



WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: **GEORGE COUCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
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Phone: **304-455-8111**

WETZEL COUNTY HOSPITAL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Photo attached, left to right: Shown with the crystal award for Community Impact and Innovation and banner presented to Wetzel County Hospital are (l-r) Arlene Summers, R.N. Chief Nursing Office for Inpatient Services; Marge Knight, R.N. Chief Nursing Officer for Emergency and Outpatient Services and George Couch, Chief Executive Officer.

New Martinsville, WV – George Couch, CEO of Wetzel County Hospital has announced that Amerinet, a leading healthcare group purchasing organization, has recognized Wetzel County Hospital as one of three national winners of the “Community Impact and Innovation Award” at its second annual Amerinet Healthcare Achievement Awards. Wetzel County Hospital was presented the award for its’ Emergency Department Renovation and Expansion project that included addition of full-time emergency helicopter service with Air Evac LifeTeam and other hospital improvements.

“These awards recognize and celebrate members who are innovators, collaborators and leaders,” said Todd Ebert, Amerinet president and CEO. “Utilizing Amerinet’s diverse portfolio of contract services and solutions, these nominees successfully meet the challenges of the healthcare industry and deliver high-quality, cost-effective patient care.”

“This is a great honor for Wetzel County Hospital, our Board and Staff for innovation and forward thinking by expanding these vital trauma, emergency and in-patient services for our surrounding communities,” added Mr. Couch. “Being able to effectively and professional respond to life and death situations with a quality facilities, equipment, staff and transfer services is one of the primary functions of rural hospitals.”

Marge Knight, R.N. and Chief Nurse for Emergency and Outpatient Services for Wetzel County Hospital noted that the new Emergency Department has been expanded from 1,750 square feet to 6,300

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square feet. It has its own entrance and large waiting area; reception desk; trauma room; cardiac room; gynecology room; orthopedic/suture room; isolation room; decontamination room; three triage rooms; four treatment rooms; physician office; medication room; clean and soiled utility rooms; private patient bathrooms; and coffee bar.

Other features of the new Emergency Department include a decontamination area; public and staff bathrooms, staff break room, a family room for counseling or bereavement; large nursing station; upgraded ambulance bay and an office for hospital security staff that is located to control after-hours access to the hospital.

The hospital's mobile M.R.I. trailer area was relocated and includes the areas first enhanced open M.R.I. service. Improvements were made to the hospital's helipad area, as well as in the construction of a helicopter hanger and crew quarters to accommodate the areas first hospital based 24-hour per day emergency helicopter service, a partnership between Wetzel County Hospital and the Air Evac Lifeteam.

"We have taken great strides as a small rural hospital in providing high quality emergency, inpatient and outpatient services. Many of our services and technology exceeds that of hospitals in the Wheeling and Parkersburg area. There is no reason for anyone to leave our area for radiology, lab, rehabilitation or general in-patient surgery and acute care. Even if your doctor orders labs, therapy or radiology at another hospital, you can bring your order here and be assured that our services meet the highest standards of care and service," added Arlene Summers, R.N. Chief Nurse for Inpatient Services at Wetzel County Hospital.

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services re-designated Wetzel County Hospital as a Level IV Trauma Center. Wetzel County Hospital is the only trauma-designated facility in Wetzel County and one of only 13 hospitals in West Virginia to receive a full three-year designation.

To earn the designation, the hospital must have the necessary equipment and resources for trauma cases. Hospital staff must constantly review trauma cases, which enables staff to provide care based on the best practices of trauma centers across the country.

Also, the hospital must staff radiology, lab, surgery and other departments to immediately treat trauma patients. Doctors and nurses must pass advanced trauma classes to provide patients with the latest procedures. All Emergency Department nursing staff at Wetzel County Hospital are credentialed in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS); Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS); Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NRP); and advanced Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC).

Partial funding for the emergency department project came through a Grant from the United States Department of Health and Human Resources, Health Resources and Services Administration, in the amount of \$853,062 secured with the assistance of the late United States Senator Robert C. Byrd. The

balance of the funding came from the refinancing of Wetzel County Hospital's long term bonds by Wesbanco Bank along with the cooperation and assistance of the Wetzel County Commission and Wetzel County Building Commission. The project was designed by Kreps and Zachwieja Architects from Charleston West Virginia and R.C. Construction of Charleston, West Virginia is the General Contractor.

Mr. Ebert said that Superior Amerinet member performance was recognized in areas including financial and operational improvements, quality and patient care delivery, supply chain and data management and community impact.

Facility categories honored by Amerinet included acute care facilities under 300 beds, acute care facilities over 300 beds, IDNs and critical access hospitals. In the alternate care sector, categories included surgery centers, long term care facilities, physician offices and clinics. All entries were evaluated on a rigorous set of criteria by a panel of expert judges.

The 18 winners honored at the 2010 Amerinet Member Conference in Las Vegas, Nev., September 14-17, 2010 in each category are as follows:

Community Impact and/or Innovation

- Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Olympic Medical Center, Port Angeles, Wash.
- Wetzel County Hospital, New Martinsville, W.Va.

Financial and Operational Improvement

- Cape Cod Healthcare, Inc., Hyannis, Mass.
- Southern Mono Healthcare District, Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

Quality/Patient Care Delivery and/or Patient Satisfaction

- ACMH Hospital, Kittanning, Pa.
- Adena Health/Adena Rehabilitation and Wellness Center, Chillicothe, Ohio
- Grande Ronde Hospital, La Grande, Ore.
- Illinois State University, Normal, Ill.
- Lakeview Village, Lenexa, Kan.
- Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital & Clinics, Prairie du Sac, Wis.
- St. Barnabas Hospital, Bronx, N.Y.

Supply Chain/Data Management or Supply Cost Efficiencies

- Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, Wash.
- Medical Center of Louisiana, New Orleans, La.
- Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.
- Northern Arizona Healthcare, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- United General Hospital, Sedro-Woolley, Wash.

- Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, Minn.

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