



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Dear All,

As my term as President of ACHE of Louisiana comes to a close, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the privilege of serving this outstanding organization and its members. This role has been an honor and an experience I will always hold dear.

Over the past two years, together we have elevated our chapter to new heights. The decision to align our name more closely with ACHE National marked a significant milestone, and our continued improvements in communication, education, fellow advancement, and board engagement have positioned us for success well into the future. These strides are a testament to the commitment and passion of our members, and I am confident that the momentum we have built will carry us forward into 2025 and beyond.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the strong leadership that will guide our chapter in the coming year. Dionne Viator, FACHE, will undoubtedly do an exceptional job as your next chapter president, and I have every confidence in her vision and ability to lead us to even greater achievements. Read more about Dionne in our Fellow Spotlight below. Additionally, we have much to celebrate as one of our own, Michele Sutton, FACHE, CEO of North Oaks Health System, will become the Chair of ACHE in March 2025. Let us show our support for Michele with a strong Louisiana presence at the ACHE Congress on Healthcare Leadership next year!

Serving you and this organization has been a true honor, and I look forward to seeing all of you at ACHE of Louisiana events in the new year. In addition, I wish all of you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025!

Warm wishes,

Tatsy Jeter
LCHE President

Education

In conjunction with the 2025 LHA Winter Healthcare Leadership Symposium, ACHE of Louisiana is offering **1.5 In-Person credit hours** through a Pre-Conference Breakfast Session that includes a panel discussion on "Implementing Strategic Plans for Successful Operations." To attend the ACHE breakfast session, attendees must register to attend the symposium, which will provide attendees with an additional **5 hours of ACHE Qualifying Education credits**. For more information, download the [event brochure](#).

Registration Process:

ACHE of Louisiana Member Employed by an LHA Member Hospital: Register [online](#). The cost is \$210 for hospital member employees to attend the symposium plus an additional \$150 for the ACHE Pre-Conference Breakfast Session.

ACHE of Louisiana Member Not Employed by an LHA Member Hospital: Please contact Meaghan Genre at mgenre@LHAonline.org so she may send you a registration form. Within three business days, you will receive an email instructing you how to pay your event invoice online. **Registration is not complete until the invoice is paid in full.** Registrants will pay the corporate rate of \$500 to attend the symposium plus an additional \$150 for the ACHE Pre-Conference Breakfast Session.

If you have any questions regarding your organization's affiliation with the LHA, contact LHA Executive Assistant to the President & CEO Meaghan Genre at mgenre@LHAonline.org. If you have any questions about the event, contact LHA Director of Education Michelle Smith at msmith@LHAonline.org.

Annual Meeting

Come ring in the New Year and spread good cheer at the Annual Meeting of ACHE of Louisiana on Thursday, January 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will be held at the home of Tatsy of Tommy Jeter, 17923 West Augusta Drive in Baton Rouge. RSVP to Sarah Mitchell, mitchells@northoaks.org.

2025 Congress in Houston

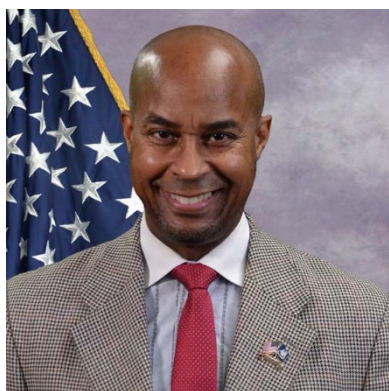
Get all information related to 2025 Congress [online](#) and plan to attend breakfast hosted by the chapter in Michele Sutton's honor at the Marriott Marquis Houston on Monday morning, March 24, from 6:30-7:30 am. Attendees will then proceed as a group to the Opening Session in support of Michele.

ACHE of Louisiana will be offering eight \$1,000 scholarships for members, including two specifically for new fellows and four for early careerists, two of which will be selected by the DE&I committee. If you are interested in applying for one of these grants, please send an email to lachelha123@gmail.com with **Congress Scholarship** in the subject line by January 31, 2025.

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to **Cindy Duet, Cory Fry, Elisabeth Gentry, Nicholas Hluchy, and Jennifer Schwehm** who have advanced to Fellow. Three of these individuals participated in the virtual Fellow Advancement Program held over the summer.

Commentary on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



From Peter Dancy, Jr., MBA MHA, FACHE

Medical Center Director/CEO, Alexandria VA Health Care System and Chair of the LCHE Diversity and Inclusion Committee

There are a number of health care organizations and companies across the country that are making positive strides in addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Cassidy Rimmey, a Marketing Coordinator in the healthcare industry at Perficient, wrote an excellent article titled [A Digital Approach to Addressing Health Equity](#). The article discusses how Perficient partnered with a health care system to develop a strategy aimed at connecting

with marginalized groups more effectively via virtual care services. The initiative led to significant increases in appointment requests and provider searches, demonstrating the impact of inclusive digital approaches on patient engagement.

LaShyra Nolen wrote an opinion piece published in Harvard Public Health that speaks to the benefits of a diverse physician workforce, citing studies that show improved health outcomes when there is a racial and ethnic concordance between physicians and patients. Titled [Good Health Care is Rooted in Evidence. So is DEI](#). Dr. Nolen, a Harvard Medical School graduate and internal medicine resident physician shares her journey to obtaining her degree. It also underscores the importance of DEI initiatives in medicine and her efforts to continuously advocate for diversity in health care workforce. Specifically, she opined that “data demonstrate that diversity in medicine helps save lives.”

I would encourage you to check out these articles to expand your knowledge and perspective on how DEI can have a positive impact on organizations and the patients we serve.

Fellow Spotlight – Dionne Viator, CPA, FACHE

Dionne Viator has been President and CEO of Iberia Medical Center for 5 years and is the 2025 incoming chapter president for ACHE of Louisiana.

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

ACHE and, in particular, the FACHE designation are the professional pinnacle for the healthcare industry. Mid-career, I was encouraged by my CEO at the time to pursue the FACHE designation. He knew that I aspired to move into healthcare leadership roles outside of the CFO role that I was in at the time. I am grateful for his advice and support.

The FACHE designation signifies a lifelong quest for knowledge. This journey of lifetime learning and peer support through mentoring and volunteering with ACHE has enriched both my personal life and professional career.



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

I am a CPA by formal education working for Ernst and Young for many years at the beginning of my career, but the mission, passion, resilience, and selflessness of healthcare workers led me to the field of healthcare for over 30 years now. Each time there is a challenge, healthcare workers by nature run in to help. We saw that most recently at Iberia Medical Center when our hospital was directly hit by a tornado two years ago. Our physicians and nurses ran into the building directly hit to bring patients and their families to safety and scoured the parking lot to make sure all who were injured were cared for.

I have seen this selflessness over and over in my career and I should no longer be surprised, but it certainly impresses me every time.

What are your recommendations for early careerists?

I have two recommendations. The first is to be curious and seek opportunities. Your formal education is a sound platform from which to start. But experience gained from volunteering to participate, taking on something new or leading initiatives in your organization are a great way to learn, have an impact on your organization and interact with other leaders.

The second is an observation that early careerists often think that they need to only network with experienced leaders seasoned in their healthcare career journey. I think the strength of a good network that will last the life of your career is the colleagues your age and at your leadership level in healthcare. If you invest in those relationships and help each other's success, you will grow up together and build an unbreakable trust over the years.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself – or – What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

Anyone who knows me well knows that my happy place is in Toledo Bend with family sac-a-lait fishing.

People are often surprised that I like to fish. I love just being outside on the water with family on the boat. The water is so relaxing and fishing is a good time to enjoy the company of family. A day on the boat also has a side benefit of a wonderful fish dinner. Sac-a-lait is such a mild fresh fish and my absolute favorite fish to cook and eat.

Sponsor Spotlight – Kent Design Build

Kent Design provides design and build services which guides you to achieving your goals through the many talented team members here at Kent Design Build. Being a trusted advisor on any project brings a special responsibility through our doors which we relish the opportunity to fulfill every time. Our team has a unified project approach, rooted in integrity and concern for the well-being of all stakeholders has been the foundation for differentiating ourselves from the status quo of the construction industry. The Kent Design Build team has an inherent care and concern for growth in the communities we serve. For more information, contact Brad Jarvis at 985-373-4530.

Chapter Website:

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

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