

Member News

Carter BloodCare and Stewart Regional Blood Center agree to merge. Dallas/Fort Worth-based Carter BloodCare and Tyler-based Stewart Regional Blood Center announce that the two organizations will merge later this spring. Both centers have deep community roots, dating back to the 1950's, and together provide more than 330,000 units of life-saving blood annually for patients in nearly 300 hospitals in 56 North Central and East Texas counties.

"By joining forces, these two Texas institutions will combine more than 160 years of bloodbanking expertise to help meet growing healthcare demands in our region," says Carter BloodCare president and CEO, Dr. Merlyn Sayers. "Together, we will continue to build on a long-standing tradition of serving patients by making transfusions possible in our communities."

The decision to merge was made following a rigorous review and unanimous vote by the board of directors of both centers. An interim management agreement is now in effect until the merger on or before April 1, 2007. Jointly, Carter BloodCare and Stewart will work to consolidate business operations, maximize blood donation and promote high standards for excellence in community blood banking.

Once fully merged, Carter BloodCare and Stewart will be able to welcome donors at 26 permanent donor centers, host up to 30 daily blood drives, maintain a fleet of more than 110 donor coaches and distribution vehicles, and employ nearly 1,000 Texas residents. The organization will also provide unique specialty transfusion services including the Tyler HLA

testing laboratory, the second-largest database for HLA matched platelets in the U.S., two branches of the National Marrow Donor Program, a rare donor registry and around-the-clock consultation with on-staff medical directors.

"While this merger increases the services we can provide, dedicated blood donors are at the very heart of our community blood program," says Stewart Regional Blood Center COO, John Drury. "We encourage them to continue sharing the gift of life at our donor centers and blood drives."

Carter BloodCare and Stewart Regional Blood Center are not-for-profit, community-based blood centers, accredited by the American Association of Blood Banks, licensed by the Food and Drug Administration and affiliated with America's Blood Centers.

Janet Schwetz has joined the Coastal Bend Blood Center (CBBC) as director of technical services. Ms. Schwetz comes to the CBBC after 17 years with UBS, Tupelo, Mississippi. As technical director/laboratory manager at UBS, she helped implement the platelet apheresis program, served on the first Field Advocacy Council for Components and the Council for Shipping and Receiving.

Job Opportunities

Transfusion Service QA Tech - Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. This medical technologist should have at least 5 years of blood bank experience. MT(ASCP)SBB preferred. Contact Mike Newhouse at mikene@baylorhealth.edu or 214-820-3214 for more information.

Quality Specialist – Blood Systems. Nat'l non-profit blood bank is seeking a professional with strong organizational, presentation, written and verbal communications skills for our Quality Specialist positions in Ventura, CA and Tempe, AZ. This individual will be responsible for reviewing quality systems and compliance in all areas of technical and clinical operations. Submit a resume by 2/23/07 to Blood Systems; Attn: MM/HR/2006/0073; 6210 E. Oak Street; Scottsdale AZ. 85257; Fax: (480) 675-5780; E-Mail: jobs@bloodsystems.org.

Assistant Director of Quality Assurance – Coffee Memorial Blood Center. This position provides daily oversight for the QA department, including supervision of a staff of six. Working knowledge of regulatory and accreditation standards including FDA, OSHA, CLIA and HIPAA preferred. Knowledge of biosafety, chemical hazard and fire safety requirements helpful. Licensing or certification in the healthcare or laboratory fields a plus. For more information and to obtain a printable application, please visit our website at www.thegiftoflife.org/jobs.htm. Resumes and requests for additional information may be submitted to Kathy Mitchell, SPHR by FAX (806-358-2982) or e-mail.

For more information on the above job opportunities, visit www.scabb.org > Employment.

(continued from page 3)

Dr. Peschel

I served as chair of the AABB committee on I&A for Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico from 1977-1993. I was a member of AABB standards committee from 1985-1989, and I was consultant from 1989-1997. I served as president of the South Central Association of Blood Banks from 1982-1983 as well as president of the Tarrant County Medical Society in 1983. I was secretary of the Texas Medical Association from 1986-1989. I was a member of the Transfusion Medicine Committee for the American Society of Clinical Pathologists from 1986-1989. I shall always remember working long hours with fellow blood bankers, John Milam MD, Shannon Cooper, MD, Ron Gilcher, MD, Ray Bryant, MD, Herb Polesky, MD, and Toby Simon, MD, during these difficult times.

Challenges continued into the '90s. This decade produced additional regulatory oversight from federal agencies including the FDA, HCFA, and OSHA. During these years I served on the AABB Board of Directors from 1989-1993, I was a member of the College of American Pathologists Transfusion Resource Committee from 1991-1995, and I served as president of the Texas Society of Pathologists in 1990.

My dream for years was that we would have a regional blood bank in north Texas. That dream was realized through the efforts of Merlyn Sayers, MD, and Bobby Grigsby when Carter Blood Center and BloodCare merged. Since my retirement in 1997, I have served Carter BloodCare as medical director emeritus, as well as on the medical advisory committee and the board of directors.

The photo of me tells one last story. I have always loved Ft. Worth, and since my retirement I set out to accomplish 3 personal goals: 1) I wanted to ride in the Fort Worth Stock Show, 2) I wanted to be on Billy Bob's stage, and 3) I wanted to model in a style show. My first goal was realized when I chaired the centennial committee for Tarrant County Medical Society and rode in the stock show parade. My second goal was realized when I announced the amount of money raised from health facilities for the United Way campaign from Billy Bob's stage. My third goal was realized when I was asked to model in a style show at the Ft. Worth convention center to raise money for the Tarrant County Alliance for their community projects. My photograph was taken at that style show. (I was the only one in the style show wearing a hat!)

I gratefully acknowledge the support of my husband, Logan, daughters, Penny and Patti, and my grandchildren, Jaelyn, Blake, and Emily. Their love and respect are life's sweetest rewards.

A blood banker's life is tough, but interesting. I feel that I have been blessed to have had a role in helping to make the nation's blood banks what they are today!

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Protégé Profile: Kathy Tellis

In her position as Customer Account Manager at United Blood Services of Arizona, Kathy Tellis communicates regularly with her hospital customers – what better opportunity to bring up the benefits of SCABB! So, as a SCABB Protégé this year, she has made it a goal and priority to promote the organization at her Quarterly Technical Advisory Committee meetings with her customers. She has spoken at each meeting and distributed the membership brochure and the Joint Meeting preliminary program to each hospital.

Also, as a participant of SCABB's membership committee, Kathy had the opportunity to personally call membership leads generated from the AABB booth in Miami and brainstorm with other committee members on avenues to increase involvement by hospital transfusion service bench techs. "We need more representation from this group. The online educational offerings are a great enhancement to member benefits and are ideal for bench techs who can't get away from the hospital to attend an offsite educational session," says Kathy.

Kathy's mentor, Susan Begnaud, executive director at UBS of Louisiana, encouraged Kathy to make promoting the organization to her customers her focus for the year. She suggested looking into SCABB educational opportunities as a way to target bench techs as well. After promoting the first SCABBinar, Kathy had 9 of her hospital customers attend the session at her UBS site. "I truly appreciate Susan's guidance and encouragement," says Kathy. Susan encouraged Kathy to also work with Kirk Kitchen, SCABB's Educational Committee Chair, to put together a local educational workshop for 2007 – another opportunity to share this organization with current and potential new members!

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Protégé Profile: Tanya Gray

As one of this year's protégés, Tanya Gray, Donor Care Supervisor at United Blood Services, in Morgan City, Louisiana, met with her mentor Joe Ridley, Senior Director of Donor Recruitment at

Carter BloodCare in Bedford, Texas in July, 2006. She toured Carter BloodCare, where Joe introduced her to many people in various donor recruitment positions. Through this visit, Tanya learned new ideas to broaden her interpersonal skills and expand her contact base. Now, with her appointment as Center manager over the United Blood Services satellite center in Thibodaux, LA, along with her current duties as donor care supervisor in Morgan City, she can put all of this information to good use. In the attached picture, Tanya (center back) is present with the current Thibodaux staff. Tanya's career goals are being realized through the Protégé mentorship program.

The SCABB Protégé Mentorship Program

Protégés are prestigiously selected to carry on the work, knowledge and passion of others. One of the goals of South Central's Protégé Mentorship Program is to develop a stronger, more cohesive networking alliance, providing professional and leadership development through committee participation, and offering more opportunities to present educational sessions and abstracts.

At the Annual Meeting, current and new Protégés and Mentors will be wearing ribbons that designate their participation in the program and signal their desire to become more involved in the Association and in our industry. To help facilitate this process, please introduce yourself to the Protégés.

You will have the opportunity to learn more about the Protégé Mentorship Program and to meet the current Protégés and their Mentors during the Annual Meeting events listed below.

Scheduled Protégé Events during Annual Meeting

Board of Director's pre-convention meeting
Monday, May 14, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Belize

Protégé Mixer
Tuesday, May 15, 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM, Belize

Mentoring and Leadership Succession Workshop
Wednesday, May 16, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Congo

SCABB Member Orientation Luncheon
Wednesday, May 16, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM, Belize

Lunch in Exhibit Hall (Brasilia) at the Protégé Mentor table
Thursday, May 17, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Business Meeting / President's Award Reception
Thursday, May 17, 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM, Miranda 3-8

Board of Director's post-convention meetings
Friday, May 18, 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM, Belize

The Protégé Mentorship Program directly fulfills South Central's education mission. It helps promote goodwill and professional collaboration among members of the Association

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor or a Protégé, contact Sarah Jones (sjones@giveblood.org) or Jim Rutledge (jrutledge@thegiftoflife.org).