



WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



As 2025 quickly draws to a close, I hope we can all find time to slow down, enjoy the holidays with our families, and enter 2026 rested and energized. Looking ahead, I am pleased to congratulate our newly elected ACHE of Louisiana Board members: Ken Cochran, Board Member at Large; Sarah Mitchell, Region 2 Representative; and LTC Riliwan Ottun, Region 4 Representative.

Please join us at our annual meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the home of Tatsy Jeter in Baton Rouge, where these new Board members will be formally installed. Our organization is well positioned for continued growth and service in 2026, thanks to the dedication of our Board, Committee Chairs, and Committee Members.

As I close this brief message, I would also like to ask a favor of our membership. One of the core benefits of ACHE is networking and mentorship. Under the leadership of Committee Chair Kristina Gray, we have a significant number of members enrolling in our mentorship program—and we need additional volunteer mentors to support this demand. If you are willing to serve as a mentor, please email Kristina at kgray@wkhs.com. I assure you that the experience will be deeply rewarding and beneficial.

With Appreciation,

Dionne Viator, CPA, FACHE, CGMA
ACHE of Louisiana Chapter President

Annual Meeting

Save the date for the ACHE of Louisiana Annual Meeting to be held Thursday evening, January 15 in Baton Rouge. An invitation and calendar invite were sent to all members.

Scholarships Available for 2026 Congress

ACHE [2026 Congress](#) will once again be hosted in Houston on March 2-4 and the ACHE of Louisiana Board voted to offer up to eight \$1,000 member scholarships to attend. One will be reserved for a member of each region (4 total), with the remaining prioritized for new Fellows, early careerists, and members representing leadership inclusivity. **If you are interested in applying for one of these scholarships, please download the application attached to this email and return to lachelha123@gmail.com by Friday, Dec. 12, 2025.**

Recognition of New Fellows

Congratulations to **Jessica Bennett, Philip Haddad, Dr. Robert Peltier, Traci Thibodeaux, Brian Tripode, and Riley Waddell** who have recently advanced to Fellow. In all, ten members who advanced to Fellow this year have participated in the Fellow Advancement Program under the leadership of Dr. Rich Priore. More details on the 2026 program will be shared in the spring.

Regional Updates

Region 4 (Central and North Louisiana) hosted a professional networking event on Nov. 13. Seven members attended with much discussion of ways to add value for current and future members, including the possibility of identifying cluster locations (based on current member location) to shrink the distance between planned location and member concentration.

Stay tuned for events and education in your region in 2026!

Commentary on Leadership Inclusivity by Peter Dancy, FACHE

My dad was in the US Army and served honorably for 30 years, and as a military brat, we moved often – from Fort Benning, Georgia to Germany, to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to Presidio of San Francisco, to San Antonio, Texas (where I became a San Antonio Spurs fan), finally settling in Columbus, Georgia, my mother's hometown. Fortunately, my older brother and I played sports, so it made entry into a new school and environment less stressful. Our new friends became our teammates, either basketball, football, or baseball. From San Francisco to Columbus, Georgia, the level of competition in junior high and high school was varied. Our coaches/ leaders recognized our skills and provided us an excellent opportunity to demonstrate them. In that environment, every player had that “send me in coach” mentality, desiring to be included in the win, the inevitable disappointing lose or just the camaraderie inherent in team sports.

Much like sports, inclusive leadership in health care ensures that every member of the organization—clinical and administrative—has a voice in decision-making, growth, and the shared mission of patient-centered care. Leaders who prioritize inclusion create a culture where diverse perspectives strengthen teamwork, innovation, and outcomes. By fostering an environment that values equity, safety, and respect, inclusive leaders attract and retain top talent, enhance organizational trust, and empower all staff to contribute fully to the organization's success.

A clear parallel can be seen in sports, such as with a football team like LSU. If the coaching staff relies only on a few star players while failing to use the full talents of the entire roster, the team's performance, morale, and results suffer. The same principle applies in health care—when leaders overlook the diverse skills and potential of their people, they limit innovation and weaken the system's overall performance. Inclusive leadership, much like effective coaching, ensures that everyone's strengths are recognized, developed, and aligned with the organization's goals, turning collective potential into lasting excellence.

When my family settled in Columbus, Georgia, my brother, and I tried out for the high school basketball team. We thought we were good, having either started or got some playing time at other schools. We quickly realized that those “Columbus boys can ball” and we had no chance making the team. The “send me in coach” mentality did not pan out for us. However, undeterred, we both switched to individual sports with new coaches who understood our desire to continue to compete. I made my high school tennis team, and my brother switched to track, where he excelled and went on to do the same at the collegiate level.

As a seasoned health care executive, I have transformed lessons I learned from my coaches and have been intentional about incorporating them into diverse and inclusive leadership

decision making. I encourage all health care leaders to be equally intentional, as I believe doing so will positively impact the healthcare mission in the communities we serve.

Fellow Spotlight – Tatsy Jeter, CPA, FACHE

Patricia “Tatsy” Jeter, CPA, FACHE, is the Senior Vice President and CFO of the Louisiana Hospital Association. She has served the ACHE of Louisiana chapter as Treasurer, President and current immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. She and her husband, Tommy, will open their home for the annual meeting on January 15, 2026.



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

The FACHE designation represents far more than a credential—it reflects a long-term, personal commitment to continuous learning and professional excellence. For me, it signifies a dedication to staying current in an ever-changing healthcare landscape. One of the greatest values of pursuing FACHE is the opportunity for face-to-face education with peers and leaders across the industry. Those interactions spark meaningful conversations, allow for the exchange of real-world insights, and ultimately lead to better approaches for improving processes and patient care. The designation serves as both a benchmark of achievement and a reminder to keep growing, learning, and contributing to the profession.

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

What continues to surprise and inspire me is how profoundly people shape the outcome of each day. Healthcare is full of unexpected challenges, and no matter how much we plan, something new always arises. Yet time and time again, it's the resilience, creativity, and adaptability of individuals and teams that make the difference. Even in stressful or uncertain moments, the ability to come together, pivot, and find solutions is what keeps healthcare moving forward. Witnessing that level of dedication never gets old, and it reinforces how essential strong leadership and teamwork truly are.

What are your recommendations for early careerists?

1. **Take every opportunity, even the uncomfortable ones.** Growth happens when you stretch yourself, so embrace assignments that challenge you. They often end up being experiences that shape you the most.
2. **Find a mentor who genuinely cares about your success.** A strong mentor–mentee relationship can be transformational, offering guidance, perspective, and support throughout your career journey.
3. **Get involved in a professional organization.** Joining groups like ACHE helps you build a network of like-minded professionals, gain exposure to best practices, and stay connected to the broader healthcare community.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

I grew up riding horses, and Tommy and I even had a couple of horses when we were first married. Now we're excited to return to those roots—this time on a smaller scale. We're planning to bring two mini-horses into our lives soon, and we're looking forward to having that joy and connection to our past as part of our future.

Sponsor Spotlight – Bank of America

Bank of America Healthcare Finance provides swift, low cost and simple medium term taxable and tax-exempt capital solutions for future Medical (i.e., Robotics, Pharmacy, Radiology), IT (i.e., EHR, ERP, laptops, Cyber) and Energy projects. Collateralized by capital expenditures, our structures can also boost liquidity by monetizing assets previously paid for with cash while also not requiring ancillary business. We are also active in the joint venture outpatient market as care evolves outside of the hospital setting. Please contact Nate Allen at 504.444.8186 or nathan.c.allen@bofa.com.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Chapter Website:

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

Join the LCHE
LinkedIn Group:

