

## Festival of Trees.

The Festival of Trees is a fundraising event for Aspirus Hospice & Comfort Care, benefiting individuals and their families who face a terminal illness in the Central Wisconsin Area. The festival is held annually during the week of Thanksgiving.

The WVAA participates by decorating a tree with decorations that are created and donated by the WVAA members and gifts purchased by the WVAA as Purchase Awards at Art in the Park. Members may also donate their art or craft work as gifts for under the tree or donate funds toward the purchase of gifts and decorations, such as the garland, the tree skirt, or supplies for garland or ornaments that are created in a workshop setting. A WVAA membership and a certificate for a WVAA class have recently been added to the gifts included with the WVAA tree.

The tree is then auctioned during the week in a silent auction, and the winning price is paid directly to Aspirus Hospice and Comfort Care.

The current Chairperson will decide the theme for the tree each year and notify the members of the theme in January or February through the newsletter and meeting announcements. Workshops to create ornaments, decorations, and/or garland may be held in the summer or early fall, at the discretion of the co-chairpersons. The ornaments and gifts must be completed and given to the co-chairpersons by the September meeting. The chairperson notifies the Festival of Trees, by a September deadline, of any gifts that are under the tree that will be listed in the program and as a description of the tree. The listing of gifts can greatly affect the number of bids and the winning price.

If you have any questions about the theme, what ornaments or gifts would be fitting for the theme for the tree, or if you need ideas to start your creation, contact the Festival of Trees co-chairpersons, as listed annually in the newsletter.

### **Volunteer opportunities:**

Chairperson and committee members

Donation of ornaments, gifts, tree skirt, or funds for the purchase of decorations/supplies

Decorating the tree: Monday of Thanksgiving Week

## Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party is for all members and their guests. It is a time to relax, socialize, and share in a potluck banquet where everyone brings a dish to share. There is a voluntary \$5 gift exchange, which encourages hand created gifts. It is a nice, tranquil time where association members get to relax and enjoy the holiday mood in a holiday setting.

Location, date, and time is listed in the newsletter and at the monthly meetings. The date and time will vary annually per the availability of meeting space. The Christmas Party tends to be in early December.

### **Volunteer opportunities:**

Co-hostess/host

Set up and take down for the decorations, table settings