



LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES BOARD OFFICERS, TRUSTEES

Baton Rouge — The Louisiana Hospital Association (LHA) announced its 2019-2020 Board of Trustee officers and newly-elected board members during its annual membership meeting on July 22.

“The LHA recognizes its new and returning board members for their dedication to improving healthcare in communities throughout our state,” said LHA President & CEO Paul A. Salles. “These members continually strive to improve patient care and lower healthcare costs.”

Phyllis L. Peoples, president & CEO of Terrebonne General Medical Center in Houma, will serve as the LHA Board of Trustees Chair. She received the gavel from **David L. Callecod, FACHE**, president of Lafayette General Health, who will now serve as Immediate Past Chair. **Parker A. Templeton, FACHE**, CEO of Iberia Medical Center in New Iberia, will serve as the Association’s Chair-Elect, and **Jason E. Cobb, FACHE**, CEO of Rapides Regional Medical Center in Alexandria, was elected Treasurer.

In addition to the officers, the LHA Board of Trustees is composed of At-Large and District Trustees. **Edgardo Tenreiro, FACHE**, CEO of Baton Rouge General Medical Center, and **Chris Fox**, division president-facility based services for LHC Group in Lafayette, were elected as At-Large Trustees for a two-year term. **William Weaver**, CEO of Brentwood Hospital in Shreveport, was re-elected to serve a second term as an At-Large Trustee.

The following individuals were elected to serve as District Trustees:

- Central District: **Chris Karam, FACHE**, senior vice president of group operations for CHRISTUS Health Louisiana and Southeast Texas and president and chief executive officer of CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System in Alexandria, was elected to serve a two-year term;
- Northwest District: **David C. Jones**, administrator & CEO of North Caddo Medical Center in Vivian, was elected to serve a two-year term; and
- Southeast District: **Rene J. Ragas**, CEO of Our Lady of Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, was re-elected to serve a second term.

In addition, the LHA Research & Education Foundation elected **Gregory C. Feirn, CPA**, CEO of LCMC Health in New Orleans, as the Foundation’s Chair and re-elected **Charles D. Daigle**, CEO of Ochsner LSU Health in Shreveport, as its Secretary/Treasurer.

About the Louisiana Hospital Association and the LHA Research and Education Foundation

Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org. The LHA Research and Education Foundation was established for education and research purposes, which has allowed Louisiana hospitals to gain access to additional expertise and resources through government grant activities and contracts focused on emergency preparedness and quality improvement initiatives.

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Download Photos:[Jason Cobb](#)[Charles Daigle](#)[Greg Feirn](#)[Chris Fox](#)[David Jones](#)[Chris Karam](#)[Phyllis Peoples](#)[Rene Ragas](#)[Parker Templeton](#)[Edgardo Tenreiro](#)[William Weaver](#)**Biographies of Newly-Elected Board Officers and Members in Alphabetical Order by Last Name:**

Jason E. Cobb, FACHE, was elected Treasurer of the LHA Board of Trustees. Cobb has more than 26 years of experience in healthcare with 21 of those years in Louisiana. In 2013, Cobb joined Rapides Regional Medical Center (RRMC) and Rapides Healthcare System as chief executive officer. Prior to joining RRMC, he held positions as chief executive officer of Lakeview Regional Medical Center in Covington; chief operating officer at West Houston Medical Center in Houston, Texas; vice president of operations at Tulane University Hospital and Clinic in New Orleans; vice president & administrator at Willis-Knighton Health System and Willis-Knighton Pierremont Hospital in Shreveport; and administrative internships at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas and the Christian Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. Throughout his career, Cobb has actively participated in many organizations to support business, healthcare and community. He has served as chair of the Chamber of Commerce, chair of the American Heart Association, chair of the LHA Research & Education Foundation Board, vice chair of the Central Louisiana Economic Development Alliance Board, as a member of the LHA Board of Trustees, and as members of the LSUA Foundation Board and Louisiana College Board of Visitors. He earned a Master of Health Administration from Washington University School of Medicine, a Master of Business Administration from Texas A & M University, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Arkansas. He also has completed four programs on “Strategy” at Harvard University Extension School. In addition, he is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has been a member since 1994.

Charles “Chuck” Daigle was re-elected as the Secretary/Treasurer of the LHA Research & Education Foundation. Daigle serves as the chief executive officer of Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport, a partnership jointly formed by Ochsner Health System and LSU Health Shreveport. As CEO, he has responsibility for overseeing the healthcare delivery system in Shreveport and Monroe and coordinating activities between it and the LSU Health Sciences Center. He has operational responsibility for the North Louisiana hospitals, including Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport and Ochsner LSU Monroe Medical Center, and the ambulatory surgery and diagnostic centers. He also has administrative responsibility for the Ochsner LSU Health Physician Group and its clinic locations. He brings 24 years of experience in healthcare management and health insurance, including roles as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Willis Knighton Health System in Shreveport and vice president of management and professional services at Our Lake of the Lake Regional Medical Center. He has served in various board capacities, including as an executive committee member and chairman of the Louisiana Hospital Association and on the Vizient/VHA Gulf States Board.

Greg Feirn was elected as the Chair of the LHA Research & Education Foundation. Feirn has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare and is the chief executive officer at LCMC Health, a five-hospital system that he spearheaded the creation of in 2009. Today, he manages and collaborates with the LCMC Board of Trustees and provides strategic leadership across every level of the health system. In addition to his expertise in hospital operations, reimbursement strategy and investment management, Feirn is passionate about reducing healthcare spending and lowering the burden of healthcare costs for patients across Louisiana. Originally from Wisconsin, he has fully immersed himself in the NOLA community, playing key leadership roles in NOLA programs, including acting as chairman of the Metropolitan Management Corporation and serving on the board of a wide variety of community organizations.

Chris Fox was elected as an At-Large Trustee for the LHA Board of Trustees. Fox joined LHC Group in 2016 and is responsible for the vision and direction of a division that includes long-term acute care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, therapy and pharmacy services. Prior to joining the company, he served as vice president of sub-acute services for IASIS Healthcare, a national hospital operator. With more than 20 years of experience in the field, Fox previously held senior-level administrative positions with HealthSouth and RehabCare. A native of Louisiana, he is a graduate of Tulane University and holds a master's degree from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. He also serves on the executive committee of OneAcadiana, a nine-parish regional Chamber of Commerce organization.

David Jones was elected to serve as the Northwest District Trustee for the LHA Board of Trustees. Jones is the chief executive officer of North Caddo Medical Center, a critical access hospital that serves the rural areas of northern Caddo Parish. He came to North Caddo Medical Center as chief executive officer in 2005 after 12 years serving in administrative roles for Willis Knighton Health Systems in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. His prior experience includes serving as a regional department head and the regional revenue cycle director. Jones earned both his Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science and Master of Health Sciences from Louisiana State University Medical Center. He serves on the Region 7 LERN Commission and is a past trustee of the Louisiana Rural Health Association Board of Directors. Jones oversaw the planning, construction and opening of a new 72,000 square-foot replacement facility in 2017.

Chris Karam was elected to serve as the Central District Trustee for the LHA Board of Trustees. Karam serves as senior vice president of group operations for CHRISTUS Health Louisiana and Southeast Texas as well as president and chief executive officer of CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System. As senior vice president, he has oversight of the system's ministries in Louisiana and Southeast Texas, including CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Health System, CHRISTUS Shreveport-Bossier Health System, CHRISTUS Ochsner Health Southwestern Louisiana and CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System. Karam comes back to Louisiana after serving as president and chief executive officer of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System for the past 15 years. In total, Karam has more than 30 years of leadership in Catholic Healthcare Ministry, having held a variety of clinical, operational and management positions in acute and rehabilitation hospitals across the country. In 2008, he was named one of the "24 Hospital Leaders to Know" by The Hospital Review and Beckers' ASC Review, and in 2009 was named one of "58 Hospital and Health Industry Leaders" by Hospital Review Magazine. In 2011, he was honored to be one of 300 "Most Influential People in Healthcare" selected out of 400,000 nominees by Modern Healthcare. He brings a unique background to his authentic leadership in community health and population health management with a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, a master's degree in exercise physiology from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va. and a degree in theology from St. Gregory University in Shawnee, Okla. His early commitment to health and well-being was shaped by his bachelor's degree in food and nutrition from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. In addition, he is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Phyllis Peoples is the 2019-2020 Chair of the LHA Board of Trustees. Peoples has served as the president and chief executive officer of Terrebonne General Medical Center since 2003. A native of Houma, she has worked in healthcare administration for more than 25 years. She currently serves on the LHA Trust Funds Board and has previously served on the LHA Research and Education Foundation Board and the LHA Quality Committee, as chair. She also served as a member of the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 7, and has been a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives since 2001, recently completing a two-year term as president of the Louisiana Chapter of Healthcare Executives. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and two master's degrees from Valdosta State University in administration and education, as well as a master's degree in healthcare administration from Tulane University. She is a member and has served on the boards of numerous other local, state and national organizations. She was recognized as a Community Role Model in 2011 by the Young Leadership Council of New Orleans and was awarded the Golden Pelican President's Award from the Louisiana Society for Hospital Public Relations and Marketing. She was also honored as one of the New Orleans CityBusiness' Health Care Heroes for 2012 and as one of the CityBusiness 2013 Women of the Year.

Rene Ragas was re-elected to serve as the Southeast District Trustee for the LHA Board of Trustees. Ragas serves as president and chief executive officer of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System's Northshore Region. With more than 20 years of Catholic healthcare experience, Ragas oversees the operation of Our Lady of the Angels Hospital in Bogalusa, as well as more than 20 primary and specialty clinics and two surgical centers across St. Tammany Parish, Washington Parish and Pearl River County. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond and earned his Master of Healthcare Administration from Tulane University in New Orleans. Ragas currently serves as president of the Northshore Healthcare Alliance and as a member of the Board of Directors for Vizient Southern States, Southern Surgical Hospital and Our Lady of the Lake Surgery Center – Pontchartrain. He is a graduate of Leadership Louisiana and actively volunteers with the Louisiana Special Olympics and Christ Episcopal School.

Parker Templeton, FACHE, is the 2019-2020 Chair-Elect of the LHA Board of Trustees. Templeton is president & chief executive officer of Iberia Medical Center in New Iberia. Prior to joining Iberia Medical Center, he served as chief executive officer of Franklin Foundation Hospital. His previous experience includes serving as chief executive officer/administrator at Iberia Rehabilitation Hospital, assistant administrator at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur, Illinois and assistant administrator at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. Templeton earned a Bachelor of Science in Cardiopulmonary Science from LSU Health Science Center and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Trinity University. He completed an Administrative Fellowship at Baylor Healthcare System in 2002. Throughout his career, Templeton has served as a board member for numerous philanthropic and civic organizations. He is also actively involved in several professional organizations, including the Louisiana Hospital Association. He also served as chair of the LHA Research & Education Foundation Board, as the HOSPPAC chair and as a board member of the LHA Trust Funds. He is a board-certified healthcare executive, obtaining Fellowship status in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). In 2013, he received the Regent's Award - Early Career Healthcare Executive from the Louisiana ACHE. In 2014, Becker's Hospital Review named Templeton a Top Leader Under 40.

Edgardo Tenreiro was elected as an At-Large Trustee for the LHA Board of Trustees. Tenreiro is the president and chief executive officer of Baton Rouge General (BRG), serving previously as executive vice president and chief operating officer. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, as well as a Master of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Notre Dame. For nearly three decades, he has served in management roles for hospital systems in Florida, Texas, Illinois and Louisiana. Since joining BRG in 2008, he has overseen many of the hospital's major functions, including physician relations, clinical quality, patient satisfaction, employee engagement and financial performance. He is a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of various boards, including the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and Baton Rouge Health District.

William Weaver was re-elected as an At-Large Trustee of the LHA Board of Trustees. Weaver has served as the chief executive officer at Brentwood Hospital since 2013, and commands 25-plus years of progressive experience in the behavioral health field. He was previously licensed as a social worker and certified as an addiction treatment professional while serving in direct patient care roles. In addition to his significant professional career, he currently serves on several not-for-profit boards, including the St. Mark's Cathedral School Board. Community involvement is an initiative he leads at Brentwood, which includes quarterly hands-on projects supporting agencies like The Renesting Project, Highland Restoration Association and Community Renewal International, as well as sponsorship of 40 different not-for-profit agencies. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science from Athens State University and a Master of Business Administration from Samford University.