

Hospital: Annual meeting held

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that the hospital encourages physicians, nurses and other staff to speak up whenever they see something that could be unsafe.

"This is about ownership and responsibility for everyone," Rhee said.

The hospital also recently opened its \$360,000 sleep center, where the president of the hospital, Kurt Barwis, was the first patient. Barwis said that the sleep center, which currently has two rooms, has enough space to add two more rooms. Also, the bariatric surgery program recently celebrated its second year, with 2.9 tons of weight being lost by over 100 patients.

"We are ready for an incredible future with the building blocks we have," Barwis said.

An initiative that Rhee and Barwis presented was the "chasing zero" cam-

paign, which the hospital is going to strive for. In 2012, Barwis said, the hospital will focus on reducing the number of errors and learning from mistakes and listening to feedback from the patients.

"Our number one priorities are safety and quality," the president said, adding that the staff at the hospital should look at feedback as a gift and mistakes as something that can be learned from. "Let's turn these things into opportunities to change for the better."

The hospital had one other change at last week's meeting; Nancy Blanchette, who has been chair of the Board of Directors, had completed her time as chair, and the baton was passed along to Marie O'Brien.

"This hasn't been just a job, this is an organization that I gave my heart and soul to," Blanchette said, adding that she will always

be a part of Bristol Hospital. She listed the accomplishments the hospital has made during her time as chair, including "that I always stressed confidentiality and conflict of interest." Blanchette said quality has always been number one, and "the only way a team can work together is with honesty, integrity and transparency."

Marie O'Brien is now the chair of the Board of Directors and said Bristol Hospital isn't just an organization integrated with individuals and groups "focused on healthcare." She said the hospital is full of volunteers, nurses, doctors, board of directors, and "passionate advocates," for quality patient care.

"We can only be as good and successful as each of us is," O'Brien said, adding that "we must continue to work on best quality care for patients."



TAMMI KNAPIK

At last Thursday's annual meeting of Bristol Hospital, Nancy Blanchette, above, stepped down as the chair of the Board of Directors. Marie O'Brien is the new chair.



TAMMI KNAPIK

Sue and Michael Brault were among those in attendance for last Thursday's annual meeting for Bristol Hospital's directors and corporators at the Clarion Hotel.

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