



Code THEF

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Message from the President

By Carey Unger

Welcome to the 2007-2008 THEF year! I am thrilled to be your incoming president, and after our annual planning retreat, I am confident we are in for a great year. The Executive Committee this year brings back a lot of great talent and many years of service to THEF, which will enable us to have a productive and fulfilling year.



COMING UP

As a kick-off to the 2007-2008 year, the Education Committee is hosting a **Social Networking** event on Thursday, October 4, 2007, from 5:30pm-7:00pm at BRASA Steakhouse in Brier Creek. Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Join us to meet THEF members and hear about plans for the upcoming year.

There are two major announcements I want to cover briefly. Over the summer, the Executive Committee voted to integrate the previously freestanding Eastern North Carolina ACHE chapter into THEF. This chapter will now be rolled up into our membership as a local program council, expanding our geographic reach, membership base, and opportunities for events and networking. Welcome aboard! In addition, the Committee voted to adopt ACHE's Combined Membership Model. Beginning in Jan 2008, to be a member of THEF, you will have to be a member of ACHE. Non-THEF members will still be able to attend events, but at an increased price.

Both of these announcements are discussed in detail in this newsletter and more information about the membership change will be forthcoming.

We will kick off this year with a networking/social event in early October, followed by an educational breakfast event in November, a panel dinner event in February, and a professional development event in May. In between, there will be events in partnership with the area schools as well. Please watch for announcements about upcoming events on the website, in your email, and in future newsletters.

We are always looking for people who would like to get more involved, sponsors who would like to support our efforts, or new ideas to improve our chapter. Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or ideas at 668-2118 or carey.unger@duke.edu

Here's to a great year! .

ACHE News:

New ACHE Membership Structure

The ACHE Board of Governors will implement a fully unified membership model by January 1, 2009. All ACHE affiliates will automatically be members of their local chapter as a benefit of being an ACHE affiliate and all chapter members will be ACHE affiliates. This means all THEF members must be ACHE members by January 1, 2008. If, however, you have a then-current THEF membership, that membership will run its entire course (one year from when it was issued). But at the end of that membership period, in order to remain a member of THEF, you would have to become an ACHE member

What are the main benefits of the combined membership structure?

The new structure is designed to grow the value of ACHE affiliation through a shared focus on the professional development needs of affiliates and a seamless national and local system of innovative services. The structure also fosters a culture of collaboration by eliminating separate membership recruitment efforts by ACHE and chapters, as well as by increasing efficiency associated with economies of scale and the elimination of unnecessary and unproductive duplication of effort in areas such as membership data management and communications.

How will the change affect the dues structure?

ACHE affiliates will automatically become members of their local chapter without any additional fee for chapter dues. Chapter members who are not already ACHE affiliates will need to join ACHE and pay ACHE dues in order to continue chapter membership. For the first two years of membership, ACHE dues are \$150 per year.

What happens to current chapter members who do not wish to join ACHE?

Although non-affiliates of ACHE will not be chapter members, they are welcome to attend chapter events and pay a non-member fee. Non-affiliates of ACHE can not hold membership status in the chapter, nor can they be officers or directors of the chapter or serve on the operating committees of the chapter.

For additional information, please contact THEF President Carey Unger at Carey.Unger@duke.edu or Thom D. Freyer, FACHE, CAE, vice president, Regional Services at 312-424-9320 or tfreyer@ache.org.

Eastern North Carolina Chapter Integrated into THEF:

After a series of meetings and thoughtful discussions over the last year, the leadership of THEF and the Eastern North Carolina Healthcare Executives Group (ENCHEG) of ACHE decided that the ENCHEG should join THEF as a local program council. This unification will strengthen both organizations, and provide for increased educational and networking opportunities for all members.

As a local program council, ENCC will still provide programming directed towards those ACHE members in Eastern North Carolina (but open to all THEF members), but those members will also have access to THEF programming as THEF members, and will enjoy all the privileges of membership in the larger organization.

The combination makes THEF the largest of the four ACHE chapters in North Carolina, with approximately 350 members spread from the Atlantic coastline on the east to Orange, Caswell and Chatham counties on the west; from Virginia to South Carolina. THEF overtakes the Greater Charlotte Healthcare Executives which has approximately 285 members. Some 70 percent of THEF members are also ACHE members, and 64 (18 percent) are ACHE Fellows.

"This new affiliation is a win-win situation for everyone," THEF president Carey Unger said.

Pacesetters:

Like many of us, THEF's president-elect Carey Unger learned about the rewards of healthcare administration later in her academic career. Read more about what led her down this career path and how she promotes THEF's focus on students today.

1st job: Teaching Assistant for a statistics class at Vanderbilt University, Nashville—for a class of seniors though she was a freshman.

Why did you choose healthcare: "For a long time, I wanted to be pediatrician. I finally realized that my heart wasn't in that profession enough to try to balance my personal and career goals and still go to school for that long. My (undergraduate) advisor told me, 'If you don't want to be a doctor, why don't you manage one.' That was the first time I'd ever heard about MHAs."

1st deliberate step towards professional goals: Getting a master's degree right after earning an undergraduate degree.

"It's hard to get anywhere without a master's degree, and I knew that getting one early suited my goals best."

1st healthcare administrative job: hospital safety and quality analyst while in the MHA program at the University of Missouri.



Carey Unger

Milestone: Discovering during the Duke Administrative Fellowship that the operations side of administration was a great fit.

"I love healthcare safety and quality and had planned to focus on a career in that field. However, I learned through an advisor that being in operations would give me greater influence—a broader scope and reach—to create an attitude of safety throughout an organization."

Next professional steps: "Operations is my niche—I love what I do. Short-term, I'll continue at my job (at Duke University Hospital) and look for ways to expand my responsibilities and exposure. Longer-term, I want to continue up the operations chain, especially in areas concerning strategic growth."

About THEF: "We live in a very 'healthcare rich' area here, and that allows us to network and expand our understanding in so many areas. I look forward to learning from and sharing with the THEF executive committee and members."

Final thoughts: "I personally am at a great place—age- and career-wise—to relate to students. Because there are so many strong schools here (in the RTP area), I and all THEF members have a chance to become mentors to some great talent who might not know about healthcare administration as a career."