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Better Health

A Weekly Update  
for Asante Employees

Every patient,  
every day, every time.

# ASANTE® News

ASANTE ASHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | ASANTE PHYSICIAN PARTNERS | ASANTE ROGUE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER | ASANTE THREE RIVERS MEDICAL CENTER

## AACH Employee Spotlight: Tim Burks

Tim Burks was born at 1:30 a.m. in the back of an ambulance in Los Angeles. He's been Smokey the Bear, a harness racer, a door-to-door book salesman and a bartender. Now he's a surgical services inventory specialist at Asante Ashland Community Hospital, where he's worked for the past 16 years – and he was at Asante Rogue Regional for six years before that.



Mike Kenneth, Ralph Wells, Tim Burks, Nancy Whetstone, and Ian Ahlstrom

**Q: Why did you choose to work at Asante Ashland?**

**A:** Everyone seems to be happy and caring. It feels like a family atmosphere.

**Q: Which departments do you interact with the most?**

**A:** All of the peri-op surgery, SPD, anesthesia, PACU, same-day, special studies, pain clinic. I

coordinate everyday operational supplies as well as capital equipment.

**Q: What misconception do people have about your job?**

**A:** I wish I could just pick up the phone and have supplies here overnight, but it can be a long process. Sometimes approvals can take 30 days or longer.

**Q: What co-workers do you rely on?**

**A:** Without a doubt, Tammy Volkman! She is a hard-working teammate. Tammy understands product availability, especially in emergent situations.

**Q: What makes you excited about coming to work?**

**A:** Because of my work, I am helping a patient enjoy a painless and healthy life.

**Q: Who is your funniest co-worker?**

**A:** Rob Hibner.

**Q: What's one thing our patients have taught you?**

**A:** To be attentive, kind and caring. It could be my family one day.

**Q: What don't people know about you?**

**A:** I used to play Smokey the Bear in California's forestry commercials. In the 1970s, I traveled the  
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country racing horses – harness horses, pulling buggies. In the early '80s, I traveled the country selling books door-to-door.

**Q: What act of kindness have you witnessed at AACH that moved you to tears?**

**A:** I injured myself on a hiking trip 14 years ago. The love and care provided by the entire operating room staff moved me beyond tears. I am blessed!

**Q: Who is your role model at Asante?**

**A:** My wife, Valerie (who is an executive assistant in Asante Corporate). She keeps me straight and honest and reminds me to play by the rules!

**Q: What was one of your past jobs?**

**A:** I was a bartender in Reno. Drunk people would come to the bar and be so out of it that sometimes I had to put them in a cab and send them off to the hospital. I wanted to get away from that and raise a kid in God's country.

**Q: As a child, what did you picture yourself doing when you grew up?**

**A:** I always wanted to be a forest ranger at a national park.

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