

**Message from the Regent
Winter 2009**

It's Time to Register ...

.... for the 2009 ACHE Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago, IL. Last year, more than 4,800 healthcare executives attended Congress – one of the largest gatherings of healthcare leaders in the world. Among last year attendees were 28 Mississippi affiliates – that's 9% of the total affiliates in the state. I hope you'll join me in attending this year's Congress and take part in keeping our Mississippi representation solid within the College.

This year's ACHE Congress will be held on March 23rd – 26th at the Hilton Chicago & Palmer House Hilton. Congress provides the perfect opportunity to unite with colleagues and establish new professional relationships. The most current industry issues and research are discussed, world class publications are featured and public policy is debated. Simply go online to <http://www.ache.org> and click on the Congress link for more details.

As your Regent, I have two (2) tuition waivers remaining which may be used for this year's Congress. The Tuition Waivers are intended for ACHE affiliates who need financial support to attend an ACHE program. If you are in need of a tuition waiver, please don't hesitate to contact me at tswartzfager@stdom.com or 601-200-2000.

Mississippi Chapter of ACHE – Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Healthcare Executives, an Independent Chapter of ACHE will hold their annual meeting in Bay St. Louis, MS on February 19-20, 2009. Program and registration information will be on the MHA website (<http://www.mhanet.org>) in the coming days. Please make your room reservations to take advantage of the special room rate of \$89.00. The rate will increase after the deadline of January 19, 2009.

Hollywood Casino
711 Hollywood Blvd.
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
For Reservations call: (800) 946-2442
Room Block Code: Mississippi Hospital Association MSA0218

Room Release Deadline: January 19, 2009

CEO Non-Affiliate Recruitment

In Mississippi, we have approximately 45 healthcare CEOs who are not affiliated with ACHE. With your help, we can bring many of these CEOs into the College and into our local chapter. If you know of a healthcare CEO in Mississippi who's not an ACHE affiliate, please encourage them to join and become part of our professional society of more than 30,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations. If you have a question about a CEO's affiliate status, please let me know.

Your ACHE Chapter Leadership

The Mississippi Chapter of ACHE (or the Mississippi Healthcare Executives) is alive and well. Our chapter was among the first in the country to be fully chartered and has great plans for the coming year. If you would like to become more involved with YOUR ACHE Chapter, just contact any of the current chapter board members. Your ACHE Chapter leaders are:

Mr. Gerald Cotton

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President
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Inc.
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Mr. Trace Swartzfager, FACHE

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Mr. Fred B. Hood, FACHE

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Mr. Rodger Brown, FACHE

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Marcella McKay, Ph.D.

Secretary
President/CEO
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Message from the Chapter President, Fred Hood, FACHE

Here in Mississippi, we often think of ourselves as a small state. Drilling on down, we may tend to think of ourselves as a small ACHE chapter. Let me share some figures with you from a recently received report to Chapter Presidents:

Mississippi Healthcare Executives:

193 - Members

071 - Fellows

023 - Life Fellows

017 - Student Members

001 - Faculty

001 - Retired

297 - Total members at beginning of year

306 - Total members at end of year

3% - Growth

"Seven" new members doesn't sound awesome...or does it? I commend those of you who may have invited your peers to join our chapter, and I welcome our seven new members.

Here are some additional Chapter facts of interest for 2008:

45 - New member goal

30 - Actual new members to date

66.7% - Achievement level

3 - Goal for members passing the Board of Governors Examination

6 - Actual passes to date

200% - Achievement level

8 - Desired advancements to Fellow

5 - Actual to date

62.5% - Achievement level

Even though we are not quite at our desired levels for new members and Fellow advancements, we are still seeing continuing growth and advancement in the Chapter. And, doesn't it look GREAT to see that we doubled our goal for members passing the BOG Exam!

This is my final report as your Chapter President, and Rodger Brown, FACHE, Vice President for Human Resources, North Mississippi Health Services, will assume this leadership role at our annual meeting February 19-20, 2009 in Bay St. Louis, MS.

I have enjoyed these past two years (yes, Mike Zieman and I are retreads) as your President. I would be remiss indeed if I did not thank our gracious and capable MHA staffers Marcella McKay, Diane Clift, and Judith Forshee for the tremendous support they provide for our chapter. Thanks, also, to past-Regent Eddie Foster and to our present Regent, Trace Swartzfager.

Best wishes to all for a progressive and rewarding 2009. I hope to see each of you in Bay St. Louis next month.