2026

NJHA ANNUAL MEETING | January 29, 2026

Exponential Strength, Exceptional Impact

To health!
NJHA
New Jersey Hospital Association

Welcome to the 107th NJHA Annual Meeting.

For more than a century, New Jersey's health systems, hospitals and postacute providers have come together through this Association with one shared mission: to improve the health of every New Jerseyan.

That mission – and the unity behind it – is more essential than ever in 2026, as our field confronts unrelenting challenges, shifting policy and persistent uncertainty. Yet this moment is also rich with possibility. Together, we have the power to lead through change, to redesign care and access and to serve our communities with renewed strength, clarity and purpose.

Within NJHA, certain commitments do no waver: championing high quality, high value and accessible care; advocating for patients and providers; advancing quality and safety; sparking education and innovation; rebuilding and reimagining our workforce; and equipping you with data and insights to drive better decisions.

That is what today represents: a time to celebrate shared achievements, confront our toughest issues shoulder to shoulder, honor leaders who have given remarkable service and activate our exponential strength to shape the future of healthcare in the Garden State.

Cathy Bennett
NJHA President and CEO

Deborah D. Visconi
NJHA Board Chair,
President and CEO, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Program of the Day

- **Welcome Remarks**

  Cathy Bennett
  President and CEO
  New Jersey Hospital Association

- **Outgoing Chair's Greeting**

  Mark Stauder
  COO (Retired), Hackensack Meridian Health

- **Installation and Remarks from 2026 Chair**

  Deborah D. Visconi
  President and CEO
  Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

- **New Chair's Reception**

Deborah D. Visconi

President and CEO, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Chair

Deborah is President and CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.

She was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2020 and is a director on the HealthPAC Board. She has previously chaired the NJHA Audit & Compliance, Finance and Policy Development committees.

She will serve as chair of the NJHA Executive and Executive Compensation committees and as a member of the Governance & Nominations Committee. In her role as NJHA Chair she also serves as ex-officio on the HRET and HBS Boards.

Robert W. Brenner, MD, MMM, FACHE

President and CEO, Valley Health System

Vice Chair

Dr. Brenner is President and CEO of Valley Health System in Paramus, overseeing the operations of the system's three entities—The Valley Hospital, Valley Home Care and Valley Medical Group — and more than 100 outpatient and treatment locations.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2020. He has chaired the NJHA Audit & Compliance and Finance committees. In his role as vice chair, he will serve as chair of the Policy Development Committee, and on the NJHA Executive, Executive Compensation and Governance & Nominations committees as well as the Council on Hospital Governance and HBS Board.

Cathleen D. Bennett

President and CEO, New Jersey Hospital Association

As President and CEO of NJHA, Cathy oversees NJHA, the Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey and NJHA Healthcare Business Solutions. Prior to joining NJHA, she served as New Jersey's 20th Health Commissioner.

In her role as President and CEO, Cathy serves on the NJHA, HRET, HBS and HealthPAC Boards and is a member of all Board Task Forces and Committees.

Bill Arnold

Executive Vice President, RWJBarnabas Health
Chief Executive Officer, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
President, Southern Region, RWJBarnabas Health
Immediate Past Chair

Bill is Executive Vice President of RWJBarnabas Health, CEO of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and President of the RWJBarnabas Health Southern Region. He has been with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital for more than 25 years.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2019 and has served as chair of the Policy Development, Finance and Audit & Compliance committees. In 2026 he serves as chair of the NJHA Governance & Nominations Committee and as a member on NJHA Executive and Executive Compensation committees. Additionally, he will serve as vice chair of the HealthPAC Board.

Patricia A. O'Keefe, Ph.D, RN

President, Morristown Medical Center, Atlantic Health System
Senior Vice President, Atlantic Health System
Chief Nursing Executive, Atlantic Health System
Treasurer

Patricia "Trish" O'Keefe was named President of Morristown Medical Center in 2016, and in 2021 she added the roles of Senior Vice President and System Chief Nurse Executive for Atlantic Health System.

Trish began her first term on the NJHA Board in 2024. In 2026, she will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and on the NJHA Executive and Executive Compensation committees. She will also serve as treasurer and chair of the HBS and HRET Boards.

Eric Carney

President and CEO, Monmouth Medical Center, RWJBarnabas Health
Secretary

Eric is President and CEO of Monmouth Medical Center and Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus, where he is responsible for the daily operations of both campuses. He joined Monmouth Medical Center in 2016 as chief operating officer. He began his career at RWJBarnabas Health more than 25 years ago as a respiratory therapist.

In 2026, he will serve as chair on the NJHA Audit & Compliance committee, and on the NJHA Executive and Policy Development committees. He will also serve on the HRET Board as secretary.

Sam Bayoumy, PT, MBA

President, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation

Hossam (Sam) is President of Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, providing operational oversight of its four hospital campuses in New Jersey. He is responsible for ensuring the overall quality and safety of care, regulatory compliance, financial management and the strategic growth of the organization.

He previously served as chief executive officer of Cleveland Clinic Rehabilitation Hospital – Avon, in Ohio, which, like Kessler Institute, is part of Select Medical. Prior to that, he was the senior director of rehabilitation services and clinical leader for the Brain Injury Program at Kessler Institute.

He began his first NJHA term in 2024.

Aaron Chang, FACHE

President, Jefferson Health East Region

Aaron is President of Jefferson Health – East where he is responsible for overseeing daily operations of Jefferson's three New Jersey acute care hospitals in Cherry Hill, Stratford and Washington Township. He came to Jefferson from Catholic Health in New York, where he was President of Sisters of Charity Hospitals and Central Market Leader.

He began his first NJHA term in 2025. He will serve on the NJHA Council of Hospital Governance in 2026.

Edward J. Condit

President and CEO, St. Mary's General Hospital

Ed is President and CEO of St. Mary's General Hospital in Passaic. He joined St. Mary's Hospital as Vice President of Professional Services just six weeks before the organization's purchase of Passaic Beth Israel Hospital. He then served as Executive Vice President and COO.

Ed was reappointed to the NJHA Board in 2026. He previously served as chair of the NJHA Board of Trustees, Audit & Compliance, Finance and Policy Development committees. In 2026, he will serve on the NJHA Governance & Nominations Committee.

James G. Demetriades, MBA

CEO, Penn Medicine Princeton Health

James is CEO of Penn Medicine Princeton Health, where he has served for 19 years. In his previous role as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Princeton Health, he has served as a key player in some of Princeton Health's most important milestones over the past several years — a transformative time that included joining the University of Pennsylvania Health System.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2024.

Vincent J. Dicks

Chair, Board of Governors, Saint Peter's Healthcare System

Vincent is chairman of the Saint Peter's Healthcare System Board of Governors. He has managed and consulted in organizations of all sizes with resulting transformation of business strategy, sales/customer and systems/data and operations. With more than three decades of experience as a senior operating executive, entrepreneur and private investor, he is passionate about the future of healthcare and technology.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2023. He will serve on the NJHA Investment Committee in 2026.

John Doll

Senior Executive Vice President and COO, RWJBarnabas Health

John is Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of RWJBarnabas Health. He oversees the system's day-to-day operations, clinical activity and academic partnership with Rutgers University. Prior to assuming his current role and for over a decade, he guided RWJBarnabas Health's financial operations through mergers, consolidations and health crises in leadership roles including Chief Integration Officer, Chief Financial Officer and most recently, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer.

He began his first NJHA term in 2025.

Stephen J. Dumke, LHNA, FACHE

President and Chief Executive Officer, Christian Health

Stephen is the President and Chief Executive Officer for Christian Health. He oversees a continuum of senior-life, short-term rehab and behavioral health services and communities which include skilled nursing, assisted living, pre-assisted living and independent-living residences, along with behavioral health inpatient and outpatient services and inpatient and outpatient short-term rehab. He joined Christian Health in January 2016 as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He has served on multiple committees and councils for NJHA and LeadingAge New Jersey and Delaware, where he served as Chair.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2024.

Kenneth M. Esser, Jr.

Senior Vice President, Behavioral Health CTS and Special Advisor to the CEO, Hackensack Meridian Health

Ken serves as Executive Vice President of Care Transition Services in Behavioral Health for Hackensack Meridian *Health*. He is also the interim President/CHE of Carrier Clinic. He joined the organization in 2018 and previously served as Chief of Staff, where he was responsible for the central coordination of all activities of the office of the CEO. He also served as the liaison to the Board of Trustees and led the development of external relations strategy to elevate Hackensack Meridian *Health* and the executive leadership team.

He was appointed as an associate to the NJHA Board for 2025 and begins his first term in 2026.

Regina M. Foley, PhD, MBA, RN

EVP, Chief Nursing Executive and Chief Clinical Transformation & Integration Officer, Hackensack Meridian Health

Regina currently serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Clinical Transformation and Integration Officer for Hackensack Meridian *Health*. Over the past 36 years, Regina has held various executive leadership and clinical roles including chief hospital executive, chief operating officer, chief transformation officer and chief nursing officer. As a registered nurse, Regina leverages dual expertise in clinical and operational backgrounds to achieve exceptional and sustainable results.

Regina began her first term on the NJHA Board in 2024.

Patrick Gavin, MPH, MBA

President and CEO, Hunterdon Health

Patrick joined Hunterdon Health in 2019 as President and CEO. He has a diverse background at the executive level in large health systems leading operations, finance, information systems and population health initiatives.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2021.

Warren Geller

President and CEO, Englewood Health

Warren joined Englewood Health in 2009 and was appointed President and CEO in 2013. Under his leadership, Englewood Health has grown significantly, with a focus on extending services beyond the main hospital campus to be more accessible to local communities. The system now encompasses more than 100 locations across five counties.

Warren served on the NJHA Board from 2016-2022 and was reappointed in 2024.

David Hughes

CEO and President, Shore Medical Center

David is the CEO and President of Shore Medical Center. His service began as a volunteer for Shore Medical Center's Board of Trustees; he went on to officially join the hospital team in 2014. He has been instrumental in ensuring the Shore Health System's financial stability, with an unwavering commitment to keeping Shore an independent, non-profit hospital.

He started his first NJHA term in 2025 and will serve on the NJHA Policy Development Committee in 2026.

Amy B. Mansue

President and CEO, Inspira Health

Amy was appointed President and CEO of Inspira Health in August 2020. She has dedicated nearly three decades of service to the healthcare industry. Prior to her role at Inspira, she served as Executive Vice President and Chief Experience Officer at RWJBarnabas Health. She was also the former Chief Executive Officer of Children's Specialized Hospital.

Amy served as NJHA Board Chair in 2018-2019, with NJHA Board terms from 2004-2011 and 2014-2019. She has also chaired NJHA's Executive, Executive Compensation, Policy Development and Governance & Nominations committees. She is also a HealthPAC Director serving since 2015.

Michael Maron

President and CEO, Holy Name

Mike joined Holy Name in 1987 as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. He was promoted to Senior Vice President in 1991 and named President and CEO in 1997.

Mike was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2021. He also served as chair of the HealthPAC Board and the Hospital Funding Transformation and Charity Care task forces.

John Matsinger, DO, MBA, FACOI

Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, Virtua Health

Dr. Matsinger is Executive Vice President and COO at Virtua Health, responsible for overseeing all aspects of its operations. His areas of responsibility include the system's acute care hospitals, satellite emergency rooms, rehabilitation services, pharmacy operations, radiology services, lab services and the Virtua Medical Group.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2023.

Kevin O'Dowd, JD

Co-President/CEO, Cooper University Health Care

Kevin is Co-CEO of Cooper University Health Care after previously serving as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. A lawyer by background, prior to joining Cooper he spent nearly 20 years across various senior roles in the New Jersey Office of the Governor, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey and the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2020.

Dustin Riccio, MD, MBA

President and CEO, St. Joseph's Health

Dr. Riccio took the helm of St. Joseph's Health in January 2024 as its President and CEO. He formerly served in various leadership capacities at Rochester Regional Health in New York, including President of Unity Hospital and Unity Specialty Hospital, as well as President of Regional Operations for the health system. He also served as President of the Medical Staff for Unity Health System, prior to its merger with Rochester Regional Health System in 2014.

He began his first NJHA term in 2025.

Thomas W. Scott, FACHE, FABC

President and CEO, CentraState Healthcare System

Tom serves as President and CEO of CentraState Healthcare System. Prior to being named President, he served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He also served as Chief Operating Officer at Chilton Medical Center in Pompton Plains, part of Atlantic Health System.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2023 and also serves on the HBS Board.

Steven Sheris, MD, FACC, FACP

Executive Vice President, Chief Physician Executive, Atlantic Health System
President, Atlantic Medical Group

Dr. Sheris is Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Executive for Atlantic Health System and President of Atlantic Medical Group. He serves on the staff of Overlook and Morristown Medical Centers and was the chief of Cardiology at Overlook Medical Center.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2022.

Alan Sickles, MD

Chief Executive Officer, Saint Michael's Medical Center

Dr. Sickles joined the staff of Saint Michael's Medical Center as its COO in June 2020 and was quickly promoted to CEO three months later. During Dr. Sickles' tenure at Saint Michael's, the hospital has earned numerous accolades for patient safety, clinical excellence and social responsibility. Dr. Sickles joined the hospital after a career as a breast surgeon and hospital executive in major health systems in New York City, including NYU Langone Health, Lutheran Healthcare, North General Hospital and the Cabrini Medical Center.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2025 and will continue to serve on the HRET Board.

Mark Sparta, FACHE

Chief Operating Officer, Hackensack Meridian Health
President, HMH Hospital Corporation and Hackensack Meridian Ambulatory Care Boards

Mark is the Chief Operating Officer of Hackensack Meridian *Health* (HMH) and serves as President of both of the HMH Hospital Corporation and Ambulatory Care Boards. Previously, he held the position of President of HMH's North Region, where he oversaw five hospitals, including Hackensack University Medical Center, the academic flagship of HMH. From 2018 to 2024, he served as President and Chief Hospital Executive at Hackensack University Medical Center, having previously held the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the same institution.

He began his first NJHA term in 2025.

Frank A. Ghinassi, PhD, ABPP

President and CEO, Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care
Ex-Officio

Dr. Ghinassi is President and CEO of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care. He is responsible for a statewide system of academically based mental health and addiction services. In addition, he functions as Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health and Addictions Service Line at RWJBarnabas Health.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2017. He also serves as chair of the HRET Board and on the NJHA Governance & Nominations and Executive Compensation committees.

Leslie D. Hirsch, FACHE

President and CEO, Saint Peter's Healthcare System
Ex-Officio

Les serves as President and CEO of Saint Peter's Healthcare System. He also has served as President and CEO at healthcare institutions in Camden, Denver and New Orleans.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2021. Les previously served two terms as NJHA Board chair from 2015– 2017 and chaired the Property Tax Task Force. He also has served on the Executive Committee, along with the Strategic Planning, Executive Compensation and Governance & Nominations committees.

He will continue to serve on the Executive Compensation and Governance & Nominations committees and as chair of the HealthPAC Board.

Robert M. Segin, CPA

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Virtua Health
Ex-Officio

Bob is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Virtua Health. He is responsible for the health system's overall strategic financial planning and treasury management.

He was appointed to the NJHA Board in 2016 and is chair of the HBS Board and Investment Committee. Bob also serves on the Finance, Investment, Governance & Nominations and Executive Compensation committees.

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Frank Schultz
Jefferson Health New Jersey

Deborah D. Visconi
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Looking forward to our next big event... see you at Best at the Beach 2026!

NJHA's

Best at the Beach

Thursday, July 9, 2026 | On the beach at Ocean Place Resort & Spa, Long Branch, NJ

To health!
NJHA
New Jersey Hospital Association