

ACHE/WP Newsletter



April 2007

Inside This Issue

- 1 Welcome
- 1 Message from the President
- 2 ACHE/WP Member Spotlight:
Thomas P. Timcho
- 2 Call for Committee Members
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4 ACHE National News

For those organizations interested in learning more about the benefits of sponsoring ACHE/WP for 2007, please send an email to info@westpa.ache.org

WELCOME!

ACHE of Western Pennsylvania (ACHE/WP) is excited to bring you this newsletter, the second edition of our quarterly updates for local chapter members. With this means of communication, we hope to keep members informed of ACHE/WP initiatives, events, local and national healthcare management news, and member highlights.

The key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to its readers. As you continue to receive this publication, please feel free to **provide feedback** about its contents – what is important to you, what you're missing, and how it can be improved.

In this newsletter, we've added a new section entitled "**Member Spotlight.**" This section is intended to highlight the accomplishments and interests of our local members. Hopefully, it will help you to get better acquainted with local colleagues that are involved in ACHE.

Message from the President

Happy Spring! It seems that Western Pennsylvania has experienced the last blast of winter, or so we hope, as we look forward to the change of season that will bring us sunnier and warmer days ahead.

Change is again upon us at ACHE. You may have heard about ACHE national's greater focus on local chapters, which can mean increased support and resources from our parent organization and our colleagues in other states. Also, ACHE's credentialing criteria is changing. Now more than ever, becoming an active and involved ACHE member, with ample resources to assist you in your professional careers, is worth the investment of time. For those interested in more information regarding new credentialing criteria, you can access it at www.ache.org/che_fache.cfm.

These changes were no doubt made to benefit our members, both here in western PA and across the country. But, we must all be ready for bigger, more challenging changes that will certainly arise—especially in our roles in healthcare. As leaders at progressive organizations, it is our charge to embrace change, so we can best plan and prepare for what lies ahead. It is only then can we make the most of what the future has to offer.

Karen Hartman
President, ACHE/WP
President, Corazon, Inc.

Member Spotlight: Thomas P. Timcho

By Edward A. Guzik, FACHE



Pictured above are (left to right):
**Derwood Dunbar, Thomas Timcho,
Karen Hartman**

Thomas P. Timcho, President & CEO, Jefferson Regional Medical Center (JRMC) recently received the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent's Award in recognition of his many past accomplishments and his present role at JRMC. Tom's leadership has been the driving force behind the clinical and fiscal rejuvenation of Jefferson Regional. He has received high praise from Richard F. Collins, MD, chairman of Jefferson's Board of Directors and Chet Phitayakorn, MD, President of the Jefferson Regional Medical Staff. Please see the attached Jefferson Regional Press Release for their specific comments.

While press releases highlight awards and accomplishments, little is said about the real *person* behind these awards, their personal lives, goals, interests, families and hobbies. The purpose of this article is to help create a more three-dimensional picture of the "complete Tom Timcho." Tom was kind enough to make time for an interview between meetings on February 28 to allow us to capture his thoughts.

Personal – When you first meet Tom, you know you're talking with a pleasant straight shooter. Soft-spoken and polite, but yet direct, Tom is a gracious host with a quick wit and a trademark wry sense of humor.

He grew up in the Lawrenceville section in a typical Pittsburgh working class family. He attended Central Catholic High School and has the distinction of being the first person in his family to graduate from high school. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree and MBA at the University of Pittsburgh.

Family – Tom and his wife Donna have been married for over 35 years and reside in O'Hara Township. They have three children, a married daughter age 32, who is working for a financial firm in Chicago and fraternal twins, a son and daughter, 20 years old, who are both presently college juniors. Tom's son plans to join the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation. He earned his jump wings at Ft. Benning, Georgia last year, as a member of Purdue's ROTC program. His daughter is a math and biomedical engineering major at Allegheny College.

Sports, fitness, and pastimes – He maintains his fitness by running on a regular basis. When not enjoying quality time with his family, he is a golfer and an avid scuba diver.

Surprises – People would be surprised to know that Tom first learned how to dance to polka music and polkas are still one of his favorite dances.

Business career – When asked what got him interested in a business career, Tom's short answer was that, after returning home from the Army, he needed a job. Like many young men in the 60s, shortly after completing high school Tom was drafted into the Army. Upon completing Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, served as a Tactical Officer at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, was promoted to First Lieutenant and served a tour of duty in South Vietnam where he was the executive officer of a heavy equipment maintenance company.

After being discharged, Tom entered the University of Pittsburgh while working part time (25-30 hours per week) at PNC Corporation. Upon graduation, Tom joined U.S. Steel Corporation as a financial analyst. He earned his MBA from Pitt while working at US Steel.

(continued on page 3)

Call for Committee Members

If you would like to get involved behind-the-scenes in ACHE/WP, several opportunities await! We are always in need of fresh minds to help enhance our offerings and make our local chapter more valuable to its membership. Please contact the following committee chairs with interest:

Membership & Marketing:

Amy LaMothe (alamothe@vha.com)

Programming:

Rich Longo (ralong@aol.com)

Nominating:

Sam Friede (friede+@pitt.edu)

Student Task Force:

Heather Barr (barrhp@gmail.com)

ACHE Advancement:

Michelle Robertson

(michelle.robertson@hamot.org)

Sponsorship:

Janet Cipullo

(janet.cipullo@jeffersonregional.com)

Member Spotlight (continued)

Health care career – Tom then joined Ernst & Young and after working for several years as a consultant, began to focus on healthcare projects. He eventually was appointed as the executive responsible for the Healthcare Consulting Group supervising all of E&Y’s healthcare consulting activities in Western PA. E&Y was engaged by Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh in conjunction with their Certificate of Need application for their new hospital building, and Tom was the lead person assigned to the project. Children’s was so impressed with Tom’s handling of the project that he was offered the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, a position that he held for over 12 years.

Following Children’s Hospital, Tom held a succession of executive positions, first with UPMC as President and CEO of University Service Organization, followed by a stint as President and CEO of UPMC Beaver Valley. After a few years as a principal with a home health care venture and then as a healthcare financial and strategic consultant, Tom moved on to Jefferson Regional Medical Center in 2001 where he served as the CFO, then COO and eventually on to his present position as President and CEO.

Jefferson Regional – While Tom has had a career full of notable accomplishments, the impact that he has had on both the clinical and fiscal well-being of Jefferson Regional certainly was a factor in his receiving the ACHE Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Regent’s Award. When asked to identify the biggest challenge facing him when he was appointed President and CEO in 2003, Tom explained that Jefferson had evolved into its present form over time and faced the challenges encountered by most community hospitals. It was a very good community hospital with a quality medical staff and strong patient loyalty, but was operating at a deficit.

After careful analyses, the management team embarked on several new initiatives including: flattening the management structure; eliminating selected services; spinning off most of the physician groups that had been acquired during the managed care years of the ‘90s and closing or “spinning-off” selected facilities. These actions resulted in improved clinical care excellence, reduced costs, increased revenue and finally, a healthy, positive bottom line.

The future – When asked about his plans for the future, Tom stated that he was in no hurry to decide or to plot a future course. Although he felt that Jefferson was headed in the right direction, there are still some new ideas and endeavors that he’d like to see through to completion. As for business life after Jefferson, Tom said that he was not the type to sit around and would probably always be involved in some form of healthcare management or consulting. Personally, he’d like to spend more time with his family, travel more with his wife, develop his golf game and stay fit so that he can enjoy his children and their successes.

The ACHE/WP offers its congratulations and best wishes to Tom Timcho!

MAY 2007:						
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Upcoming Events in 2007

The ACHE/WP Program Committee, under the leadership of Rich Longo, continues to strive for timely and useful programming for the chapter membership. 2007 will be no exception!

Our **second event of the year** will be held on May 9th, and is our first ACHE Category I education credit offering! Please stay tuned and check our website for more details! <http://westpa.ache.org>

2007 EVENT SCHEDULE

“Involvement of Medical Staff Leadership in Strategies and Operational Decision-Making” <i>(our first Category I education credit offering!)</i>	May 9
“0 to 4 to 60: One Hospital’s Alternative Approach to Selecting & Adopting Lean Six Sigma”	June 5
Patient Safety Authority (title TBD)	Sep 17
“The Pursuit of Excellence” & Annual Meeting of Membership	Nov 5
Networking Outing	TBD

Remember, ACHE/WP members that register for three or more events will receive a discount on registration fees! To register for an event or to become a member of ACHE/WP, visit our website at westpa.ache.org.

ACHE National News

Connect to ACHE at the Local Level--Join an ACHE Chapter!

Do you want access to networking, education and career development at the local level? Eighty-one ACHE chapters connect our members with other healthcare leaders in their areas to address local and national healthcare management needs. Membership in one of these groups is a convenient way to make new contacts, identify job openings in your area, attend educational programs without incurring hefty travel expenses and enhance your community involvement. Visit the [Chapter Directory](#) on [ache.org](#) to find the ACHE chapter in your area. To join, simply contact the chapter that serves your area.

Board of Governors Approves Credentialing Change

Following a two-year process involving extensive analysis and affiliate feedback, the ACHE Board of Governors revised the previous dual credential system and approved combining the Diplomate and Fellow credential into a single FACHE® credential. The decision is designed to advance healthcare management excellence by increasing the commitment to leadership and professional development represented by the FACHE credential.

Passing the Board of Governors Examination in Healthcare Management remains a key standard for becoming board certified and earning the FACHE credential. Additional criteria for advancement include requirements related to academic preparation, tenure as an ACHE Member, experience in healthcare management, continuing education, references, and professional and community/civic involvement. The new credentialing system is effective January 1, 2007.

As part of their review of the credentialing system, the Board of Governors also authorized the development of a separate approach to recognize service, leadership and giving back to the profession. The recognition system will be developed during 2007.

Additional information about the credentialing change is available on [ache.org](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Membership at credentialcomments@ache.org or (312) 424-9400.

SIA Survey Scheduled

The ACHE triennial survey of Special Interest Area (SIA) members is scheduled for this spring. The Division of Research and Development will administer the survey by e-mail invitation. Affiliates who are members of any of ACHE's nine SIAs will be sampled for the study. Results of the survey will be used in program development. If you receive an invitation, please voice your opinions and complete the survey. If you have any questions, contact the Division of Research and Development at (312) 424-9440.

ACHE Call for Nominations for the 2008 Slate

ACHE's 2007-2008 Nominating Committee is calling for applications to serve for 2008. All affiliates are encouraged to participate in the nominating process. ACHE Fellows are eligible for any of the Governor and Chairman-Elect vacancies and for the Nominating Committee and Regent-at-Large vacancies within their district. Open positions on the slate in District 1 (which includes Pennsylvania) are:

- Nominating Committee Member, District 1 (two-year term ending in 2010)
- Regent-at-Large, District 1 (three-year term ending in 2011)
- Governor (three-year term ending in 2011)
- Governor (three-year term ending in 2011)
- Governor (three-year term ending in 2011)
- Governor (three-year term ending in 2011)
- Chairman-Elect

Candidates for Chairman-Elect and Governor should submit an application to serve, a copy of their resume and up to 10 letters of support. Candidates for Regent-at-Large and the Nominating Committee should only submit a letter of self-nomination and copy of their resume. Applications to serve and self-nominations are to be submitted by letter and must be postmarked between January 1 and July 15.

To review the Candidate Guidelines, go to [ache.org](#) to access the Affiliates Only area and select the "Candidate Guidelines" link on the left-hand side of the page. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Nolan at (312) 424-9367 or jnolan@ache.org.

Mail applications to serve to: Samuel L. Odle, FACHE, Chairman, Nominating Committee, c/o Julie Nolan, American College of Healthcare Executives, 1 N. Franklin St., Ste. 1700, Chicago, IL 60606-3529.