

## Message from your ACHE Regent 2015

**M. Lee Holmes, FACHE, CPME**



Programs: I would like to thank the staff of the Texas Hospital Association for making their Annual Convention an outstanding success. The Horace Cardwell ACHE Breakfast maintained its history of excellence and the approximately 100 Members and Fellows in attendance enjoyed an inspiring message from the ACHE's Chairman, Christine M. Candio, RN, FACHE. Following breakfast we moved into the Face-to-Face Leadership Session attended by hundreds present. Ms. Candio mediated a well-regarded panel discussion covering how successful leaders manage change. We were treated to exceptional words of wisdom and examples from C. David Huffstutler, President and CEO of HCA's St. David's Healthcare, Charles D. Stokes, FACHE, Memorial-Hermann System COO & ACHE Governor and Michael Williams, MD, FACHE, President of North Texas State Health Science Center. Next year's THA Conference will be in Dallas, Texas on January 21-22, so please make plans to join us.

Our South Texas Chapter just completed another outstanding year in their Healthcare Landscapes series. Keynote speaker Rulon F. Stacey, PhD, FACHE discussed healthcare reform followed by ACHE President and CEO, Deborah J. Bowen, FACHE, CAE, who gave an overview of actions ACHE is taking to better serve the needs of members as they strive to meet the daily challenges of an environment that grows more complex each passing month. Additional speakers included legislative and financial updates that will help attendees navigate the rocky rapids of payment reductions, legal challenges inherent in physician-hospital relationships and population health management.

Advocacy: If you have not yet heard, "The Texas Way" is a new program that was developed and is being proposed by THA and statewide health leaders as an alternative to Medicaid expansion, (given that Medicaid expansion is unlikely to gain traction with our state's elected leaders). The Texas Way is, in essence, an alternative program using federal funds to expand coverage for those outside the Medicaid qualifying criteria, but using private health insurance as the vehicle rather than Medicaid. This program will need your knowledgeable voice and active advocacy with your local legislators so please review the website <http://www.texasway.com> for more information. THA's policy and advocacy staff can answer any questions you may have.

Advancement: South Texas Chapter advancement officers have again completed a Board of Governors Exam study program that has resulted in several additional Fellows joining our ranks. This program is growing and this year included participants from as far away as Kansas. If Fellowship is your goal, but you've been struggling to find a way to prepare for the BOG Exam I encourage you to check the South Texas Chapter's website or contact David Tapia, FACHE for more information.

Governance: As I prepare for ACHE's Annual Congress on Healthcare Management, I reflect back on the excellent programs your local chapters, affiliated LPC's and their leaders have provided in fulfillment of their mission. It has been my honor to serve them as they, in turn,

served you. I have found this experience truly enjoyable and fulfilling - my sincere appreciation for allowing me this chance to serve! I recently accepted a professional opportunity which will require my relocation to Houston. This move will prevent me from providing the level of service our region and chapters need, thus I have tendered my resignation to our Board of Governors and to the Regional Leadership Team at ACHE. These two bodies will, in turn, select a highly qualified individual to fulfill the unserved portion of this term until such time as an election can be held. Within our state and profession it is indeed a small world, so I look forward to continuing to work with and serve you as we all seek to provide the best and most effective healthcare possible for our communities.