



Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network

Member Newsletter Winter 2006

A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

Life gets so hectic--holidays can be a wonderful time to relax...or not! I hope the holiday season allowed time for you to spend quality time with family and friends.

In our house, New Years Day is a time for reflection. Some years ago, after Jim and I went through the Covey Seven Habits training, we began using January 1st to identify our personal (including health, recreation and financial) and professional goals. Since buying our home in the Lehigh Valley, we have added a home improvement category!! This time together is a great time for dialogue and to truly reconnect as a couple. It allows us to ensure we are aligning our future actions/activities with agreed upon values. Looking back at our goals for 2005, we did pretty well! While we may not have fully achieved everything, we at least made progress. Progress I am doubtful about had we not taken the time to discuss and document where we were headed.

As an organization, your EPAHEN Board of Directors is preparing to embark on a similar journey for the organization. A few years ago, the Board decided to pursue becoming a

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EPAHEN Presents 2006 Hal Dolenga Emerging Leader Award

EPAHEN, through its members and officers, has a rich history with DeSales University (Center Valley, PA)...members who received education at DeSales, as well as individuals who serve (or have served) as program instructors. These associations provided insight into the MBA program, and more specifically into the health systems management concentration.

As a result of this association, the idea blossomed to recognize educational and healthcare excellence that also continues to strengthen the relationship between EPAHEN and DeSales University. The idea came to seed when EPAHEN and DeSales University presented the first annual "DoLenga Emerging Leader Award," named in honor of Hal Dolenga, who was instrumental in the establishment of the MBA program at DeSales in 1990. This award is presented annually at the January EPAHEN membership meeting, traditionally held on the DeSales University campus.

Recipient of this year's award was **Susan Irrgang** of Horsham (PA). Ms. Irrgang currently serves as Administrative Coordinator of New Courtland in Philadelphia (PA). In this role, she is responsible for the overall operations of six long-term care facilities, one personal care facility and one independent living facility.

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Calendar of Events

Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network (EPAHEN)

April 2006

EPAHEN Membership Meeting

Speaker: To Be Announced

Program: To Be Announced

Healthcare Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley (HLNDV)

February 22, 2006, 7:30 am

Breakfast with ACHE Regents

Featuring: Gen. David Rupenstein, FACHE

Location: Pyramid Club, Philadelphia

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)

March 6-9, 2006

ACHE Las Vegas, NV Cluster

March 27-30, 2006

ACHE Congress, Chicago, IL

April 24-27, 2006

ACHE San Diego, CA Cluster

May 8-11, 2006

ACHE Santa Fe, NM Cluster

May 15-18, 2006

ACHE Marco Island, FL Cluster

June 12-15, 2006

ACHE Cape Code, MA Cluster

*Information on these, and other upcoming
local, regional and national events
is also available at the EPAHEN web site:
epahen.ache.org*

Member vs. Non-Member Participation

The board of the Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network recently voted to begin charging non-members for attendance at EPAHEN functions.

The revised policy maintains that a non-member may attend one (1) EPAHEN membership meeting/program at no charge, as the guest of a current EPAHEN member.

Non-members will then be required to pay a fee to attend any subsequent EPAHEN programs. This attendance fee will vary, depending on the location and format (breakfast, dinner) of each respective event.

Please Note:

ACHE/VHA Presentations that award Category I ACHE Educational Credits will continue to be available only to EPAHEN members. No exceptions!

November Membership Drive

All members/prospective members received their dues notice in November 2005. These dues cover membership for the 2006 calendar year. Dues are assessed at \$60 per member (\$20 for student membership). If you have not yet submitted your dues for the 2006 year, please do so as soon as possible.

Benefits of membership include:

- * **No attendance fee** for local EPAHEN educational programs and events
- * **Reduced fee** for select regional programs and events
- * Opportunity to earn **education credits** locally, through attendance at ACHE/VHA presentations, etc.
- * **Network** with professionals from a variety of healthcare organizations
- * **Keep up-to-date with changes** occurring in our local, state-wide and national healthcare system
- * Gain leads on **career advancement** opportunities
- * Help to **ensure a strong future** for your chosen profession

For more information, contact Betsy Warner, Vice President-Membership, at 610-439-5000 or bwarn@cambridgesearch.net.

MESSAGE *continued*

chartered chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). With the help of the ACHE regional support staff, our organization has followed the roadmap they provided to ensure we meet the ACHE criteria. Our one last hurdle to move from a provisional to a chartered chapter is preparing a multi-year plan for EPAHEN. This is our opportunity to discuss and document, and to prepare to take action, in areas that we feel are important to maintaining the viability of the organization. In essence, we are now about to create the EPAHEN roadmap for the next few years. The surveys many of you responded to in September and October will certainly help that process, as will information provided by ACHE on how other organizations have been successful. We welcome more input! So if you have additional thoughts about programs, membership, sponsorship, etc., please contact any Board member.

I hope you will find time to reflect on your own personal and professional goals with the start of this New Year and that you will consider further involvement in EPAHEN or advancement in ACHE as part of that process. Best wishes to all for happy, healthy and productive 2006!

Sincerely,

Debra Geiger
President, EPAHEN

P.S. We extend our thanks and wishes for great success to Steve McGovern as he transitions from Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital to Temple University Hospital, where he recently accepted the position of Administrative Director for Ambulatory Operations, Temple University Physicians Services Group; and we welcome Mike Bonner, Director of Neuro Rehabilitation at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital, who has graciously agreed to fulfill Steve's term in the position of Vice President of Programs!

Membership Survey Report

In August/September 2005, all EPAHEN members were sent a brief program survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather information on the format and types of presentations/programs/speakers that our members would like to see at upcoming events. Below is a brief summary of our survey results:

Format

- * 45% of members preferred meetings that provided dinner
- * 38% preferred meetings over the breakfast hour
- * 12% indicated they would be interested in an event over "happy-hour"
- * 5% preferred lunch programs

Programs

The topics that our membership selected as most important to them included:

- * Succession Planning
- * Ethics & Decision Making
- * Six Sigma
- * State Budget Updates
- * Pay for Performance (Outcomes)
- * Consumer Driven Healthcare
- * Healthcare Law Updates

Membership also stressed the attractiveness of opportunities to earn ACHE Educational Credits on the local/regional level.

EPAHEN will consider these results as we plan our programs for the 2006 calendar year. For any questions or additional comments, contact Mike Bonner, Vice President, Programs, at 610-776-3515, or mbonner@gsrh.org.

DOLENGA *continued*

She is a graduate of the Bryn Mawr Hospital School of Nursing, and earned her Bachelors Degree in Public Administration from Saint Joseph's College. She is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Business Administration at DeSales University.

EPAHEN congratulates Ms. Irrgang on her impressive academic and professional achievements, and is proud to recognize her at this year's recipient of the Hal Dolenga Emerging Leader Award.

EPAHEN would also like to recognize and congratulate the two other finalists for this year's Dolenga Award:

Carolyn S. Jones

Program Manager, Behavioral Health Unit
Warren Hospital

Kay Ellen Marsteller, RN, MSN, MBA

Director of Emergency Services & Inpatient Access
St. Luke's Hospital

Welcome New Members!

Christine Amadio
Oncology Nurse, Lehigh Valley Hospital

David Beckwith, Ph.D.
President/CEO, Health Network Labs

Reem Haddad
DeSales University

Richard Henley
President & CEO, Pocono Medical Center

Caroline Jones
Program Manager, Warren Hospital

Cynthia Jones
Chief Information Officer,
St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network

Kelly Jones
Acting Director, Donor Resources,
Miller-Keystone Blood Center

John Grencer
Strategic Business Partner,
Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital

Rob Hurwitz
Director of Marketing, Health Network Labs

Juanita Kantner
Account Manager, Yoh Healthcare

Kathy Kakareka
Office Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Hospital

Carol Kreibel
Corporate Compliance Officer, Lehigh Valley Hospital

Amy King
Practice Manager, LVHNN, Transplant

Mohamed Latib
VP, Program & Strategic Development
DeSales University

John Lynch
President & CEO, Mainline Health

Irene Marks
Operations Technical Manager
eResearch Technology, Inc.

Lisa Marsilio
Director of Special Projects,
Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital

Joseph McKinley
Director, Systems Development, IMS Health

Lee Meyers
CEO, Central Penn Management Group

Bonita Miller
Director, LVPG Surgery,
Lehigh Valley Physician Group

George Miller
President & CEO, Central Montgomery Medical Center

John Morahan
President & CEO, St. Joseph Medical Center (Reading)

Susan Niskey
Associate Administrator, Fox Chase Cancer Center

Catherine Palumbo
Marketing Representative, Hospital Central Services

Pamela Repetz
Division Director, Oncology,
Lehigh Valley Physicians Group

Cheryl Sborz
DeSales University

Kelly Shak
Director, Outpatient Rehab Services,
Lehigh Valley Hospital & Health Network

Catherine Sommers
Physician Recruiter, Pocono Medical Center

Vincent Tallarico
VP, Regional Heart Center, Lehigh Valley Hospital

Stephanie Taormina
Physician Recruiter, Pocono Medical Center

Michael Wargo
Flight Nurse, Lehigh Valley Hospital

Patricia Welsh
Director of Admissions,
Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital

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Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital

Deborah Cherney, Vice President, Affiliated Groups
Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network

*The full EPAHEN membership directory
can be found on our web site (epahen.ache.org).*