



Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network

Member Newsletter August 2006

A Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,

As we roll through August, the summer remains as busy (and hot!) as ever. Following a great spring and summer full of events, we will attempt to finish this season with a little bit of fun. On Thursday, August 24, we will be having an EPAHEN Summer Social. This year's program will take us to wine country up at Blue Mountain Vineyards. This "Members Only" event will allow our colleagues to network in one of the most beautiful areas of the Valley, while enjoying some of the local's finest wines. The event starts at 6:30pm... make sure you arrive early as to enjoy the great weather and atmosphere!

Following our social event, we will kick off our Fall schedule with another ACHE/VHA satellite broadcast. On September 27, at 1:00pm, our chapter will host the topic "Planning & Design Strategies for the Hospital of the Future" (*location to be announced*). This program is presented free-of-charge to EPAHEN members, and offers 2.0 hours of Category I ACHE continuing education credits. Non-members will also be invited to participate in this session, for a nominal fee. Announcements for this session will be mailed shortly, and the registration form will also be available via our web site (<http://epahen.ache.org>).

We look forward to seeing many of you on August 24, and hope you all enjoy these final "lazy days" of summer!

Warm Regards,

Debra Geiger
President, EPAHEN

Diplomate (CHE) Study Group Concludes

EPAHEN's ACHE Diplomate (CHE) study group wrapped up its Spring "bootcamp" in June 2006. This program has become a tradition in our chapter in preparing our colleagues for the Diplomate Advancement Exam. While it is tradition, it has also become one of the most prestigious programs of its kind in this part of the country. Last year, twelve healthcare professionals from PA advanced to the Diplomate status. Of those twelve, five came from our distinguished chapter. This year, another class is hoping to carry on our tradition of success.

The success of this program would not be possible without the volunteer instructors who gave of their time and expertise, including **Jim Geiger** of Lehigh Valley Hospital; **Ronnie Hess, Esq.** of Tallman, Hudders & Sorrentino; and Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital's **Dan Confalone, Sue Kopfle, Lee Patrick** and **Harry Ting**. These individuals volunteered their time and efforts to provide educational presentations that assist our students in preparing for this challenging exam. On behalf of the

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Calendar of Events

Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network (EPAHEN)

August 24, 2006 * 6:30-8:30pm

Members Only Summer Social

Blue Mountain Vineyards, New Tripoli, PA

September 27, 2006

ACHE/VHA Live Satellite Broadcast

Location To Be Announced

Program: Planning & Design Strategies
for the Hospital of the Future

2.0 Hours Category I ACHE Credits

Healthcare Leadership Network of the Delaware Valley (HLNDV)

November 17, 2006

Airport Embassy Suites, Philadelphia, PA

Program: Ethics in Healthcare: Some
Contemporary & Upcoming
Issues

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE)

September 11-14, 2006

Baltimore, MD Cluster

October 16-19, 2006

Palm Springs, CA Cluster

October 23-26, 2006

Williamsburg, VA Cluster

November 13-16, 2006

Boston, MA Cluster

December 4-7, 2006

San Antonio, TX Cluster

~ Mark Your Calendars ~

2007 ACHE Congress

March 19-22, 2007

New Orleans, LA

*Information on these, and other upcoming
local, regional and national events*

is also available at the EPAHEN web site:

<http://epahen.ache.org>

(note: no "www" !)

Notes From ACHE

Healthcare Executive Forum of Central PA Advances to Chapter Status. Congratulations to the Healthcare Executive Forum of Central PA for recently being approved to advance from provisional to fully chartered chapter status. Fully chartered chapter status demonstrates that a chapter has met the ACHE criteria that form the foundation for successful leadership, membership involvement and valuable membership services.

ACHE Message Board. Need help with a problem at work? Looking for advice? Want to discuss a hot healthcare topic? The ACHE Affiliates Message Board, accessible from the Affiliates Only area of ache.org, is your forum to connect with colleagues. The Message Board was upgraded on Monday, July 31 to improve this valuable networking resource. Please note that existing messages posted on the ACHE Affiliates Message Board were not transferred to the upgraded board. Watch your e-mail in August for more information.

Bill Introduced to Increase Funding for Hospital Preparedness. The AHA recently endorsed legislation introduced by Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) that would increase federal funding to hospitals to help them prepare and respond to a natural disaster or bioterrorist attack. The All-Hazards Public Health Emergency and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act (S. 3042), introduced last month, would provide \$750 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$850 million in both fiscal years 2008 and 2009 for Health Resources and Services Administration hospital preparedness grants. In addition, the bill reorients states to focus on "all-hazards" preparedness by requiring that they evaluate their preparedness for all public health threats they are likely to face, including natural disasters, terrorism and infectious disease threats. The bill also would create a new public health emergency fund to help hospitals continue to operate in the event of a natural disaster or bioterrorist attack.

Growth in Nursing School Admissions Slows in 2005. U.S. nursing school enrollments and graduations continued to rise in 2004-05 with baccalaureate, associate degree and diploma programs contributing an estimated 84,878 additional prospective registered nurses to the labor supply, according to a new report from the National League for Nursing (NLN). However, annual growth in admissions slowed to 5 percent from 9.4 percent in 2003-04, signaling a possible slowdown in the recent upward trend. The percentage of racial-ethnic minorities enrolling in basic RN programs declined by nearly 2 percent in 2004-05 after increasing by more than 6 percentage points from 1994-2002. "The NLN study sheds some interesting light on the profession," said Pamela Thompson, CEO of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, an AHA subsidiary. "It shows that while schools of nursing are attracting highly qualified candidates, much more needs to be done to expand minority recruitment into the profession."

DIPLOMATE STUDY GROUP *continued*

EPAHEN executive team and the entire EPAHEN chapter, we are pleased to publicly recognize their efforts.

Due to the success of previous "bootcamp" sessions, and interest expressed by other EPAHEN members to pursue CHE status, EPAHEN is planning to offer another "bootcamp" session in the future. More information will be provided to membership at a later date.

Welcome New Members!

Julia Clelland

Director, Patient Logistics
Lehigh Valley Hospital & Health Network

Christina Gettins

Senior Technical Specialist
Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program

Susan Keller

Senior Consultant
Select Health Management

Nadine Opstbaum

Information Systems Project Manager
Lehigh Valley Hospital & Health Network

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

Eastern Pennsylvania Healthcare Executive Network

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Center for Humanistic Change

Andrew Starr, CHE, President-Elect
St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network

Patrick Simonson, CHE, Treasurer
Medrium, Inc.

Marie Clemens, Secretary
Hospital Central Services, Inc & Affiliates

Betsy Warner, CPC, Vice President, Membership
Cambridge Search LLC

Michael Bonner, Vice President, Programs
Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital

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