

# Cooperative Connections

## About our new name...

- The Public Hospital Cooperative is now **The Hospital Cooperative**. A change in governance resulted in the conversion of Bingham Memorial Hospital, one of our thirteen members, to a private, not-for-profit hospital in 2007. Consequently, the Executive Board voted to modify the name.

## Cooperative Connections is Your Newsletter

By John Hoopes, Executive Board Chairman and CEO of Caribou Memorial Hospital

When I moved to Idaho to be CEO of Caribou Memorial Hospital eight years ago, the 12 CEOs of what was then the Public Hospital Cooperative of Southeastern Idaho met once a month to share “war stories,” provide mutual support and participate in writing grants. Much has changed!

There are now thirteen hospitals with the addition of Star Valley Medical Center in Afton, Wyoming, and we dropped “Southeastern Idaho” from our name. The CEOs or their designees still meet as the Executive Board. In addition, our staff members participate in valuable educational programming and peer networking opportunities with department managers from all member hospitals. The four Cooperative staff members assist our facilities with numerous projects, including in cost-saving group purchasing, telehealth and telemedicine, benchmarking, fundraising, and helping us with questions we have.



John Hoopes

With these changes comes the need for better communication. We developed a Web site last year so we could all have access at any time to important documents and educational materials and to give us a public Web presence. To this portfolio, we add our newsletter, *Cooperative Connections*, to help all of us stay informed and connected. It will appear monthly and we will feature all of our facilities. So, get ready to enjoy, share and learn.

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## Member Spotlight: Caribou Memorial Hospital

By John Hoopes

Caribou Memorial Hospital in Soda Springs is a county-owned critical access hospital. Our active medical staff consists of two family physicians, one PA and a “shared” full-time general surgeon and OB-GYN. We also have several “visiting” specialists, including two orthopods, a podiatrist, a pain specialist, a kidney specialist, and a tele-psychiatrist.

We now offer in-house tele-psychiatry, where patients from our service area, confidentially assisted by our social worker, meet one-on-one over the secure Cooperative Telehealth Network with their psychiatrist in Pocatello, 60 miles west, saving them time, fuel, and, during the winter months, often challenging drives to Pocatello.

Caribou Memorial has benefited from its membership in The Hospital Cooperative. It is due to our close association with other hospital members that we have the new general surgeon and the tele-psychiatrist. Last year, both Caribou Memorial and Bear Lake Memorial Hospital, located 30 miles to our east, lost long-time general surgeons. The two hospitals jointly recruited and hired a superb general surgeon who moved about half way between the two facilities and is available to both. The Hospital Cooperative staff, led by Jon Smith, obtained a federal grant to provide us and other members with the equipment for tele-psychiatry. Dr. William Hazle, head of psychiatry at Portneuf Medical Center (also a Cooperative member), provides the psychiatric care, which we greatly appreciate.



## Telehealth Increases Access to Health Care

By John Zauher

Many U.S. and international businesses use two-way interactive videoconferencing to reduce travel costs and make more timely business decisions in today's fast paced environment. The Hospital Cooperative's Cooperative Telehealth Network (CTN) also uses interactive videoconferencing via a high-speed, secure network to provide patient care and educational services across eastern Idaho.

Imagine being able to stay in your community and having direct access to a physician specialist via interactive television from your local hospital. It's like a regular office visit, without having to travel what is often hundreds of miles for many rural residents. The CTN makes this possible. A psychiatrist in Pocatello visits with patients and families in Idaho rural communities, without them having to leave their jobs, be away from family and friends, or face the challenge of icy/snowy roads in the winter. For some folks, there is lack of transportation or the cost of transportation and travel is a burden. The CTN connection to physician specialists can help reduce that burden.

The CTN also provides health education programs for physicians and other healthcare professionals, with plans to develop community health education programs that can also be accessed at the local clinic or community hospital.

Right now, patients and health professionals at Portneuf Medical Center, Oneida County Hospital, Caribou Memorial Hospital, Star Valley Medical Center, and two Health West Clinics have access to the CTN. Harms Memorial Hospital, Steele Memorial Medical Center and Teton Valley Hospital will be linked next. To learn more about the CTN and what it can do for your facility, contact Robert Cuoio at 208-239-2383 or robertc@portmed.org.



The author, John Zauher, is CTN Systems Manager and telecommutes from Billings, Montana.

## Of Note

**BINGHAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.** Bingham Memorial Hospital and its Extended Care facility passed JCAHO accreditation review in December. Also, winners of the 2007 March of Dimes Nursing Excellence Awards are **Shandra Averett**, OB; **Jennifer White**, Critical Care; **Terry Thonssen**, Surgery; **Amy Belnap**, Quality Improvement; and **Vicki Allen**, Chief Process Officer. **Louis Kraml**, CEO, was a finalist in the Shirley Ann Monroe Leadership Awards for 2007.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER.** The Larry H. Miller Family and the Franklin County Medical Center are pleased to announce the gift of approximately 20 acres of land to the Medical Center. The property is located on Highway 34 about 1.5 miles north of the center of Preston, ID. Studies are being done to determine the feasibility of locating the new hospital on this land.

**HARMS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.** The Volunteer Pink Lady Auxiliary will begin their annual Quilt Fundraiser in February. The Pink Ladies, employees, and CEO Dallas Clinger volunteer their time to construct a handmade quilt. The quilt is on display at the hospital and throughout the community until it is raffled-off in August at American Falls Day. More than \$1,000 is typically raised for scholarships for local students who are in their second year of a medical field. Also, preparations are being made for community education on healthy living during February, American Heart Month.



Volunteers Lois March and Betty Miller with Harms Memorial Hospital CEO Dallas Clinger.

**Cooperative Connections**  
 A publication of The Hospital Cooperative      Laura I. Vailas, Ph.D., R.D., Editor

**The Hospital Cooperative Executive Board**

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 Robert Cuoio, Operations Manager  
 Laura Vailas, Director of Development and Education  
 John Zauher, Systems Manager, Cooperative Telehealth Network

## Brown Bag Lunch Topics to be Linked to National Health Themes

The Educational Leadership Committee met in December in Pocatello. Members Audrey Fletcher and Gail Mikesell, Portneuf Medical Center; Bonnie Burlage, Teton Valley Hospital; Kim Abegglen, Madison Memorial Hospital, and staff members Jon Smith, Bobby Cuoio and Laura Vailas discussed topics for the 2008 Brown Bag Lunch series to be held at 12:00-1:00PM on the third Thursday of each month. The presentations will be made available on video to sites with CTN video-communications equipment.

The committee felt it would be beneficial to use the 2008 National Health Observances calendar published by the National Health Information Center, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, as a guide to selecting and topics, and to present the topics in advance of the national observance to help members prepare for community education on the topic if they wish to do so. The Brown Bag Lunch Calendar for the remainder of 2008 will be as follows:

- February 21:** Importance of CPR
- March:** Leadership Conference on March 13th
- April 17:** Mental Health topic (May is Mental Health Month)
- May 15:** Sun Safety (July is UV Safety Month)
- June:** Leadership Development Conference June 12th
- July 17:** Eye Safety Awareness (August is Children's Eye Health & Safety Month and Cataract Awareness Month)
- August: 21:** Cholesterol Education (September is National Cholesterol Education Month)
- September :** Leadership Development Conference September 11th
- October 16:** Diabetes (November is National Diabetes Month)
- November 20** Healthy Eating for the Holidays
- December 18:** Conducting Productive Meetings



Courtney Dursteler, Compliance Coordinator at Franklin County Medical Center, presents at a Brown Bag Lunch.

### CME

Portneuf Medical Center and other organizations regularly broadcast medical education programs for CME credit via our video system.

For the schedule, go to [www.hospitalcooperative.org](http://www.hospitalcooperative.org), click on Cooperative Telehealth Network, and then on CTN calendar.

## Leadership Development Series for 2008 Announced

You have been heard! We conducted an educational needs assessment with those who attended the Leadership Development Series Conference last October. Based on the this, we have planned what we hope will be a series of exciting and relevant conferences for 2008.

Please note that the sessions will begin promptly at 9:00 AM, with breakfast available at 8:00. Peer group meetings will begin at 2:00 PM, adjourning at 4:00. All of the meetings will be held in the Barbara J. Marshall Rotunda in the Stephens Performing Arts Center at Idaho State University.

Dates and plenary topics are:

- March 13:** Stress and Burnout
- June 12:** Problem Solving
- September 11:** Business Communication

130 staff members from thirteen hospitals attended the October, 2007 Leadership Development Series Conference in Pocatello.





The Hospital Cooperative

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## Cooperative Vendor Program Offers Easy Business Solutions

To meet the ongoing needs of members, The Hospital Cooperative negotiates agreements with preferred vendors to offer favorable contract rates on a wide-variety of services to members. Services include: accounts receivable management, benchmarking, biomedical waste disposal, capital purchasing, coding, collections, employee assistance (EAP), equipment maintenance, grant research, mobile MRI, patient monitoring equipment, policy management, printing, shredding, and transcription.

Preferred vendor partners are a large part of the success of our cooperative because most provide a “shareback” fee to the organization based on usage from your facility.

In each issue of *Cooperative Connections* we will feature one of our many vendor partners, highlighting their services or products. For more information on any vendor or the cooperative vendor program, please contact Jon Smith at 208-239-2384.

Visit [www.hospitalcooperative.org](http://www.hospitalcooperative.org) to see how we're Connecting Health Care in the Intermountain West

## Simplify Your Life — Use The Hospital Cooperative's Web Site

Tired of our emails filling up your mailbox? Need facts and figures at your fingertips? Look no further than your computer screen. A few keystrokes will take you to The Hospital Cooperative's Web site at [www.hospitalcooperative.org](http://www.hospitalcooperative.org). Our Web site home page is updated frequently with news you can use, and both The Hospital Cooperative and the Cooperative Telehealth Network calendars are at your disposal.

Employees of our member hospitals are all entitled to private accounts on our Web site. When you log in, you are privy to educational materials, Powerpoint slide shows, useful forms and links, and more.

So why not sign up now? Registration is simple. Just click the register box on the upper right part of the screen and enter a user name that you will remember, a screen name to use in case you want to post to the forum, and a 7-character password. When prompted for your email address, enter the one associated with your hospital so we know you are a THC member. You will receive a confirmation within 24 hours, and you will have full access to the site.



### News and Events

Results of the Idaho Meth Project statewide use and attitude survey are now available. [Click here.](#)

The first issue of *Cooperative Connections*, The Hospital Cooperative's newsletter, will be published shortly. Look for it on the web, and for members, in your email in-boxes.



Oxford Suites, Boise  
May 8, 2008  
10:00AM- 2:00PM  
The Hospital Cooperative  
**TELEHEALTH SUMMIT**

## Welcome to The Hospital Cooperative

The Hospital Cooperative is a network of not-for-profit hospitals in southeastern Idaho and west Wyoming. Since 1994, we have provided benefits to our members through shared resources, expertise, and information. We help member facilities to provide