

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Two New Board Members Join North Pine Area Hospital District**

Sandstone, MN – July 12, 2018 – Barbara Fischer and Cheryl (Haapoja) Martin join the North Pine Area Hospital District's (Hospital District) after the retirements Scott Hendricks and Merv Becker. Barb replaces Scott Hendricks of Danforth Township and Cheryl replaces Merv Becker of Sandstone Township.

“The Hospital District Board is very fortunate to have such talented people join our Board of Directors,” states Ron Osladil, chairman of the North Pine Area Hospital District. “Their professional experience and fresh perspectives will be a significant advantage as the Hospital District continues its mission to ensure local access to quality health care.”

Barb Fischer is a retired sales executive in the technology industry, with extensive experience in solving complex issues by fostering constructive dialogue with all stakeholders. Education is another passion. She is a substitute teacher for the Hinckley Finalyson, East Central and Pine City school districts. She is also a certified Pine County Master Gardener. Barb holds a BA in English and Secondary Education and graduated Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude from the University of St. Catherine in St. Paul.

“Being able to connect with the community in multiple ways was the reason I accepted the challenge to be on the Hospital District board,” states Fischer. “I believe that great results come by asking good questions and listening. These are qualities that I intend to continue as a board member.”

Cheryl (Haapoja) Martin is a Certified Financial Planner owning her Ameriprise Financial franchise since 1989. She is based out of McGregor with clients throughout Aitkin, Carlton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine counties. Cheryl has a BS in Finance from St. Cloud State University. She moved to Sandstone Township in 2016 after marrying Joe Martin.

“I believe that my financial background, successful self-employment and business training will benefit our Hospital District, thus our community,” Cheryl comments. “I am interested in serving on the Board because I think we should all contribute our time and talents to help our communities thrive. Local access to quality healthcare is vital to all of us, lifesaving to some.”

“It is very encouraging to see the talents that Barb and Cheryl bring, especially as we further develop our strategic planning, which is looking at filling the gaps in health care services and giving our board enhanced tools to better govern,” added Osladil. “We look forward to the November election results and will soon see who is running after the August 14, 2018 filing deadline. We have 13 cities and townships that are up for re-election.”

### **About North Pine Area Hospital District**

The North Pine Area Hospital District is a Minnesota political subdivision whose purpose is to ensure that area residents have access to high quality health care. Hospital Districts have taxing authority to acquire, improve and run hospital and nursing home facilities. The North Pine Area Hospital District built the Pine Healthcare Campus, which opened in May 2017. The Hospital District contracts and leases space for hospital services with Essentia Health and the clinic and pharmacy services are provided by Gateway Family Health Clinic and Thrifty White Pharmacy. Other health care partners are Golden Horizons, providing assisted living and specialty care and Sandstone Healthcare Center providing skilled nursing and rehabilitation services. The Hospital District is governed by a Board of Directors composed of 19 appointed/elected individuals for four year terms. For more information about the Hospital District and the Pine Healthcare Campus, go to [www.PineHospitalDistrict.com](http://www.PineHospitalDistrict.com).

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