



# ACHE of East Texas April 2020 Newsletter



## A Message from Our President

These are challenging times we face. There are many concerns, challenges and unknowns. Hospitals across the nation are suffering financially as they halt, or significantly reduce, many elective surgeries and ambulatory treatments to ensure they have adequate beds and supplies to treat COVID-19 patients. This will have a significant financial impact.

As many of you know, we have recently postponed our joint education program with ACHE of North Texas. COVID-19 restrictions in DFW made that necessary. In our Chapter we are also delaying scheduling any new educational programs until we are certain there is no health risk. Our joint education program with our colleagues in North and West Texas remains on schedule for September pending public health developments.

From a strategic perspective, our plan to revitalize this chapter, improving engagement and adding value through an increase in education programs, has been placed on hold. When this horrible pandemic passes, and it WILL pass, we will resume our efforts to provide you with a great membership experience. Our education programs may be on hold, but the planning continues!

When I agreed to serve as President — I previously served as President of ACHE of North Texas for two years in the mid-2000s — one of my goals was to improve membership engagement and grow our chapter. Those goals remain my top priority.

We do face interesting geographic challenges that will require some innovative thinking. For example, our chapter covers 33 counties. Yes, that's right, 33 counties. East Texas ACHE Forum members are scattered across a broad area which makes having the all-important social networking hours, which typically fuel chapter growth, a little hard to pull off. I don't know about you, but I do not see much value in a virtual cocktail reception! Even on Zoom!

Our industry faces some tough times. But fear not. Be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that will be present when the economy and our industry comes roaring back to life.

Until then, be safe, stay healthy.

John G. Self  
President  
East Texas ACHE Forum



## A Message from Our Regent



Welcome to 2020!!! Each of us begin the year with our wishes for a New Year and we often set new resolutions. We started the year strong and then our world turned upside down on the way to Congress. While I should be challenging everyone in ACHE to use 2020 as a year of new advancements and education instead, we talk of COVID-19 and our pandemic. I first want to say this is when leadership is truly important. We must prepare for the worst and hope for the best. We must come together as the leadership group for healthcare and help to pave the way for this situation. I know most of you are working in a mode rarely seen in the world today. Normal is no longer available and crisis planning is our current status. Please know you are not alone, we are all here to help. Please review the ACHE website for resources and help as we work through this pandemic. Please reach out to your fellow East Texas ACHE Forum members and other healthcare leaders and share ideas and plans. While we all are competitive in normal times, we must be collaborative during these difficult times. We must stay razor sharp and be a part of the solution.

While still early I am so proud to see all of you answer the call of duty and prepare your facilities and clinics for this COVID-19 outbreak.

As soon as we are able, I hope to see each of you in the coming year!! As always, if I can do anything to help you please do not hesitate to call.

Ken Hutchenrider, FACHE  
ACHE Regent, District 4



**Would your organization like to be an ACHE of East Texas preferred Sponsor?**

Sponsorships are now open from \$500-\$5000 with multiple advertising and exposure opportunities. For more information, please email your interest to Tim Pugsley, FACHE at [tim.pugsley@titusregional.com](mailto:tim.pugsley@titusregional.com) or John Whittlemore [info@acheetx.org](mailto:info@acheetx.org).

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**Volunteers are needed for the following committees:**

- Programming
- Membership
- Communications
- Sponsorship
- Advancement/Mentorship

Please email your interest to [info@acheetx.org](mailto:info@acheetx.org).





Congratulations to **Patrick Swindle**, CEO of UT Health Pittsburg and UT Health Quitman, for being named to the Becker's Hospital Review list of 60 rural hospital CEOs to know in 2020!

[Read more...](#)



## Member Spotlight

### Mona Gaw

Administrative Director of Nursing  
CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System

Mona Gaw, MPA, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, CPHQ, LSSBB was recently promoted to the position of Associate Chief Nursing Officer (ACNO) at CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System (CTMFHS). Prior to her current role, she served as Administrative Director of Nursing Professional Excellence at CTMFHS.

Mona has served in various leadership roles such as Executive Director of Quality at JPS Health Network. In close collaboration with the Chief Quality Officer, she was responsible for driving the quality and patient safety agenda at Tarrant County's Level 1 Trauma Center.

Mona also served in the role of Assistant Vice President of Clinical Excellence at Medical City Healthcare where she provided strategic direction for quality management, regulatory compliance, infection control, medical peer review, and education & organizational development. During her tenure, she successfully led the Pathway to Excellence® designation through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Prior to immigrating to the United States, Mona served in a variety of clinical, education and administrative roles in the Philippines where she developed robust educational programs as Dean of a College of Nursing.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Saint Paul University; a post-master's certificate in nursing education from Rutgers University; a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Texas at Tyler; and is currently enrolled at Vanderbilt University for her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Executive Leadership. In addition, she is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives (FACHE), certified as a nurse executive-advanced (NEA-BC), and certified in health care quality (CPHQ). Mona also holds a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certificate and a Master Trainer certificate in TeamSTEPPS (Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety).

Known for her strong work ethic and constant pursuit for excellence, Mona received awards throughout her nursing career such as the DFW Great 100 Nurse (Dallas Fort Worth Great 100 Foundation), The Frist Humanitarian award (Hospital Corporation of America), and teaching awards (Tarrant County College District). She is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), American Nurses Association (ANA), Texas Nurses Association (TNA), Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society, and the American Organization of Nurse Leaders (AONL). She volunteers her time at local food banks and Filipino-American community events.

Mona's professional career has been dedicated to creating high quality & patient-centered care; in addition to developing the next generation of nurses who will lead with excellence in the care of patients and communities.

## News from ACHE National



### Congress Refunds

ACHE national is beginning to process Congress registration refunds. Registrants will receive an email with details this week (week of March 23) as well as a confirmation email that the refund has been processed. All refunds will be processed by April 20.

All fees will be returned by the same method of payment used in the original transaction:

- Credit cards will be refunded directly
- Refund checks will be mailed to the address on the payment check
- If you made multiple payments, you may receive multiple refunds

## Convocation

Any new Fellow who had planned to walk this year in the 2020 Convocation Ceremony will be invited to participate in the 2021 ceremony. All cap and gown fees for 2020 will be refunded by April 20, in a separate transaction from your Congress registration.

## Recertification

- For those in the 2019 recertification class who received an extension to complete the requirements by March 31, this extension has been continued for the class to complete all requirements and submit recertification application and fee by Dec. 31, 2020.
- For those who are due to complete your recertification requirements in 2020, ACHE has extended the deadline to complete requirements, submit recertification application, and pay recertification fee until March 31, 2021.

## Board of Governors Exam

If you had planned to take the Board of Governors Exam at Congress 2020, you should have received an email from Julianna Kazragys, FACHE, CAE, credentialing manager, with information on how to schedule your test at a future time.

- Unfortunately, ACHE's testing vendor, Pearson VUE, has temporarily closed all its testing centers. Be sure to visit the following website to stay updated on the latest information on their website: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update>
- If you have an active exam waiver on file, the waiver will be valid through Dec. 31, 2020
- All current exam-authorized individuals will have until Dec. 31, 2020 to take and pass the exam without your applications expiring

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## CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Ken Hutchenrider, FACHE**  
President, Methodist Richardson Medical Center

**\*Please note:** George Roberts' name was inadvertently left off the slate of new Board Member nominees sent earlier this year for your vote of approval. **Please notify us at [info@acheetx.org](mailto:info@acheetx.org) if you approve or disapprove of his officially being added to the East Texas ACHE Forum Board of Directors for a three year term - effective immediately. Please respond by Friday, April 10. If we do not hear from you by then, your vote will be counted in the affirmative.** Thank you for your help!

