Kevin was Deputy
Commissioner for the Bureau
of Behavioral Health and
Health Facilities. Prior
to this, he was the Acting
Deputy Commissioner. From
2007-2010, Kevin served as
the Chief Executive Officer
of the William R. Sharpe, Jr.
Hospital, where he was also
the Chief Financial Officer

From 1999-2006, Kevin
worked for Davis Health
System at Broaddus Hospital
as Chief Financial Officer,
Davis Health System Director
of Financial Projects,
United Physicians Care
Chief Financial Officer, and
Controller.

After completing a
Bachelor of Science in
Business Administration from
West Virginia University in
Morgantown, and becoming
a certified public accountant,
he taught at West Virginia
Business College and worked
with the accounting firm of
Meredith, Quinn & Stenger,
A.C.

Kevin is a Weston native.
He is married to Christy and
has three children, Grace, age
14, Noah, 9, and Zachary, 7.
Coffman Named 2011 Employee of the Year

More than 300 employees, family, and friends gathered at Stonewall Resort for the 27th Annual Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital Awards Dinner on Feb. 18. Sandy Coffman, RN, was named the SJMH Employee of the Year for 2011. Other SJMH staff received pins for years of service. The annual event is coordinated by the SJMH Social/Recreation Committee and Hospital Administration.

Before the meal, SJMH Administrator Avah Stalnaker welcomed guests to the event and introduced board members, retirees, and physicians who were present. Board member Gerald Wood provided the invocation.

The highlight of the evening was the naming of Coffman as the SJMH Employee of the Year. Stalnaker noted that the honoree was chosen from among the 12 Employees of the Month for 2011 by a vote of SJMH employees.

Stalnaker noted that in talking to the winner’s co-workers, they said that Sandy was a joy to work with; she had solid skills; she could do many things at one time; and she had great rapport with her patients. Most importantly, she is able to remain calm in stressful situations and has the perfect temperament for her job.

Sandy is a lifelong resident of Upshur County and lives at French Creek with David Coffman. They have two sons – Jeff, a dentist, and Mike, an Upshur County magistrate. She is the proud grandmother of four – Cori, Claire, Evan, and Sarah.

Sandy graduated from the Fred Eberle Technical School as an LPN in 1997. She received her registered nursing degree from Davis and Elkins College in 2002. She works on SJMH’s Medical/Surgical Unit.


A video produced by Lewis County High School and directed by SJMH employees Sarah Casey and Kristi Gannon was played at the beginning of the dinner. After the guests finished dinner, employees were awarded service pins.


Ten-year pin winners included: Kate Anderson, Peggy Burkhammer, Candace Donaldson, Chris Dunn, Carla Hamner, Angela Hinter, Tiffany Lowther, Dr. Khalid Mahmoud, Debra Pratt, Linda Rhoades, Marsha Snyder, Tammy Varner, and Linda Zickefoose.

Fifteen-year pin winners were Mark Casto, Brenda Gum, Jimmy Lattea, Sue Peters, Jennifer Shreves, Bob Thomas, and Julie Turner.

For employees reaching the milestone of 20 years or more at the Hospital, their department heads spoke about those who were present.

Twenty-year pin winners were Mary Ann Heaster Williams, Sherry Peters, Mary Welch, Linda Weaver, and Charlotte Workman.

Pharmacy Director John Pope said that Mary Ann Heaster Williams is an integral and informed part of the pharmacy.

As a new director, Pope said that he has learned invaluable information from Mary Ann. She is an avid motorcyclist and is very proud of her daughter.

Medical Records Director Kay Butcher complimented Sherry Peters and said, “She has an excellent rapport with her co-workers and the physicians. Her hard work, dedication, and pleasant attitude are great assets to our office.”

Materi-als Department head George Seyfert and Ronda Brown, Housekeeping Supervisor, spoke of Mary Welch’s poetic skills and devotion to her job in the Laundry Department. Seyfert even created some rhymes of his own to honor Mary. Ronda read one of Mary’s poems about serving the SJMH patients, which was a hit with the Hospital attendees.

Chief Nursing Officer Carole Norton honored Surgery’s Linda Weaver with a recap of her career at SJMH, noting that Linda was a single working mother who was dedicated enough to obtain her nursing degree in 2000.

Employees honored for 25 years of service were Sue Clem, Chris Gum, Tom Law, and Regina Taylor.

Radiology’s Brenda Tonkin spoke of Chris’ dedication to SJMH. She also noted that Chris was one of the first radiology students at SJMH when there was still a radiology school here. Chris is very proud of her two children and, more importantly, her grandchildren.

Pharmacy’s John Pope explained the history and changes that pharmacist Tom Law has experienced in the Pharmacy over the past 25 years. Tom served as director of the department in 2004.

Chief Financial Officer Dodie Arbogast honored Registration Supervisor Regina Taylor. As well as being a wonderful employee, Arbogast noted that Regina has a large extended family to which she devotes much time and attention.

“She tireless efforts to make Registration a great department by helping the employees and the patients makes Regina a great asset to our hospital,” noted Arbogast.

Two employees were honored for obtaining their 30 year pins - Rick Simpson and Rosalee Thayer.

Maintenance Director Chuck Chabanik noted that Rick was awarded Employee of the Month twice and also held the positions of kitchen tech, maintenance tech, director of environmental services, and engineering supervisor. Rick also reached his goal of becoming a WV State Master Electrician.

Dodie Arbogast explained that as an active member of the SJMH Social Rec Committee, Rosa organizes the Children’s Christmas party and works diligently to make the annual picnic a huge success for the employees and their families. Rosa is truly a giver of her time to help others.

Administrator Avah Stalnaker honored Jane Eisenbeis and Brenda Tonkin for 35 years of service to the Hospital. Both presentations were accompanied with pictures of Jane and Brenda throughout their lives.

Stalnaker explained that Jane was from Bridgeport and received her degree from Fairmont State in 1975. She met her husband, Joe, also a nurse, in Harlan, KY, and the couple moved back to this area in 1976. As an SJMH employee, Jane was entrusted with the job of creating several businesses and departments for the Hospital, including the Hospital’s Skilled Care Unit and Stonewall Jackson Home Care. Eventually, she also was entrusted with Stoneval
Awards Dinner

Brenda Tonkin was born in Shinnston and received her radiology education from the Union Protestant Hospital (Clarksburg) in 1971. She started at SJMH in 1976. Her staff had written a lovely sentiment to honor Brenda.

It noted, “Brenda is loved and respected by her department staff. She is like a mother who keeps us in line. Brenda is a very caring person who goes above and beyond what is required of a department head. …they want her to know that she is the best boss they could ever ask for.”

Stalnaker also noted that Brenda was a loyal, dedicated, and solid employee with a positive attitude and great work ethic. She is the proud mother of three sons, Anthony, Pete, and Jeb.

As part of the entertainment, SJMH employees participated in an Elimination Contest. First place but the last number drawn was Keith Chapman, who won $300. Dr. Sraj won a color TV; Tom Law a Kindle Fire; Tammy Moody, the Ipod Touch; Misty Queen, a digital camera; and Ben Riley a $25 Walmart gift card donated by Board member David Gallien. Winners of $25 during the dinner were Leslie Pickens, Tom Bragg, Brad Twigg, Bryanna Crislip, Sandy Smith, and Carla Wyant.

Rick Thomason won the “loser’s pot”, a “Bed and Breakfast” package donated by Stonewall Resort.

The winner of the $150 drawn from among SJMH employees who worked on Saturday and were unable to attend the banquet was Rosemary Stalnaker.
Five-year pin winners were: front row, left to right - Marion Bennett, Chrystal Skinner, and Carla Wyant; back row, left to right - Angela Arey, Steve Butcher, Brenda Marcum, Wanda Lewis, Jack Marcum, Jodi Linger, Tonya Stewart, and Charlotte Veith.

Ten-year pin winners were: (left to right) Debbie Pratt, Candy Donaldson, Chris Dunn, Linda Rhoades, Kate Anderson, Carla Hamner, and Tammy Varner.

Twenty-year pin winners were: (left to right) Mary Ann Heaster Williams, Sherry Peters, Linda Weaver, and Mary Welch.

Don’t Forget...

Kennywood Trip is Sat., Aug. 4.

Pirates Game is Sun., Aug. 26

Annual Golf Tourney is Tues., Oct. 16
Kim Flesher is Choice for November

Kim Flesher, of Lively Healthcare Center, was selected as the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) Employee of the Month for November 2011. She is married to Roger Flesher, a William Sharpe Hospital employee. The couple has one son, Jared. Her parents are the late Francis and Irene Fisher of Weston.

Kim worked for 26 years at Alkahn Label Company (Paxar) in Weston before it ceased local operation. Before the closure, Kim left the company and took training at Fairmont State University. She started work as a lab assistant at SJMH in June 2008. She moved to Lively Healthcare Center in January 2009 as a clinical assistant. Kim is a Lewis County High School graduate and a Weston native.

Kim’s nominators were very complimentary of her and wrote, “Kim exemplifies the SJMH mission of ‘patient first’. She is very skillful at her job and very compassionate with the patients. Her mature attitude helps her to be a ‘giver’.”

Her supervisor, Jeanie Hart, noted that as well as being loyal and dependable, Kim assists co-workers when needed and is pleasant, mature, and responsible.

In her spare time, Kim enjoys reading, camping, and cooking.

December’s Employee is Connie Riffle

Connie Riffle, of the housekeeping and cardiac rehabilitation departments, was selected as the Employee of the Month for December 2011. She began work here in March 1995.

Connie is a Lewis County native and graduate of Lewis County High School. She is married to John Riffle, who works in security at William R. Sharpe Hospital. She has three children: Jerrod Riffle, Josh Davisson, and Kassey Riffle. She also has two grandchildren, Nicholas Bennett, and Hunter Davisson. Her parents are the late Charles E. “Buss” Clem and Louella Clem. Her late father worked for years at the Weston Street Dept. and her mother served a term as a Weston City councilwoman.

Her nominator noted, “Connie is caring and always ready to help. Anytime you need something, she is there to lend a helping hand. She cleaned the business office, even when she did not have to. She performs several duties at the Hospital and has gone to school to better herself. She has been very helpful in cardiac rehab and is always ready to give quality patient care.”

Connie was complimentary of her SJMH co-workers. She also enjoys being involved in her community.

“I do enjoy working here with my friends throughout the Hospital. The SJMH staff does a great service for our city and the county,” she noted. “I also love working in the community. At Christmas, I will be working with the annual Christmas dinner. Another big project for me is trying to get a playground in this area. Community involvement is an important part of my life.”

Thanks

“…I have been taking care of my mom where she was burned and had a skin graft, and she lives in Weston, and we actually had a home health care nurse. Today was her last day. Her name is Edith Wendell. And, I don’t know if you get very many of these or not, but I just wanted to tell you what a wonderful, wonderful person she is…she is just very thorough, very personable, very caring…I was wrapping and unwrapping my mom’s hand every day and she was very encouraging with me with all of that … we hate that she’s not going to be coming back anymore, that there isn’t a need…but I just wanted you to know we could not have been more pleased if we had picked someone ourselves.”

“I was recently a patient on the 2nd floor and I wanted to say thank you for the wonderful care I received. A special thank you to a nursing aide named Brenda Smith. She was always doing her job with a smile and going the extra mile to make me feel comfortable. I would like to recommend her as the Employee of the Month. She is very compassionate and portrays the perfect attitude that makes a patient’s stay a positive experience. I was very impressed with all the care I received, but especially with Brenda’s willingness to do whatever needed to make her patient comfortable. Thank you!”
Lisa Murray, RN, was selected as Employee of the Month for January 2012. She has been employed at SJMH since May 2008.

Lisa is a Weston resident and graduated from Lewis County High School. She received her associate nursing degree from Davis College and her husband, Jimmy, have two children – Brett and Tyler. Her mother, Vicki Pasquale, lives in Morgantown, WV.

Lisa received a number of positive comments from her co-workers for her nomination.

One nominator wrote, “Lisa is an extremely hard worker and is willing to tackle anything. She is always pleasant to work with as well as a team player. She is a true asset to the Emergency Department.”

Another wrote, “Lisa is a hard worker and a great leader. She always is willing to help her co-workers regardless of the situation. Lisa is a great asset to the Emergency Department.”

Other nominators noted, “Lisa is great to work with. She is a go-getter. She gets her job done without complaining about anything. She is great for the ER.”

The last nominator noted, “Lisa is an excellent employee. She is a leader among her peers. She is a hard worker and pleasant. She goes the extra mile for her patients.”

Lisa truly enjoys her work. She said, “I just love the work here. I enjoy everyone who I work with. It is a fast-paced environment and you never know what is coming through the door.”

Outside of the Hospital, Lisa enjoys spending time with her family.

February Employee is Mistie Love

Mistie Love was selected as the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) Employee of the Month for February 2012. She has been employed at SJMH since April 2008. She started her employment in the Registration Department and now is the cashier in the Business Office.

Mistie is married to Ralph Love and the couple lives at Edgewood, in Weston. Her parents are Jim and Janet Wyant, also of Weston. She is a Lewis County High School graduate and previously worked at Rite-Aid. Mistie noted that she has a husky, named Bear, who is her “baby.”

Mistie’s nomination came about as the result of a lovely letter from a SJMH visitor who was very pleased with the help Mistie had given her.

The nominator wrote, “Mistie goes out of her way to help our patients and visitors. She is very compassionate and exemplifies the meaning of great customer service.”

SJMH controller Dodie Arbogast supervises the Business Office and is very complimentary of Mistie. She said that as well as taking payments, Mistie is a liaison between the Hospital and anybody who walks through the lobby. She is always searching for ways to improve the Hospital atmosphere.

Mistie enjoys her work at SJMH.

She said, “I think that we have a very friendly atmosphere here in the Business Office. We are one, happy family.”

As well as spending time with her family, she really enjoys reading on her Kindle.

Great Cookout/Covered Dish Picnic

Many thanks to all of the SJMH staff and friends who participated in the annual Covered Dish Challenge. During the daytime, we had more than 25 covered dishes which had to be judged. Thanks to Richard Moneypenny, pictured at right, and his fellow judges for doing a great job!
Laura Lightner is Chosen for March

Laura Lightner, of the Radiology Department, was chosen as the Employee of the Month for March 2012. She began work at SJMH in October 1999.

She is a resident of Lost Creek and lives there with her husband, Donald. He is in accounting at the Pete Dye Golf Course in Bridgeport. The couple has two children – Nicholas and Abigail. Her parents are Roger and Lois Sandy of Flemington.

Laura received her nomination from one of her patients, who wrote, “I had a mammogram done by Laura. She was very friendly, kind, and patient. She thoroughly explained everything being done. Her smile lit up the room. She made me feel comfortable and at ease. She is an excellent example of what I think a hospital employee should be.”

Laura graduated from Flemington High School and received her radiology degree from the United Hospital Center’s radiology school.

She is a registered mammogram technologist and has passed the Quality Control requirements required by MCSA and the American College of Radiology. She is responsible for all quality control for mammography at SJMH. She also works in other areas of radiology.

Her supervisor, Brenda Tonkin, noted that Laura is a very dedicated employee.

She spends most of her spare time at sports events for her daughter.

April Employee is Jean Mick

Registration’s Jean Mick was selected as Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital Employee of the Month for April 2012. She began employment at the Hospital in 1978 on the console. The day her oldest son was born in February 1980, she quit work to stay home with the baby. She came back to work exactly 10 years later – in February 1990 – in the medical records and business offices.

Her husband, Willie, is employed at Kroger in Weston and they have been happily married for 37 years. The couple’s oldest son, Nicholas, is employed at West Virginia University, and the youngest son, Jeffrey, is a pharmacist in Morgantown. Perhaps the family’s strong connection to Morgantown has made her the rabid WVU fan that she is.

Her parents are Pauline Henline and the late Edward Henline of Lewis County. She also has two wonderful cats – Itty and Bitty.

Jean is a graduate of Lewis County High School. She received a secretarial degree from WV Business College.

Jean’s nominator wrote, “Jean is very good at her job. She is patient and kind to the patients. Anytime I call her, she is very helpful and fixes the problem(s), she never acts like this is an inconvenience to her. She always has a smile on her face for everyone. She is the true meaning of employee of the month.”

Jean loves her job and said, “I enjoy my work at SJMH. My co-workers are my family. We share our joys and we share our sorrows together.”

Saddened

Our SJMH family was saddened by the passing of Flora Turner. Flora was a great supporter of our Hospital. Her husband, Denver, is a member of the SJMH Board of Directors. Flora was also a dedicated member of the Theresa Snaith Hospital Auxiliary. A week before her passing, she was delivering baby blankets to our Special Delivery Department. She was also a greeter at the information desk every Tuesday. She will be greatly missed by all.

Many Thanks to our staff for a great job!
June Employee is Glenda Cutright

Glenda Cutright, of the Housekeeping Department, was selected as the Employee of the Month for June 2012.

She and her husband live on a farm at Rock Cave, in Upshur County. The couple has four sons: Dusty Ogden, Phillip Ogden, Dustin Cutright, and Kenny Cutright. The couple has ten grandchildren: Kridney, Brian, Jazman, Tyson, Anthony, Braden, Ryan, Zak, Allie, and Dominick. Her parents are Roy and Roselee Ervin of Rock Cave.

She started work at SJMH in August of 2009. Glenda noted that it was quite a big difference from driving a truck, a career she pursued for eight years. As a matter of fact, her husband and son still operate Butterfly Trucking in the area.

Glenda received a number of very positive comments on the two nominations submitted for her. One nominator noted, “She is always going above and beyond cleaning in the ED; helping make beds; she is friendly to staff with a good attitude; considerate of others; takes her job to heart; is kind to patients and their families; is a hard worker; and takes pride in her work.

The second nomination was signed by several employees and read in part, “Glenda is always willing to go above and beyond to provide the best atmosphere for the patients. Glenda is a hard worker who takes pride in her job.” Another employee wrote, “She is always willing to do anything that is needed with a positive attitude. She does her job well, also sitting with patients when sitters are needed.” The last nominator said, “Glenda is a great asset to our hospital. She does a great job and takes pride in her work. She is very deserving.”

Glenda is happy with her job at SJMH. She said, “Working here is a good environment with wonderful employees. It is just awesome.”

An Addition to the 340B Program

Walmart (in Weston only) is participating in the retail 340B Prescription Drug program effective Friday, June 29, 2012. This means that our SJMH employees and patients now have a choice between Walmart, Best Care, or Kroger (Weston, Buckhannon and Bridgeport locations) to experience large savings on most prescriptions.
Longtime Employee “Bunny” Corathers Passes

Members of the SJMH staff were saddened by the unexpected passing of Velma “Bunny” Corathers. Anyone working here for any length of time likely has a fond memory of Bunny.

In 2009, SJMH celebrated Bunny’s 85th birthday with a party. Here is the story that was printed at that time.

The staff of Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston honored Velma “Bunny” Corathers with an 85th birthday luncheon and party on Wed., Aug. 26. (Bunny and her twin sister Thelma Thompson’s birth date is actually Aug. 27.)

Bunny is a Certified Nurse’s Aide on the Med/Surg Unit at the Hospital. Despite her 85 years, Bunny is known to “work rings around” younger employees.

Bunny began working at the old City Hospital (predecessor to the present SJMH) in 1942. She left the Hospital in 1949, when she became a mother. Bunny returned to work at SJMH in 1963.

“I started out as a nurse’s aide but back then we learned everything. We actually did a lot of nursing duties because there weren’t a lot of nurses around,” she explained.

Bunny is so well liked and respected that she was also voted to be Employee of the Year for 2000.

At that time, she was nominated for her positive attitude and great work ethic.

“Bunny is the model employee. She is kind, considerate, and understanding of the patient’s and family’s needs,” noted the nominator. “Bunny goes beyond the call of duty to provide high-quality nursing care. SJMH is very fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Bunny.”

During the birthday luncheon, Associate Administrator Avah Stalnaker, re-affirmed that thought.

“We are here to celebrate the 85th birthday of Bunny, a very dedicated and loyal employee for Stonewall Jackson Hospital,” noted Stalnaker. “Bunny is respected by her patients and her fellow employees. We are lucky to have her here.”

Bunny enjoys her coworkers as well.

“I sure have liked the Hospital,” she said. “Everyone has been very good to me. I dearly love working.”

She also said that when SJMH opened at its present location in November of 1972 “I came with the building.”

Bunny’s obituary follows:

Velma V. (Bunny) Corathers, 87, of 185 Jonathan Street, Weston, passed away in Stonewall Jackson Hospital on May 27, 2012. She was born on August 27, 1924, in Freemansburg, Lewis County: daughter of the late Irvin Jackson and Iva (Bennett) Jackson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Warren Corathers. Velma is survived by one daughter, Barbara Wildt and husband Daniel of Parkersburg, West Virginia. She is also survived by one granddaughter, Michael Miller of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and stepgrandchildren, Eric Wildt of Tacoma, Washington, and Christina Howell of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Also surviving are her great-grandchildren, Haley and Gus Miller, and stepgreat-grandchildren, Michael and Max Wildt, and Jack and Paige Howell. Also surviving is her twin sister, Thelma Thompson of Hurricane, and several nieces and nephews, especially Pam Workman and husband Raymond of Weston. Velma was preceded in death by one granddaughter, Michelle Miller, and two brothers, Hall and Raymond Jackson.

Velma retired from Stonewall Jackson Hospital at age 65 and still worked part time taking care of patients. She truly enjoyed her work at the hospital and the many people she met.

In a note sent to SJMH from Bunny’s family, her daughter wrote, “My thanks to all of you who were helpful to my Mother, Bunny. From putting gas in her car to making her sit down for a cup of tea. Thank you for sharing your stories with me. I know Mother loved working with you.”

Sincerely, Barbara”

We are sure that Bunny is in Heaven taking care of her fellow angels.

Bunny was special to everyone at SJMH, including the Board members. She is pictured above with them during a birthday party held in her honor. Pictured, left to right, are Roy “Chick” Lockard, Bunny, Jean Bennett, and Gerald Wood.
Our sincere condolences to these members of our SJMH family on their losses:

- Melissa Rogers on the passing of her mother;
- Michelle Gum and Jennifer Fallo on the passing of their father;
- Maggie Harper on the passing of her mother;
- Rachel Cunningham on the passing of her father;
- Megan Morgan on the passing of her mother;
- Tammy Moody on the passing of her mother;
- Tracy Jackson and Trish Fultz on the passing of their father;
- Pearl Lattea on the passing of her sister;
- Ellie Heath and Don Ables on the passing of their sister;
- and Tammy Hawkins on the passing of her companion.

We offer you our sympathy.
I am writing to let you know what a great department you have at SJMH. That would be your Physical Therapy Department under the direction of Mr. Matt DeGarmo. I have had several opportunities to use this particular department since I was diagnosed with Type II diabetes about ten years ago. I must say that the experience has always been positive even in the most painful moments. I have worked with several physical therapists and they are all top-notch professionals. They deal with people of all ages and their kindness and understanding is always obvious. In my most recent experience from September 2011 through December 2011, I had the opportunity to work with Maegan Wymer, DPT. She treated me with dignity and understanding while encouraging me to work through all the phases of my treatment. I am happy to say that after many months of excruciating pain and disability I am now back to 100%.

In a time where some people concentrate on the negative, I wanted to speak out about the positive.

You can be very proud of this department, as they are the epitome of professionalism.

Sincerely,

A Grateful Patient

To SJMH Management,

As a frequent patient at SJMH, I am in a position to offer a considered opinion of your staff’s work performance. Staff members consistently demonstrate a high degree of training and professionalism. Not only is their work performed competently, it is done with a kindness and genuine caring that is both reassuring and therapeutic to the patient. There are several, indeed, numerous employees whose dedication merits mention. I will however inevitably and sadly overlook a number of worthy individuals, as I am unaware of many names. I therefore offer this partial list of scrupulous employees of my heartfelt and considerable appreciation: Cody, Meghan, Greg, Amber (CNA), Linda, Erica, Chelsea, Elicia, Amber (nurse), and Florence.

And then there is Heather, the diminutive and gregarious CNA who performs work with a tireless and genuine good nature and has an ubiquitous smile. This is a truly impressive individual, one who dominates the room she occupies by the force of her pleasant personality.

A high degree of professional decorum is not limited to the medical staff. The same level of professional behavior and training is as widely observed among housekeeping and administration and other departmental employees as well as medical personnel.

And so…kudos to all and my heartfelt gratitude to all. You should be proud.

Avah Stalnaker,

Many times I have read the notes throughout the hospital of thanks from your staff. In November 2011 I had a colonoscopy and on January 10, 2012, I had shoulder surgery. I want to thank all the staff at Stonewall Hospital for taking great care of me. Your outpatient staff was great. By having the best outpatient staff in November that I had and knowing how important it would be for me to have the same staff for my shoulder surgery in January made things so much better. Thanks so much to Vicki Bowen, Renae Sauerwein, Penny Cutlip, Candy Donaldson, Angie Hinter, Jack Marcum…God has blessed you with a special gift. Again thanks for a great staff.

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to give a “pat on the back” to Brenda Lee Smith. I am a patient and Brenda is the epitome of a perfect employee. She was always working, yet always had time to help me. I would like for her to be recognized for her outstanding work ethic.

Thanks to Dr. Snuffer, the SJMH nurses and staff who cared for our father, husband and grandfather, during his time of illness from Alzheimer’s disease. He was given the best of care during the two years that he was in and out of this hospital. We appreciate your kindness more than you know. We give special thanks for care and concern shown to him and our family during his final hours.

The staff including Dr. Snuffer, Kristin Clevenger, Heather Yeager, Jerene Sprouse, Angela Conrad and Chelsea Marple, made a very difficult time so much more bearable. You have our deepest gratitude. Thank you!

Avah Stalnaker

I would like to thank the ER staff for taking good care of my mother she has been sick for a few months and had no idea what was going on even after going to the doctors. She does have cancer and is currently taking shots once a month at Elkins Cancer Center but thanks to the Stonewall Jackson ER doctor and nurses that was on duty last night I no longer have to worry about her sickness they diagnosed being because of the cancer......Thank You Stonewall you are the best !!!!!!!!!! My mother and my children are my life......and when my oldest son was 3 he had a seizure he stopped breathing he was turning blue as soon as we got him to you guys in no time you helped him take that first breath again it was by far the scariest thing that has ever happened to me therefor......thank you for saving my baby’s life as well .......... :) :) :) )

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From SJMH Facebook Page

To SJ Hospital Management,

We wanted to let you know how pleased and thankful we are for the care given to our father and husband during his stay in March. We especially want to thank Jackie and Frannie on the ICU Unit and Barbara, Jennifer, Dora and others on the Telemetry Unit. Barbara and Dora were especially kind and attentive the morning that Dad died. They cared for him and spoke to him in a loving manner that eased his passing. Thank You.

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ICU Staff,

We would like to thank all of you – nurses and respiratory, who took care of our dad. You were all angels and we are so thankful for your love and concerns…not just for him, but for all of us. We pray that God will bless each of you.

We want to thank all the wonderful staff at SJMH for all the excellent care you gave us during our emergency. Special thanks to the great staff at the emergency department and ICU. God Bless Stonewall Jackson Hospital. We can’t thank you enough.

ICU Staff

Thank you so very much for the care you gave our mother. We could not have asked for better care and concern.

Thanks so much for the wonderful care you gave our mom – and our whole family as well. God Bless!

Thank you for your kindness to us during the trying time of our family member’s illness.

My thanks to all of you who were helpful to my Mother Bunny. From putting gas in her car to making her sit down for a cup of tea. Thank you for sharing your stories with me. I know Mother loved working with you. Sincerely, Barbara

You girls are great. Angie was so caring and attentive. Thank you! I hope you have many stars in your crowns. Best of luck to all of you.
50-Year Employee Ellen Straley Passes in April

All staff at SJMH were saddened by the passing of Ellen Straley in April. But the loss hit the SJMH OB unit the hardest. Ellen was described as a “pillar of the unit. She was like a mother to all the staff within the unit.” Nursing staff also noted, “Her matter-of-fact attitude and her beautiful smile will be missed by all who had the privilege to work alongside her.”

Her obituary is as follows:

Ellen Lee Straley, resident of Charles Street, Weston, passed away on Sun., April 1, 2012 at Crestview Nursing Facility in Jane Lew after a short illness. Ellen died of complications related to stroke and vascular disease. Ellen was a Christian and attended St. Patrick Church in Weston.

Mrs. Straley was born in Weston on Feb. 4, 1936. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth G. Straley King and Henry L. Straley; also, one brother, William “Billy” Straley. She is survived by her Aunt Artha Gay of Har- risville, and many cousins including Janet Gay Thrasher of Ravenna, Ohio, and Eva Gay of Front Royal, VA. She is also survived by her friends at work who loved Ellen as a family member.

Ellen was a veteran, serving in the United States Army from 1957 to 1961. After Honorable Discharge from the Army, Ellen went to work at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital. Ellen has been employed at Stonewall Hospital for 50 years, as she was a full-time employee at the time of her death. She was well-known at work for her “no nonsense” approach to all tasks. During her 50 years of employment, she was rarely sick, never late, and worked hard for the duration of the shift. Ellen was tireless, never quitting until the job was done. Her work ethic was beyond reproach and greatly admired. She was technician on the OB Unit since 1962.

When Ellen passed, the world lost one of its little-known, great humanitarians. She especially loved animals; any creature that had a paw would be loved by Ellen. She was an active member of the American Humane Society, Doris Day Animal Rescue, and the Animal Friends of Barbour County. If she could, she would have rescued all the furry creatures that crossed her path. Her friends at work would sometimes adoringly tease Ellen for recording the annual Westminster Dog Show and watching it repeatedly over the years.

Ellen was a uniquely different person, as she was fiercely independent and self-sufficient. She made it clear that she wanted to be cremated and her ashes scattered in the pet cemetery where her many pets had been interred over the years. Ellen was helpful to everyone and seldom, if ever, asked favors from others. She was never comfortable receiving attention herself.

Pictured at left is SHOT’s Jane Eisenbeis with a shoe from her Dankso shoe line...they are so fashion-able and so comfortable...ask Jane.
SJMH ED Receives ARK Designation

The Emergency Department at SJMH has received a special designation from the State Trauma and Emergency Medical System of the WV Bureau of Public Health. The Always Ready for Kids (ARK) Project designation is a result of meeting the Performance Measures created by the state organization. The goal of ARK is to create an effective and sustainable method to ensure that children who need treatment for life-threatening illnesses or injuries have access to appropriate facilities, equipment and trained personnel. Becoming an ARK-recognized facility is a positive occurrence for both the hospital and community.

Doctors Day is always a special celebration here at SJMH. This year the folks from CPS, our pharmacy’s management firm, donated a lovely selection of Panera sweets. The SJMH kitchen also served a great breakfast that morning. Pictured above, left to right, celebrating that day are Surgery’s Mark Casto, RN, and Dr. Robert Snuffer.

A Special Thanks from One of Our Own

I would like to give a special thanks to all the great SJMH team members that helped me last week. From the first person I met in registration, until my wheelchair ride out the door I felt cared for. I am not accustomed to being the one in need of help to do basic daily tasks and being cared for. However, with the push of a button there was a compassionate caregiver there to help me with the task at hand. Even the physical therapy department treated me well (figure that). I enjoyed all the visitors who stopped in to say hi or give me a hard time (guess I had it coming). I pray that I will never be in a situation like this again but if it arises I know where to go and be treated well. Now don’t have too much fun without me there working because Dr. Sickles has me on the fast track to recovery. I promise to be giving you all a hard time again soon when I return.

Thanks,

John Weber

By Mary D. Welch
Med/Surg Nursing Secretary Sue Clem Retires

Since 1979, Sue Clem has been a pleasant fixture at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) in Weston. She began work in the SJMH Housekeeping Department; became an aide in 1988; and then in 1995 she was named a Unit Secretary.

With a recent birthday, Sue decided that now was a good time to retire. In Feb., Sue’s SJMH friends and members of her family honored her with a retirement reception at the Hospital.

Anyone who worked at SJMH for any length of time would be sure to have met her. SJMH employees would see her smiling face peeking from behind her computer, or piles of charts, at the second floor nurses’ station. Though her official title was unit secretary, Sue was much more than the title implies. Ask any of her co-workers about Sue, and each has a sweet story about her. They describe her as a mentor, counselor, advisor, teacher, den mother, coach, and great cook. She was happy to help any SJMH employees who requested guidance. She was even happier to bring in some of her great home-cooking to the Med/Surg staff.

In remarks during Sue’s retirement reception, SJMH Administrator Avah Stalnaker noted that Sue was one of those indispensable employees who came to work with a positive attitude everyday. Chief Nursing Officer Carole Norton also commented on the great help Sue had provided to her as a new aide on the floor. Kat Ramsey, Med/Surg supervisor was also very complimentary and gave Sue some gag gifts including a fan and stapler. She also gave Sue a lovely necklace - a gift from the Med/Surg staff.

Sue has seen a lot of changes in her more than 30 years at the Hospital. “I have seen the Hospital grow with additions, new doctors and new specialties,” she said. “But the best thing that ever happened was when we started using computers. There used to be so much paperwork and the computers really reduced that.”

Sue’s parents are the late Sam and Wilda Oldaker of Weston. She has five siblings – Samuel Oldaker, Jr., Terry Lynn Oldaker, Michael Oldaker, Kim Oldaker, and Sandy Oldaker.

Sue is the mother of five children – Rick Clem, Steve Clem, Brian Clem, Tracey Clem, and Teresa Jeffries. She also has five grandchildren – Trenton Clem, Savanna Clem, George Clem, Jason Clem, and Jonathan Jeffries.

SJMH’s loss of a great employee is a win for Sue’s family.

“I plan to enjoy my retirement and spend time with my family,” she concluded.

Skyrocketing drug expenses and a stagnant economy can spell trouble for many people who rely on prescription drugs for their health. However, Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital (SJMH) has been working hard to ease the pain of those costs with participation in the federal 340B Prescription Drug Plan.

The 340B program was originally designed by the federal government to cut drug expenses at government hospitals and healthcare entities. It then expanded to allow rural hospitals, such as SJMH, to participate in a partnership that allows a pharmacy to dispense drugs at a reduced cost for patients.

It has been such a success and benefit for patients that SJMH has now expanded to work with three more pharmacies, that will participate in the program - Kroger Pharmacies in Weston, Buckhannon, and East Pointe Plaza -Clarksburg. It is continuing the program with Best Care Pharmacy.

SJMH patients who use the Hospital’s services or SJMH physicians can participate in the program. They receive substantial savings on their drug costs by using the 340B program.

To participate in the program, there are two requirements:

1. The patient must be a SJMH patient within a certain time frame:
   a. Must have been a patient of SJMH within the past twelve months or
   b. Must have been a patient of a SJMH Physician Clinic within the past three years.

2. The prescription being filled must have been written by a physician with SJMH privileges and meet one of the above criteria.

The patient should receive a SUNRx card from their SJMH healthcare provider. The cards are also available at SJMH’s Registration Department. The cards must be shown to the pharmacy when a prescription is being filled.

Keep On Smiling, ‘Cause When You’re Smiling, The Whole World Smiles With You!
Thanks To Our Staff...

The SJMH Administration and Board would also like to thank the wonderful and loyal SJMH staff, who worked overtime during the recent widespread power outage to make sure our patients were given the best care possible under some very daunting circumstances.

The Hospital trains for disasters such as this. That our staff were able to perform their duties, despite the heat and lack of electricity, is a testament to their commitment. Thank you so much for all that you did.