

## MARYJANE WURTH WELCOMES ROLE AS NEW IHA PRESIDENT

Maryjane A. Wurth began her new duties as president of the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA) on October 19, 2009. She has met dozens of Illinois hospital leaders and legislators at IHA's Leadership Summit, a reception for the Conference of Women Legislators and women hospital leaders, regional meetings and hospital visits throughout the state. She has also met with the editorial boards of major Illinois newspapers to represent the interests of member hospitals.

"When I decided to join IHA," says Wurth, "I knew I was joining an organization with a stellar reputation. I also knew I was becoming president of a state hospital association during a period of great turmoil in our field. I took on this challenge with relish because I think this is one of the most exciting times to be in health care. What could be more inspiring than to lead an organization like IHA during the creation of a new national health care system?"

In addition to protecting adequate health care funding in the state budget, especially Medicaid, Wurth says she has three top priorities: (1) helping members deal with the impact of federal health care reform, including advocating for member interests in Washington, D.C.; (2) quality improvement/patient safety; and (3) member workforce issues, especially physician supply. She emphasizes the need to work together with various stakeholders to address the many challenges ahead.

In October, IHA helped secure a legislative package to pump nearly \$1.1 billion in new federal Medicaid funds into the Illinois economy, including \$155 million in new Medicaid stimulus payments for hospitals, a significant achievement for the hospital community in light of the state's continuing financial difficulties. IHA worked diligently with the bill's sponsors, legislative leaders, the Governor's Office, the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services and supporters of the legislation to protect the interests of members.

Wurth formerly was Chief Operating Officer of the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) and President and CEO of HANYS Solutions, its for-profit subsidiary. She holds a Master's of Science from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York College at Cortland.

