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2026 ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 9-10

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Annual Meeting

AI You Can Actually Use: A Practical Playbook for Wyoming's Rural Hospitals and Nursing Homes

Most rural hospitals and nursing homes in Wyoming run lean teams on limited technology budgets, and AI can feel like one more thing there is no time for. This session skips the hype and walks through specific workflows a single facility can pilot right away, how to stretch limited dollars, and how to turn staff time saved back into patient care. For each one, we show how to pay for it, either through the tool's own return or, for a Critical Access Hospital, the incentive payments you already earn, plus the data-security and compliance steps to deploy it safely. Attendees leave with a starter checklist and a shortlist of use cases to bring back to their teams.

Mandy Mason is a Director in the AI & Automation group at Huron, where she partners with healthcare executives to scale responsible generative AI, intelligent automation, and advanced analytics that simplify work for clinicians and staff while strengthening operations. She will be presenting this timely program during the Annual Meeting.

Sweetwater County Hospital Trustees Name New CEO

The Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County Board of Trustees unanimously voted during a special meeting July 24 to hire Interim CEO Kari Quickenden of Rock Springs as the hospital's new CEO.

Quickenden, the hospital's Chief Clinical Officer, will take over the permanent role of CEO immediately.

"Selecting a CEO is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to the Board of Trustees, and we approached this decision with great care. After a thorough search, we are proud to appoint Kari Quickenden as our next Chief Executive Officer," said Board President Kandi Pendleton.



Kari Quickenden

“Throughout the process, Kari earned the confidence of the Board through her leadership, integrity, experience, and clear vision for the future of our hospital,” she said. “We are excited to partner with her as we continue our commitment to exceptional patient care, our employees, and the communities we serve.”

Quickenden said she is excited to be part of the team leading the hospital into the future.

“I am deeply honored by this opportunity,” Quickenden said. “The progress we have achieved in recent years reflects the exceptional dedication of our medical staff, nurses, and staff across the entire organization. Together, we have built a strong foundation, and I look forward to building on that momentum to drive continued excellence and make an even greater impact in the years ahead.”

“The patients we serve are our No. 1 priority,” she said. “Our mission, our patients, and our people inspire me every day and I am deeply proud of the compassion and professionalism our teams bring to their work.”

Quickenden started her career at MHSC in 2001 as a contracted staff pharmacist. In 2009, she was hired as Director of Pharmacy. In 2015, she moved into the Chief Clinical Officer position. She took over as Interim CEO May 6, 2026.

She’s a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida College of Pharmacy. She also earned a Master of Science in Health Services Administration and a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Wyoming College of Pharmacy.



Congratulations to Sandy Dugger, CEO of Platte County Hospital, on being named to Becker's Healthcare's 2026 list of Women Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know.

We are proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition and the leadership Sandy brings to Platte County Hospital, and the Wheatland community.



Bridge to Care Highlights Hospital Innovations in Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

The American Hospital Association's **Bridge to Care** initiative highlights how hospitals and health systems are strengthening care transitions and supporting ongoing treatment engagement for patients with opioid use disorder and stimulant use disorder. The AHA has released “**Bridge to Care: Continuing the Momentum.**” Supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the webpage features six case studies from hospitals that have improved their care delivery for patients with substance use disorders; the webpage also includes podcasts and a webinar about incorporating best practices in treating use disorders.

[Bridge to Care Initiative](#)

[Bridge to Care Webpage](#)

Blog Explains What Hospitals Need to Know on Electronic Prior Authorization Requirements

An American Hospital Association blog highlights new electronic prior authorization requirements that begin Jan. 1, 2027, as a result of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' 2024 Interoperability and Prior Authorization final rule. The blog explains why transitioning to the new process will be a significant operational change that will include coordination with health plans, electronic health record vendors and other technology partners.

[AHA Blog on Prior Authorization](#)

WYOMING HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar · 2026

SEP
8

GOLF

WHA Golf Tournament

📅 Tuesday, September 8, 2026

📍 Cheyenne Country Club

SEP
9-10

ANNUAL

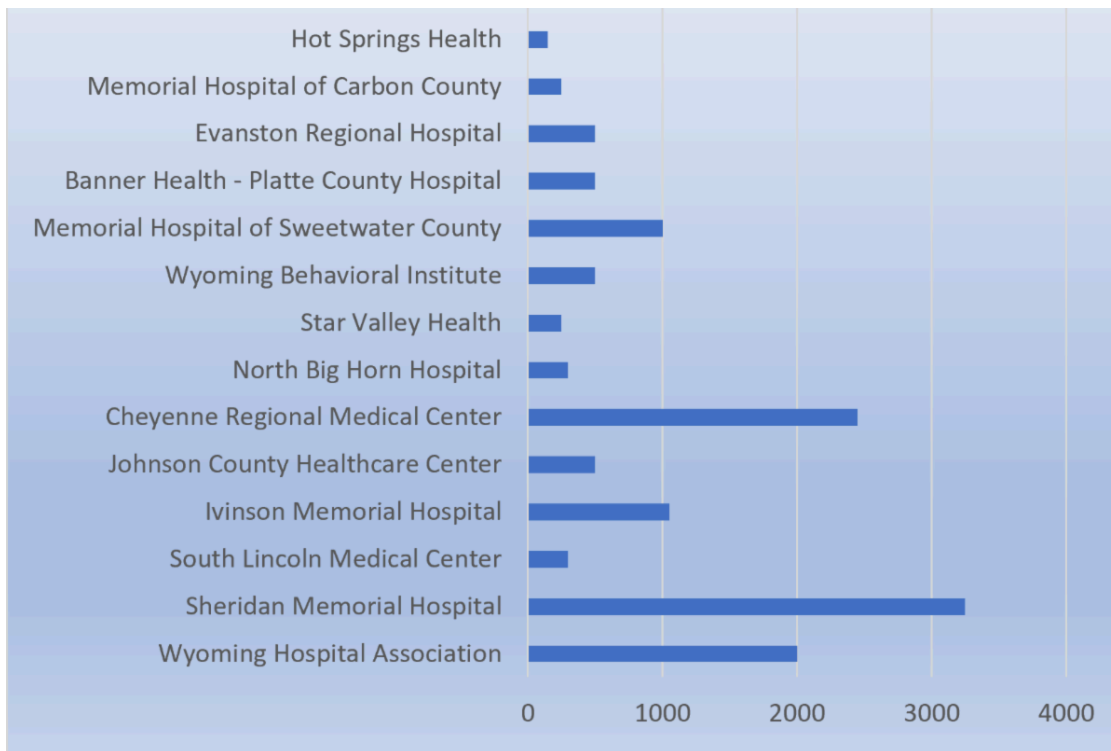
WHA Annual Meeting

📅 Wednesday-Thursday, Sep 9-10, 2026

📍 Little America Hotel & Resort, Cheyenne

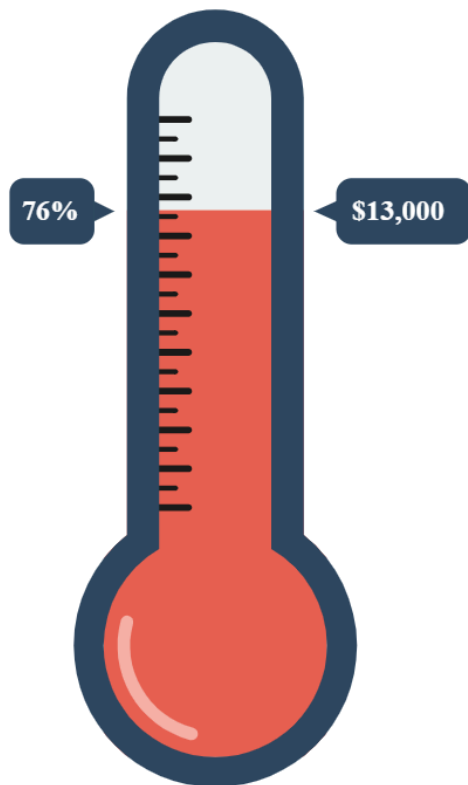
[Annual Meeting Information Can be Found Here](#)

WHA PAC Goal for 2026
Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



- Barry Burkart**
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- Shelli Shelton**
- Joe Wright**
- Tim Thornell**
- Doug Faus**
- Luke Senden**
- Joanna Vilos**
- Robin Roling**
- Scott Fox**
- Darcy Robertson**
- Mike Hunsaker**
- Mike Phillips**
- Steven Leafgreen**
- Brad Jackson**
- Irene Richardson**
- Sandy Dugger**
- Mark Drumhiller**
- Ron Mischke**
- Brady Shoemaker**
- Tommi Ritterbusch**
- Cody Sinclair**
- Kristen Czaban**
- Liz Dearcorn**



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