

ACHE SPRING NEWSLETTER

CONGRESS

Over 70 Mississippi affiliates joined over 4,000 affiliates at The Congress on Healthcare Leadership in New Orleans in February. It was, by far, the best participation of Mississippi affiliates that I know of at Congress. Of course, the geographic proximity of Mississippi to New Orleans certainly helped the attendance.

Although the “Big Easy” still has mammoth challenges ahead to return to full strength, I thought overall they did a great job of supporting Congress. As always, the meetings were educational and informative. The special events were well organized and pleasurable. At the Convocation Advancement Ceremony, the following Mississippians were advanced to Fellow:

Jason E. Boyd, FACHE, Corinth
C. Jeff Curtis, FACHE, Greenwood
John B. Dawson, FACHE, Columbia, TN
Lester K. Diamond, FACHE, Jackson
Edward L. Foster, FACHE, Madison*
W. Lee Gentry, Jr., FACHE, Clarksdale
Phillip L. Grady, FACHE, Brookhaven
Jimmy L. Graves, FACHE, Tylertown
Steve Grimm, FACHE, Picayune
Joseph T. Hammond III, FACHE, Ruleville
Gary M. Heim, FACHE, McComb

Brad D. Holland, FACHE, Vicksburg
John C. Hyde II, Ph.D., FACHE, Jackson
James W. Jones III, FACHE, Meridian
William A. Myers, FACHE, Jackson
Philip E. Pandolph, FACHE, McComb
J. Kempf Poole, FACHE, Jackson
Jamie P. Rodgers, FACHE, Jackson
Karen H. Teague, FACHE, Clinton
Gerald D. Wages, FACHE, Tupelo*
Ronald A. Wood, FACHE, Natchez

**signifies those who completed Fellow project*

Congratulations to all of those who advanced to Fellow. I will be sending a letter to those 73 Mississippi affiliates eligible for advancement to encourage them to go ahead and do the work necessary so they can be recognized at next year’s Congress.

MISSISSIPPI HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES ANNUAL MEETING 2007

The annual meeting of the Mississippi Healthcare Executives was held in January at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS. This is the first time the Chapter had a distinct separate meeting that was not in conjunction with other groups. Over 50 people enjoyed the education sessions, networking and social events.

Two Category I programs were presented with two hours CEU Category I credits from ACHE. The first educational program was *Fostering Ethical Decision-Making* led by Fred Hood, who did an outstanding job at facilitating discussion. Fred expressed a little concern over the word “foster” being used in conjunction with ethics--I don’t know exactly what he was talking about.

The second program was *Developing High Performance Teams* facilitated by Tom Atchison. Dr. Marcella McKay and Chris Anderson did an excellent job working with Tom in presenting case studies on how to develop and maintain high performance teams in healthcare settings.

Planning is already underway for the annual meeting next year at the Beau Rivage where Allison Pittman Giles, current Chairman of ACHE, will be the guest speaker.

ACHE Breakfast and Business Session

The ACHE Breakfast and Business Session will be held on Friday, June 29, at the Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama, in conjunction with the MHA 76th Annual Leadership Conference. Guest speaker will be Dan Wilford, FACHE. Dan, a former gold medal ACHE winner, is the retired CEO of the Memorial

Hermann Health System in Houston, Texas. Dan spent ten years as CEO of North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, where I had the pleasure of working with him. Dan is well known in Mississippi and is a former NFL football official. Dan discusses leadership while interjecting humorous NFL experiences from his officiating career. Dan and his twin brother Ned, a retired healthcare executive and former SEC football official, have a book entitled “*You Threw The Flag, Now You Make The Call.*” We are excited to have Dan as our speaker and I encourage all affiliates to attend this session.

TARGETS

Speaking of next year, the targets for membership are as follows: 35 new members and 4 Fellows for the next Convocation year. This will require each affiliate to encourage, sponsor and recruit additional members and encourage those who should advance to Fellow.

AFFILIATES NEEDS SURVEY RESULTS

The 2006 Affiliates Needs Survey Results are posted on www.ache.org. I encourage each of you to visit the website and review the results and to visit the website frequently as it is an excellent means of communication and information regarding ACHE activities. Overall satisfaction for affiliates was 7.12, with leaders having a higher score of 8.66. Mississippi Healthcare Executives will perform a statewide Affiliate Needs Survey later this year. Your participation in these surveys is vital in determining your degree of satisfaction, and more importantly, the direction of the local Chapter.

CHAPTER CHOICE MODEL IMPLEMENTATION

Just to remind each of you, ACHE Board of Governors, in November 2006, tentatively adopted the Chapter Choice Model. It is a structural and operating methodology of a more unified ACHE-Chapter Membership Structure for the future. Since that time, informational sessions and focus groups have been held to receive feedback on the proposed Chapter Choice Model.

Recommendation of the Chapter Committee was reviewed and discussed by the Board of Governors at its annual March 16, 2007 meeting. The Board felt the subject deserved more discussion and decided to discuss the issue in greater depth at its retreat in June. A final decision regarding Chapter Choice Model will be made at that time. The local Chapter officers of Mississippi Healthcare Executives are participating in this most important decision.

CEO TURNOVER REPORT

The Annual Report of CEO turnover for general medical/surgical, short-term acute care hospitals was recently published. The national CEO turnover rate in 2006 was 15%. Mississippi was in the low turnover state group with a total turnover rate of 9%.

REGENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAC)

The Regent’s Advisory Council appointments are due by June 1. This year I am again asking the Board of Mississippi Healthcare Executives to serve as the Regent’s Advisory Council but also would like to extend the invitation to other affiliates who would like to participate on the RAC.

*From the desk of Frank Lopez, FACHE, Regent-at-Large for District 4
Northwest Texas Healthcare System
CEO/Managing Director*

In an effort to communicate more frequently with and to make myself available to affiliates of District 4, I am asking Regents to include this column in their quarterly newsletters.

This past calendar year was an exceptional one for the district with many notable initiatives launched. Of special note are the new chapters chartered. Prior to last year we had the greatest void in geographic areas where chapters were nonexistent. Several of you stepped up to the plate and seized the initiative to establish new chapters in Kansas, New Mexico and Texas. I am happy to report that all of district 4 is now covered. I am grateful and congratulate those affiliates that assumed leadership roles in seeing that

these new chapters were launched. Chapters are key to furthering the purpose of the ACHE, providing opportunities to network and making education more accessible. This accomplishment is noteworthy considering District 4 covers the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

This year we take on a new project that I am enlisting each of you to support. ACHE has established a Foundation, Fund for Innovation in Healthcare Excellence, to invest in innovation and the future of the field. I invite you to join the Foundation by making a contribution. Your contribution will be used to import, implement and integrate innovation with future leaders. I encourage you to visit ACHE's website and learn more about the Foundation (fundforinnovation@ache.org). As a district we have set a goal for all affiliates to contribute to the fund and be the first district to reach 100% participation. Any amount you choose to contribute is welcome. Please join me in supporting ACHE in this new endeavor. Also, I am asking all chapter presidents to make this a standing item on their chapter meeting agendas. The first chapter to reach 100% participation can have my two tuition waivers for the 2008 Congress to award two of their affiliates that meet the criteria for waiver. I will keep you posted on our progress in subsequent newsletters.

Redneck Southern Wisdom

- Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.
- A bumble bee is faster than a John Deere tractor.
- Words that soak into your ears are whispered, not yelled.
- Meanness don't happen overnight.
- Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.
- Don't corner something meaner than you.
- It doesn't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- You can't unsay a cruel thing.
- Every path has some puddles.
- When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.
- The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- Most of the stuff people worry about never happens.
- Don't squat with your spurs on.
- Don't judge people by their relatives.
- Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.
- Don't interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- It's better to be a has-been than a never-was.
- The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swallow.
- If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there with ya.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- NEVER MISS A GOOD CHANCE TO SHUT UP...and now I will.