

# New Direction

## Memorial's beloved Painter Dan set to retire this month

Plant operations painter, Dan Wood, has worked at Memorial for five years, and has built a reputation for himself as a kind, compassionate man. He's enjoyed his time working at Memorial, but has decided it's time to start the next chapter. "I'm looking forward to the freedom of retirement," Dan said. "It was the environment that kept me here. I like to be helpful with the patients and brighten their day when I can."

Dan has earned two WOW Moments in his time here, and is probably most well known for giving away "happy pills," small stuffed toys from the gift shop that giggle like children when you squeeze them. He always keeps one in his pocket to give away any time he sees a kid in need of a smile.

His favorite memories here have to do with his boss, Michelle McCollum. "Michelle has made the job so easy, and she's easy to get along with. She lets me just do my job the way it needs to be done and I appreciate that." During retirement, Dan has plans to relax as much as possible. He wants to spend a little more time at the lake and go fishing at the beach more often.

He offered a piece of advice for everyone working at Memorial. "Be nice to people. To people outside, a hospital is a cold place. Sit down with someone and talk to them, offer to buy someone lunch who looks like they've had a bad day. Just make them feel good and welcome. It's all you have to do."

Dan will be missed by all of the hospital staff. We wish him the best of luck and happiness in his retirement!



## Cardiac rehab receives new equipment

Everyone's hard work at this year's Memorial Foundation golf tournament just paid off with the purchase of new equipment for cardiac rehab. Funds donated to the department went towards a new rowing machine, several new bikes and several elliptical trainers. Patients are now able to access an updated variety of exercise equipment that will benefit both them and the cardiac rehab team!



## NICU twins come back for a visit!

Twin girls, Ayla and Alayna, were born at Memorial 14 months ago to Vanessa Palacios. The preemies were admitted to the NICU, where they were cared for by Jacque Cleverdon, who is now a performance improvement nurse. Their mom was so grateful for the amazing care they received that she returned with her sister, Rosie, for a visit to update the staff - especially Jacque - on how the girls were doing. Little Ayla was very social and Alayna was a little shy.

We're always glad for updates on our former patients, especially when they're this cute!



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Stop by Human Resources or call 936.568.8543

## Cassie Barr named as a top nurse in Best of Nac poll

Labor and delivery nurse, Cassie Barr, was voted amongst the top three nurses in Nacogdoches in 2019's edition of Best of Nac. Cassie has been with Memorial for more than four years as an L&D nurse and loves the work she does for the Nacogdoches community.

"Nacogdoches is home to me. I grew up here and to be able to work in this community means so much. I come in contact with family and friends working here, and to be able to be a part of those special moments with them means the world to me."

For her, it was both an honor and a surprise to receive this award. "I was shocked when I found out I was voted one of the best nurses in Nacogdoches. Having only practiced for four and a half years, I didn't expect this kind of acknowledgment. It made me realize people notice the hard work I put in and appreciate my efforts."

Memorial is proud of Cassie's accomplishment and honored to have her on our team.



## Medical staff elects new executive leadership, committee chairs

We have a new slate of medical staff officers from now through July 1, 2021, so be sure to congratulate them and thank them for being willing to serve.

Executive officers are pictured from left to right: M. Amjad Mir, vice chief of staff; Dr. Binusha Moitheennazima, chief of staff; and Dr. Ahammed Hashim, secretary-treasurer. Not pictured was immediate past president Dr. Jeremy Smith.

Committee chairs include Ryan Head, MD, credentials; Peggy Burpee, DO, family medicine services; Kavita Vyas, MD, medicine services; Josephine Chua, MD, peer review; Edwin Ferren, MD, surgery services/CMO; David Vineyard, MD, women and children services; Vijaya Pokala, MD, cardiovascular; M. Amjad Mir, DO, CME; Irma Sainz, MD, ethics; James Redfield, MD, trauma; and Olin Fearing, MD, utilization review.



## New remote access telemedicine program offered to insured staff through BCBS

A new program called Telehealth, powered by MDLIVE, is now available to employees currently enrolled in NMH group health insurance. This program provides you and your covered dependents access to telemedicine care for non-emergency needs, with access to a board certified MDLIVE doctor 24/7. You can speak to a doctor immediately or schedule an appointment based on your availability. MDLIVE doctors can help treat general health such as allergies, asthma and joint aches, as well as pediatric care for common children's infections. The program requires a \$40 co-pay. Registration is not required prior to calling in for consultation. Information can be gathered for registration and consultation simultaneously. To register, call (888)-680-8646.



## Employee cooking class is next week!

This is a reminder that our Healthy Memorial employee cooking class on Freezer-Friendly Marinades is Tuesday, July 16 at noon in the Healthy Memorial Wellness Center. RSVP with community relations at ext. 4124 or at bartonk@nacmem.org. It's not too late to sign up!



## Annual linen sale raises nearly \$4,000

The Memorial Hospital Auxiliary certainly got up on the right side of the bed in June, when they hosted their annual linen sale. The sale pulled in almost \$4000 from those cozy sheets, pillows and quilts. Be sure to thank our volunteers for working so hard for Memorial!

