



LOUISIANA

CHAPTER OF HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES

WINTER 2023 LCHE NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Dear All,

As we approach the end of the year, our chapter has much to celebrate. Your board has done a fantastic job! Our strategic planning meeting was held on Tuesday and several great ideas were discussed that will be introduced beginning early next year. We also held a sold-out education program in November. We thank Ochsner Kenner for hosting and to the panelists, moderators and board members who collaborated to make this a top-notch event.

Also, we are honored to announce that Michele Sutton, CEO, of North Oaks Medical Center has been nominated for the Chair/Elect of the Board of the American College of Healthcare Executives! The vote will take place at ACHE Congress in March of 2024.

Mark your calendar for LCHE's Annual Meeting and Social to be held on Thursday January 11, 2024 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at Coletta Barrett's home in Baton Rouge. More details to come.

As we close the year may you and your family have a blessed holiday season!

Tatsy Jeter
LCHE President

Pay 2024 Dues Today!

Did you know you can now enroll in Membership Auto Renewal? Log in to ache.org and select 'Pay My Dues.' From there select 'Enroll Now' and follow the steps to enter payment information. The payment information you provide will automatically be applied for your membership renewal upon expiration of your current membership terms.



ACHE is also excited to announce a dues installment plan, billed in 3 payments. After a member makes the first installment, ACHE will email in advance of the second and third payments before credit/debit cards are charged. Additionally, once a member signs up for the installment payment plan, the membership will automatically renew each year under the plan, keeping those members informed before processing future payments. Any questions about the installment payment plan can be directed to ACHE's Customer Service Center at contact@ache.org or call (312) 424-9400, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central time.

2024 Education

Tuesday, January 30, 2024: LCHE Breakfast and Education Session at the LHA Winter Symposium, Renaissance Baton Rouge Hotel



- 9:30 a.m. ACHE Registration & Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. ACHE Panel Discussion: Digital Health in the Healthcare Delivery System
- 1.5 In-Person (formerly Face-to-Face) Education hours
- Register [here](#)

Join moderator Indu Subaiya, Healthcare Visionary and Co-Founder, Healthcare 2.0, and panelists Tonya Jagneaux, MD, Scott Mackey, DO and Vinod Nair, MD as they discuss adoption and innovation across the clinical and patient perspectives, as well as the technical, operational, regulatory, and financial/reimbursement aspects of the development of the programs that are highlighted. The panel will also explore the expanding role that digital health holds in daily life and its direction into the future of healthcare delivery system.

March 25-28, 2024: ACHE Congress, Chicago
Visit the [website](#) for more information and to register.
Early bird rates end on February 29.



Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to the following individuals who have advanced to Fellow since September 2023.

Nael Abdelsamad, MD, MBA, FACHE
Lanzi Meyers, Esq., FACHE

Lauren DeFrates, FACHE

Changes to FACHE Credentialing Criteria Effective January 1, 2024

What is the same? Complete a minimum of 36 continuing education credits over 3 years, with a minimum of 12 face-to-face credits.

- Beginning Jan. 1, the remaining 24 credits are divided into 12 ACHE Virtual Interactive Education credits and up to 12 Qualifying Education credits (previously 24 credits of Qualified Education)
- ACHE Face-to-Face Education will be called ACHE In-Person Education (i.e., Congress, Clusters, in-person Executive Program, in-person Choice programs and approved ACHE Chapter Panel Discussions)
- ACHE Virtual Interactive Education will be added as a new delivery option (i.e., Virtual Face-to-Face Courses, Virtual Leadership Symposium, Virtual Health System Simulation, Virtual Executive Program, Virtual Board of Governors Review and Virtual ACHE Chapter Panel Discussions)
- Qualified Education will be called Qualifying Education (i.e., ACHE digital self-study courses, webinars, live, or recorded on-demand). This also includes pre-approved provider organizations and education from other professional organizations related to healthcare management, administration, and leadership.

See the ACHE [website](#) for more information.

Commentary on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



From Coletta Barrett, MHA, RN, FACHE

Vice President of Mission, Our Lady of the Lake Health

[We Listen, We Heal: Promoting Health Equity and Improving Patient Outcomes](#) was published in the December issue of *Nurse Leader*, the official journal of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL). Our Lady of the Lake Health was recognized in May 2023 at the National AONL meeting with the AONL PRISM Award for their work in diversity, equity, and inclusion. The linked article highlights some of the work that garnered that distinction.

Member Spotlight - April LaFontaine, FACHE

Responses submitted by Dr. LaFontaine, condensed for publication

Dr. LaFontaine currently leads the strategic intelligence initiatives at St. Tammany Health System. She was asked to create, lead, and support the organization's data analytics roadmap, including implementing the health system's data platform and governance strategy. She is on the boards of NAMI St. Tammany and the Northshore Food Bank. She is a 2020 graduate of Leadership Gulf Coast, holds a Doctorate in Health Administration, a Master's in Business Administration, a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management as well as being a certified professional coder through AAPC, a Lean certified green belt, and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives since 2013.



Dr. LaFontaine has been an enormous supporter of ACHE as a member since 2010, serving in leadership roles with the MS Chapter of ACHE, Mississippi Health Executives, and as the ACHE Regent for the state of MS representing ACHE nationally for the 2020 – 2023 term. Dr. LaFontaine was recently elected by Louisiana members to serve as the LA Regent for the 2024 – 2027 term.

What do you feel is the value of the FACHE designation?

As an experienced healthcare leader often charged with recruiting new talent into my organizations, I look for this distinction when bringing in new people, and I know that peers do as well. The FACHE credential remains a mark of distinction for leaders in our profession, and this board certification in healthcare management demonstrates the individual's depth of knowledge and experience. More than 80 executive search firms recognize candidates who hold the FACHE credential as having an advantage. The FACHE distinction commands recognition and respect for your professionalism and is a symbol of ethical decision-making, competence, leadership, and commitment to lifelong learning. The FACHE credential is an essential qualification for senior management positions. Over 75 percent of fellows feel that because of the FACHE credential, they are better prepared to cope with the challenges of the evolving healthcare management landscape.

What is one thing that has or continues to surprise you in your career?

I am constantly in awe of the resiliency of healthcare workers and leaders and their ability to remain nimble and fluid to keep up with the rapid rate of change and the complexities and challenges of delivery systems in our country and worldwide. And regardless of those challenges or the current crises, patients and the quadruple aim remain at the forefront of all

decisions. How many other industries can tout such accolades and a strategic focus on improving the well-being of our population?

What are your recommendations for early careerists?

To aspiring early careerists, I always give the same advice. Know your WHY. What is your why? Why did you choose healthcare administration as a major and as a career? Knowing the answer and keeping it with you through the tough jobs and coursework is important to stay grounded and connected. One of the advantages of ACHE is that the organization is here to help you by connecting you to other like-minded people with the same drive and passion and a similar WHY as you.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

The last several years of my life have been quite dull and tedious as I finished my dissertation. However, my husband and I love traveling and eating. We have recently started studying wines and vineyards and look forward to visiting some. My husband is also a lifelong pyrotechnician, and we have the pleasure of working with some friends who own a special effects business where we help with the Saints home game pregame and halftime shows, concerts, Pelicans and LSU athletic events, and firework and drone shows for holidays (aka getting paid to blow stuff up). We also have two grown sons and three beautiful grandchildren that we love spending time with, as well as our new feline fur baby rescued after our feline fur baby of 22 years passed last Thanksgiving.

Chapter Website:
<https://louisiana.ache.org/>

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