FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Baton Rouge - Members of the Louisiana Hospital Association announced the 2015-2016 Board of Trustee Officers and newly-elected board members at the Association’s annual business meeting on July 20.

“The LHA congratulates the new and returning members of our board and thanks them for helping to improve healthcare in Louisiana during these rapidly changing times,” said LHA President and CEO Paul A. Salles. “By volunteering their time and talents, these healthcare leaders provide a tremendous service to hospitals, communities and patients throughout our state.”

Larry M. Graham, FACHE, president and chief executive officer of Lake Charles Memorial Health System, will serve as the LHA Board of Trustees Chair. He received the gavel from K. Scott Wester, FACHE, president & chief executive officer of Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, who will now serve as Immediate Past Chair.

Charles “Chuck” D. Daigle, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Willis-Knighton Health System in Shreveport, will serve as the association’s Chair-Elect, and James “Jimmy” E. Cathey, president and chief executive officer of North Oaks Health System in Hammond, was elected Treasurer.

In addition to the officers, the LHA Board of Trustees is comprised of At-Large and District Trustees. The following individual was elected to a two-year term as an At-Large Trustee:

Greg Feirn, CPA, president and chief executive officer of LCMC Health in New Orleans.

The following individuals were re-elected to a second term as At-Large Trustees:

Bill Davis, MBA, chief executive officer of Slidell Memorial Hospital; and


The following individuals were re-elected to serve a second term as District Trustees:

Central – Paul Mathews, CPA, FHFMA, administrator of Hardtner Medical Center in Olla;
Northwest – Todd Eppler, FACHE, chief executive officer of DeSoto Regional Health System in Mansfield; and
Southeast – Randall “Randy” Olson, chief executive officer of Lane Regional Medical Center in Zachary.

About the Louisiana Hospital Association
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, please visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org.

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CONTACT:
Mike Thompson; mthompson@lhaonline.org; 225-928-0026
Additional Information on Larry M. Graham, FACHE
With over 33 years of experience in healthcare administration, Larry Graham has been president & chief executive officer of Lake Charles Memorial Health System since Dec. 1, 2006. Since Graham took the leadership position at Memorial, he has spearheaded improvements in the hospital’s quality, infrastructure, financial position, service excellence program and staffing. In 2013, he spearheaded the collaborative negotiations for the successful transition of patient services and management of the state-owned W.O. Moss Hospital, now known as Moss Memorial Clinic, under the umbrella of Lake Charles Memorial Health System. His accomplishments during his tenure as CEO have also included the recognition of Memorial as a major teaching hospital through its affiliation with Louisiana State University Health Science Center’s Family Residency Program. Additionally, under his administration, highly-skilled physicians from top medical schools and centers nationwide have been recruited to fill crucial community healthcare needs while expanding the Memorial Physician Group from 22 to more than 90 employed physicians and growing. In addition to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Illinois, Graham holds a master’s degree in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, and a master’s degree in Business Administration from Boston University in Massachusetts. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). He has previously served on such boards as the Southwest Louisiana Chamber, the United Way of Southwest Louisiana and the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI). Currently, he is a member of the Voluntary Hospital Association and the Louisiana Hospital Association’s Political Action Committee (HOSSPAC). He has served as chairman of the LHA’s Legislative, Regulatory & Policy Council (LRPC) and on the advisory board for Louisiana Medical Mutual Insurance Company (LAMMICO).

Additional Information on Charles “Chuck” D. Daigle
Louisiana native Charles “Chuck” Daigle has more than 20 years of experience in healthcare management and health insurance. He holds both a bachelor’s degree in business administration and master of business administration from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. His affiliation with healthcare began with an administrative residency at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medicine Center in Baton Rouge where he worked with managed care contracting and provider marketing/development, ultimately becoming vice-president of management and professional services. In 2007, Daigle moved from Our Lady of the Lake to Willis-Knighton Health System in Shreveport as senior vice-president and chief operating officer. There he manages Louisiana’s largest private hospital under single management structure with 865 acute beds in four hospitals and 270 skilled nursing beds, more than 500 employed and contracted providers and 6,500 employees. In this capacity, he is involved with medical staff relationships and partnership, service line design, development and management services, quality of care enhancement, employee and patient satisfaction, cost reduction strategies, facility design and construction, revenue management strategies, managed care contracting and health insurance relations. Daigle has served on the LHA Board of Trustees and its Regional Policy Committee, HOSSPAC and Trust Fund. In addition, he has served on the Voluntary Hospitals of America Gulf State Board and was chair of its Purchasing Coalition. He is also a member of the Business School Advisory Board for LSU in Shreveport and has been involved with other local and regional boards.

Additional Information on James “Jimmy” E. Cathey
With more than 40 years of experience in the healthcare industry, James E. Cathey Jr. is well-equipped to predict change and strategically plan for the future of our region. He is an alumnus of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, where he earned both a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and MBA work. During his nearly 30 years at the helm of North Oaks as President/CEO, he has led the transformation of the organization from a single, acute-care hospital to one of Louisiana’s largest and most progressive community health systems comprised of: an acute care hospital, a rehabilitation hospital, two outpatient diagnostic & treatment centers, an outpatient surgery center, two outpatient rehabilitation clinics, a hospice agency and a growing physician group for primary and specialty care in Tangipahoa and Livingston Parishes. Prior to his association with North Oaks, he served in administrative positions with several healthcare organizations throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Cathey belongs to the Hammond Rotary Club, Northshore Healthcare Alliance and Northshore Business Council. He is a past Southeast District president and past district and state at-large member of the Board of Trustees for the Louisiana Hospital Association. He is a former high school basketball referee and has served on the steering committee for Louisiana High School Athletic Association’s annual "Ladies Top 28" girl's high school basketball state tournament each year it has taken place in Hammond.