Tournament of Roses Parade float honors nursing

“A Healing Place” is the title for a 2013 Tournament of Roses Parade float to celebrate and honor nurses. The float will be in the New Year’s Day parade broadcast from Pasadena, California.

For the first time, a nurse, Sally Bixby, MS, RN, CNOR, is serving as president of the Tournament of Roses. Bixby has had a long career as a perioperative nurse and manager and has volunteered with the Tournament of Roses since 1989.

“When we decided to build a float to honor Sally, we realized that we also wanted to honor nurses everywhere,” says Monica Weisbrich, RN, president of the nonprofit organization that has led the effort to raise money and build the float.

The float’s title is in line with the parade’s theme, “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”

The title was chosen, Weisbrich explains, because “a healing place is created anywhere there is a nurse and a patient—from the hospital to the battlefield, from a school to a home, from a clinic to a specialty center.”

At press time, 7 nurses were signed up to ride the float, each representing a California hospital or health system. There is room for up to 10 riders with sponsorships at $30,000 each.

Fund raising began in 2007, spearheaded by a group of 5 perioperative nurse volunteers.

Volunteers are still needed to help decorate the float. Learn more about the float, volunteer to help decorate, get information on parade tickets for block seating for nurses’ float supporters, and check out the float’s progress at www.flowers4thefloat.org.

The animals on the nurses’ float represent the qualities of nurses that foster healing, including caring, compassion, wisdom, confidence, and intelligence.

Have a question on the OR revenue cycle?

Keith Siddel will respond to questions in the column. Send your questions to editor@ormanager.com. You can also reach Siddel at ksiddel@hrmlc.com.