

Arkansas Hospital Association

2025 Annual Meeting

October 15-16

Little Rock Marriott • 3 Statehouse Plaza

Procedures, Perks, and Giveaways

1. Two-Day Event and Sponsor Tables

In response to feedback from the 2024 Annual Meeting, we've continued with the two-day format offering the complete Annual Meeting experience while minimizing time away from work for our hospital leaders. Our top-tier sponsors will be set up in Salon C, showcasing their products and services. During breaks, please take a moment to visit their tables and thank them for their generous support.

2. Closing Keynote Speaker

We are continuing with the 2024 event times; however, instead of the afternoon concurrent sessions on day two, we will close the event with a keynote session featuring an ACHE In-Person Panel thanks to Gallagher. To prevent any confusion, check the meeting guide you will receive at on-site registration to make sure you have the correct session locations and times.

3. Keynote Continental Breakfast

A big thank-you to Vizient, Inc.! Before Thursday's Keynote session, all attendees can enjoy a continental breakfast in the foyer of Salons A & B.

4. Name Badge and Lanyard

This year's name badges are getting a fresh new look, courtesy of Chartspan and SunRx! Be sure to stop by the registration desk to collect your updated badge and your lanyard! Keep an eye out: some lucky badges and lanyards will be specially marked for surprise giveaways.

5. Hotel Room Key

Thanks to our generous sponsor, FORVIS Mazars, attendees can present their hotel room key card to the registration desk to be entered to win a \$150 gift card. One name will be drawn each day.

6. Coffee Cup

Clark Contractors will be providing coffee cups for AHA events, so make sure to grab one for your beverages. Gift cards will be awarded at random to those using the sponsored cup!

7. Complimentary Wi-Fi

Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP, will be sponsoring the Annual Meeting Wi-Fi again this year. Make sure you stop by the registration desk to get the access point name and code.

8. Attendee Lounge

Thanks to Prime Capital Financial, a member lounge will be set up in the Hoffman Room for attendees to grab snacks and drinks throughout the meeting. The lounge will also provide access to charging stations, chairs, and tables to take a quick call or to set up your laptop to send an email.

9. Starbucks Coffee

Thanks to Qualivis, all attendees will receive a wristband at registration. This wristband may be used in the Starbucks on the lobby level of the hotel for drinks at no cost to the attendee. (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE FOOD.)

The Arkansas Hospital Association will again cover parking in the parking decks for event attendees.

Please ensure you bring your parking slip to the registration table each day to receive a validation sticker for your slip.

Arkansas Hospital Association 2025 Annual Meeting

Little Rock Marriott • October 15-16

Wednesday, October 15

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. ACHE OF ARKANSAS BOARD MEETING – Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level

8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. REGISTRATION – Ballroom Lobby

8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. MEMBER LOUNGE – Hoffman

Sponsored by Prime Capital Financial

Visit the members lounge to charge your phone, check an email, grab a snack, or just get away from the crowd.

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. SPONSOR TABLES – Salon C

9:15 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP – Salon B

Sponsored by AHA Services, Inc.

9:30 a.m.

Be Happy. Work Happy. Because Happy People Make Good Things Happen.

Faculty: Kim Hodous, National Speaker and Entrepreneur

Research has proven that happy people come up with the best ideas, are up to 28% more productive, miss less work, and are half as likely to leave their jobs. Bottom line – happy people are more successful and happy people make good things happen.

There are now actual steps you can take to become happier – and they're not dependent on your family, your boss, your co-workers, or the alignment of the stars. They're all up to you! In this fun, interactive, and empowering session, Kim takes all the data and distills it down into a simple "Happiness Habit" that can be mastered by anyone, done in less than 60 seconds, and will make a lasting change in your happiness – at work and in life.



Kim Hodous

11:45 a.m. LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP LUNCH – Salon A

12:30 p.m.

Arkansas Hospital Association Fireside Chat

Facilitator: Bo Ryall, President & CEO, Arkansas Hospital Association

1:45 p.m.

Oh No! Not More of That Fluffy Stuff!

Faculty: Rich Bluni, RN, Senior Director, Huron Consulting Group

When we are feeling stressed and burnt out it's not because we are lacking an "intellectual skill" nor is it because we don't care enough...quite the contrary! Often we start getting burnt out because we care a lot! But what happens when you aren't "feeling it" anymore?

What if we focused on our stories? Thought about how we "start"? Talked about giving people what they need rather than what we think they need?

Does that sound like "Fluffy Stuff"?

Good! Because it is!

In this session, you may see that sometimes all of that "Fluffy Stuff" is exactly what you need.

5.0 Continuing Education Hours Applied For: *ACHE Qualifying Education Hours, Certified Professional Healthcare Quality Hours, and Nursing Contact Hours*



3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.

AHA BOARD MEETING – Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level
AHA Nominating Committee will meet immediately following the AHA Board Meeting.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

AHA MEMBERSHIP RECEPTION – Riverview Ballroom
Sponsored by Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Join attendees for networking, entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and drinks.

No outside events should be planned during this time.

Thursday, October 16

7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION – Ballroom Lobby

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

UAMS MHA STUDENT AND ALUMNI BREAKFAST – Arkansas Ballroom

Attendance to this event is by invitation only.

ACHE members and MHA students are invited to attend this networking breakfast.

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MEMBER LOUNGE – Hoffman

Sponsored by Prime Capital Financial

Visit the members lounge to charge your phone, check an email, grab a snack, or just get away from the crowd.

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SPONSOR TABLES – Salon C

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

KEYNOTE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST – Salon A Foyer

Sponsored by Vizient, Inc.

Attendees will grab breakfast before heading into the Keynote Session.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

AHA/AHAA OPENING KEYNOTE – Salons A & B

Sponsored by AHA Services, Inc.

Bo Ryall, AHA President and CEO

Larry Shackelford, AHA Chairman

Charlotte Jackson, AHAA President

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Game-Changing Power of Your Rope Team

Faculty: Command Sergeant Major Gretchen Evans

As one of the most highly decorated women in the U.S. Army, Gretchen Evans had finally achieved her dream. Overseeing 30,000 troops as a Command Sergeant Major, she was on top of the world. But all of that changed in an instant during a rocket attack in Afghanistan when she suffered catastrophic injuries and became deaf. Gretchen's presentation will take you on a journey from her finding her purpose in the military as a young woman, to her devastating injury, to her decision to reclaim her life with the support of her Rope Team. With her Rope Team of friends, supporters, and service dogs by her side, Gretchen not only re-discovered the will to live, but she dedicated her life to serving others by founding Team UNBROKEN, a mixed-ability athletic team. Between her stories, Gretchen will offer her wisdom on the topics of grit, hope, and overcoming any barrier. With a heartfelt message and a touch of humor, Gretchen provides a keynote that inspires all of us to believe "what's within us is stronger than anything in our way."



Gretchen Evans

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

AHA ANNUAL MEETING HOUSE OF DELEGATES

CEOs of AHA member institutions are encouraged to attend.

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

MORNING HOT TOPICS

HOT TOPIC 1

Inspired Excellence

Faculty: Rich Bluni, RN, Senior Director, Huron Consulting Group

Designed around the Nine Principles® framework, this session offers leaders at all levels the tools they need to drive organizational excellence. With his signature blend of humor and heartfelt stories, Bluni will share actionable strategies to help you build a sustainable culture of excellence, adapt to industry changes, and inspire your teams to exceed expectations.

Objectives:

- Learn how to apply this proven framework to foster a culture of sustained organizational excellence.
- Gain insights on how to adapt leadership approaches in response to the rapidly evolving health care landscape.
- Discover techniques to motivate and empower teams, encouraging them to go above and beyond in their roles.



Rich Bluni

1.5 Continuing Education Hours Applied For: *ACHE Qualifying Education Hours, Certified Professional Healthcare Quality Hours, and Nursing Contact Hours*

HOT TOPIC 2

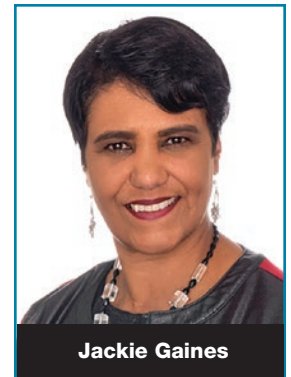
Leading, Navigating, and Embracing Change

Faculty: Jackie Gaines, RN, MS, Principal, Huron Consulting Group

Nurses at every level and in all settings are positioned to lead. They lead teams, promote community health, advocate for systems change and health policy, foster the redesign of nursing education, and advance efforts to achieve quality outcomes in the communities we serve. In a constantly dynamic environment, the most challenging aspect of leadership is managing change. It is crucial that nurse leaders are equipped with the knowledge and skills of change leadership to navigate future disruptions in health care delivery. The only thing we can count on is that “change will happen.” The question is, “are we ready?”

Change leadership tools will be included to help nurse leaders diagnose and manage the process of executing change strategies in their organizations.

1.5 Continuing Education Hours Applied For: *ACHE Qualifying Education Hours, Certified Professional Healthcare Quality Hours, Legal Education Credit, Nursing Contact Hours, and Risk Management Hours*



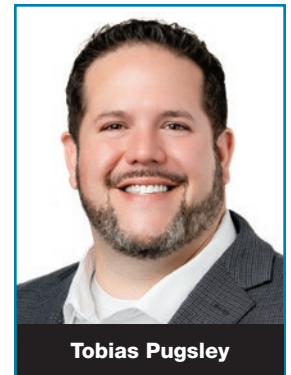
Jackie Gaines

HOT TOPIC 3

Diamond Award Winner Discussion & Roundtable

Facilitator: Tobias Pugsley, MBA, FACHE, VP of Marketing and Communications, Baxter Health

This session will feature 2025 Diamond Award winners presenting their award-winning projects. Each winner will share insights into their creative process and the impact of their work. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions, share feedback, and contribute ideas for future award categories and improvements.



Tobias Pugsley

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

**AWARDS RECEPTION
HONORING INCOMING CHAIRMAN GREG CRAIN
– Salons A & B Foyer**

Sponsored by Nabholz

12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

AWARDS LUNCH – Salons A & B

Sponsored by Nabholz

Join us in celebrating outstanding hospital leadership at this year's Awards Luncheon! Enjoy entertainment, networking, and the presentation of several prestigious honors, including the C.E. Melville Young Administrator of the Year, Distinguished Service Awards, the ACHE Early Career Healthcare Executive, and the ACHE Senior Level Healthcare Executive awards.

We'll also recognize exceptional achievements in hospital marketing and public relations with the 2025 Diamond Awards.

Capping off the celebration, we'll present the 2025 A. Allen Weintraub Memorial Award—the AHA's highest honor.

1:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**CLOSING KEYNOTE & ACHE
IN-PERSON PANEL**

Arkansas Ballroom

Sponsored by Gallagher

Greg Crain, AHA Chairman

**Leading a Culture of Safety – When Seconds Change
Lives: Patient Safety and System Breakdowns**

Faculty: RaDonda Vaught, Advocate for Safety and Improvement

Reaction Panel:

Kayla Beamon, DNP, RN, CPHQ, Administrator, Methodist Children’s Behavioral Hospital – Jonesboro (moderator)

LaDonna Johnston, MSN, RN, FACHE, President and CEO, Unity Health, Searcy

Carlette S. Seng, PD, CPPS, Manager of Pharmacy - Medication Safety Officer, UAMS Medical Center, Little Rock

Kevin Thielemier, Director, Human Resources, Arkansas Methodist Medical Center, Paragould

This closing keynote will feature RaDonda Vaught, whose case made headlines in March 2022 when a jury found her guilty of criminally negligent homicide and gross neglect of an impaired adult after mistakenly administering the wrong medication, resulting in a patient’s death.

A panel will react to RaDonda Vaught’s story and how we, as leaders, can cultivate a culture of safety in our hospitals.

Objectives:

- Discuss the impact of human and system factors combined with medical error potential.
- Discuss the range of feelings providers can have in the aftermath of a medical error.
- Assess the course of events following a medication error.

1.5 Continuing Education Hours Applied For: ACHE In-Person Education Hours, Certified Professional Healthcare Quality Hours, Legal Education Credit, Nursing Contact Hours, and Risk Management Hours



RaDonda Vaught



Kayla Beamon



LaDonna Johnston



Carlette S. Seng



Kevin Thielemier

4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING ADJOURNS

Continuing Education Information

ACHE Qualifying Education

By attending the 2025 Arkansas Hospital Association Annual Meeting offered by the Arkansas Hospital Association participants may earn up to 7.5 ACHE Qualifying Education Hours toward initial certification or recertification of the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) designation.

Participants in this program wishing to have the CE hours applied toward ACHE Qualifying Education credit are responsible for maintaining a record of their ACHE Qualifying Education.

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) In-Person Learning Panel, Thursday, October 16

The American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) has approved this panel for 1.5 ACHE In-Person Learning Hours (formerly Face-to-Face Hours). To have these hours applied to your ACHE member record, your name must appear on the sign-in sheet which is provided to ACHE. Please allow six weeks for the hours to appear on your ACHE record.

Legal

Continuing Legal Education credit hours have been applied for through the Arkansas Continuing Legal Education Board.

Nursing

Nursing contact hours will be awarded to nurses attending designated sessions. Nurses must attend each session in their entirety, sign in, and complete the evaluation process.

Arkansas Hospital Association is approved with distinction as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Quality

Approval is pending for continuing education hours for CPHQ recertification by the Healthcare Quality Certification Board.

Risk Management

This program is pending approval of continuing education credit through the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management.

The Arkansas Hospital Association Wishes to Express Its Appreciation to These 2025 Corporate Sponsors and Supporters

ELITE SPONSORS

AHA Services, Inc.
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Qualivis

DIAMOND SPONSORS

AblePay Health
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Blue Shield
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Forvis Mazars
**Friday, Eldredge
& Clark, LLP**
Prime Capital Financial
SUNRx
Vizient Inc.

GOLD SPONSORS

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Federal Funding Group**
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Recovery Agency (ARORA)**
CareSource PASSE
Hyve Health
Jackson Physician Search
MCAG
Mitchell Williams Law Firm
**State Health Alliance for Records
Exchange (SHARE)**

SILVER SPONSORS

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Engelkes Felts & Barnhardt, LTD
HFG Architecture
Psychiatric Medical Care LLC
PYA, P.C.

SUPPORTERS

ACHE of Arkansas
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Forefront Healthcare
**Medical Information Technology, Inc.
(Meditech)**
Premier Anesthesia

CONTRIBUTORS*

Arkansas Association of Hospital Trustees
**AHA Workers Compensation
Self Insured Trust**

Event Information

Each participant planning to attend the 2025 AHA Annual Meeting must complete and return a registration form and all fees to the AHA by 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 10, 2025.

Please contact Laura Whitaker in the AHA Education Department at (501) 224-7878 x126 or lwhitaker@arkhospitals.org with questions regarding registration.

Handouts Provided Online

Handouts and additional materials will be available to all registrants online. A link will be provided to all registrants so that they may have access to this information prior to October 13th.

Hotel Accommodations

A room block has been reserved for October 14-16 at the Little Rock Marriott, which is located at Three Statehouse Plaza in downtown Little Rock. To take advantage of the annual meeting rate of \$174 for single or double occupancy, please identify the Arkansas Hospital Association 2025 Annual Conference as the event. The room block will expire on September 29. Reservations after that date will be subject to availability.

To make reservations, contact the Little Rock Marriott at (877) 759-6290. All reservation requests/changes should be made directly with the hotel. To make reservations online, visit the hotel website link for Annual Meeting: [CLICK HERE](#).

Parking

Annual Meeting participants are urged to allow extra time to secure parking in downtown Little Rock. The Little Rock Marriott offers valet parking (\$18 per day or \$30 for overnight parking).

Additional parking is available in two downtown parking garages:

- Second and Main Street Parking Garage (one block south of the Little Rock Marriott)
- Municipal Parking Garage (below the DoubleTree Hotel, a short walk from the Little Rock Marriott)

Parking at the two garages above is complimentary after ticket validation from AHA registration desk. (This does not include valet parking.)

Cancellation Policy

Refunds, minus a \$75 processing fee, will be granted if requests are received in writing by the AHA on or before September 29. No refunds after that date. Unpaid registrants who fail to attend must pay the entire registration fee. Substitutions, however, are permitted. Fax refund requests to the education department at (501) 224-0519.

ARKANSAS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION 2025 ANNUAL MEETING, October 15-16, 2025

Registration Deadline – 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 10
ONE registration form per person.

REGISTER ONLINE AND RECEIVE A \$25 DISCOUNT EACH DAY YOU REGISTER TO ATTEND!

Please type or print. Reproduce form for additional enrollments.

Name _____ Title _____

Hospital/Organization _____

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____ Telephone _____

REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

CHECK FOR ATTENDANCE FEE AMT. DUE

Wednesday, October 15

- A. Leadership Workshop (9:15 a.m.) **\$200** \$ _____
- B. Membership Reception (6:00 p.m.) **N/A** # _____

Thursday, October 16

To attend any sessions on this day, you must pay the Thursday Registration Fee (Item C). This fee will cover your attendance to the Keynote Address, one morning session, and the closing keynote with ACHE panel.

- C. Registration Fee **\$200** \$ _____

(1) **You MUST Choose ONE Morning Session (10:15 a.m.)**

- Hot Topic 1: Inspired Excellence.....
- Hot Topic 2: Leading, Navigating, and Embracing Change
- Hot Topic 3: Diamond Award Roundtable

- (2) Awards Lunch (12:15 – 1:30 p.m.) **\$50 x** # _____ \$ _____

(3) **Closing Keynote Session & ACHE Panel (1:45 p.m.)**

- Leading a Culture of Safety – When Seconds Change Lives

OTHER FEES

- F. Hospital Administration Graduate Students, not employed by a hospital (**must pre-pay**) **\$75** \$ _____
Must select sessions above for attendance. Students must register for the meeting in order to attend the Thursday morning breakfast.

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Note: AHA events are not available to persons from hospitals that are eligible for AHA membership but choose not to become members.

PAYMENT

- Enclosed is my check made payable to the Arkansas Hospital Association.
- I authorize AHA to charge my: MasterCard VISA (**AmEx and Discover not accepted**) Exp. date _____
- Card number _____ CVV _____ Phone _____
- Cardholder's name _____ Cardholder's signature _____
- Billing address _____

Mail form and payment to be received by the AHA no later than October 10 to:

Arkansas Hospital Association, 419 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205; or fax form with credit card payment to (501) 224-0519.

AHA OFFICE USE ONLY SPON _____ AUTH _____ REG _____ CONFIRM DATE _____ INITIAL _____



419 NATURAL RESOURCES DRIVE | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205
501.224.7878 | WWW.ARKHOSPITALS.ORG | LDUMAS@ARKHOSPITALS.ORG