

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026
  - MEET THE BOARD EVENT WITH SPECIAL SPEAKER DR. WENDY ROSS OF JEFFERSON HEALTHCARE.
  - LOCATION: GLOBAL FURNITURE HEADQUARTERS- IRVINE CA
- FEB 2026
  - PANEL DISCUSSION: FUTURE OF HR AND HEALTHCARE
  - LOCATION: CEDARS-SINAI- LOS ANGELES, CA
- MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 2026
  - FARMERS MARKET AND TEACHING KITCHEN
  - LOCATION: KAISER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE- PASADENA, CA

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



The holidays are such a special time for me, not because of the meals, gifts, or time away from work, but because they give me an opportunity to reflect on how grateful I am for family, friends, and my sister community. Each one has filled my "cup" at times when I was depleted, times when I needed the strength to keep pushing forward.

I am human. I hurt, I get tired, and I get discouraged. Yet it is my community that continues to inspire and motivate me to move forward. Our strength comes from human connection, from those who lift us when we are down, speak life into difficult moments, and restore our energy when we feel depleted.

I am reminded of a conversation with a sister at this year's SoCal ACHE Conference. She shared that she was searching for something she couldn't quite name. I told her that many women find themselves in that same space. Even after doing "all the things," raising families, building careers, and achieving success, we can still feel unfulfilled. Our cup is not yet full.

We are in a season of change and reinvention. Having checked all the boxes, it is time to search for our authentic selves and decide who we want to become.

WHA offers the space and grace to explore that journey within a welcoming sisterhood.

2025 was a year of self-reflection. 2026 will be about interrupting the status quo and embracing the redefined woman who is intentional about her hopes, dreams, and desires.

As we step our red high heels into 2026, let's stay connected, bold, intentional, and focused on what matters most. We are the future interrupters. We are WHA!

With all the love and gratitude!

*-Tricia Gray  
WHA President*

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



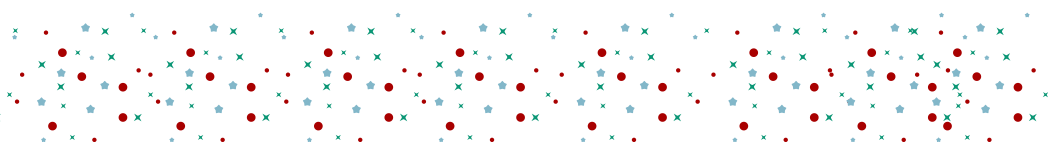
*Kennyle Johnson*

KENNYLE SERVES AS THE HEALTH, HUMAN, AND VETERAN SERVICES CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN. SHE LEADS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES THAT STRENGTHEN OPERATIONS, BUILD CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS, AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT.

KENNYLE BRINGS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP, COMPLIANCE, SERVICE INITIATIVES, AND C-SUITE OPERATIONS. SHE IS KNOWN FOR IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAM SOLUTIONS AND DRIVING ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENT THROUGHOUT HER CAREER.

SHE HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND A MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY.

KENNYLE HAS BEEN A WHA MEMBER SINCE 2023 AND JOINED THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN 2024, CURRENTLY SERVING AS MEMBER-AT-LARGE.



# PAST EVENTS



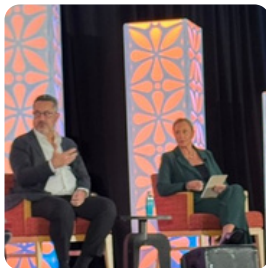
## **Webinar Recap: Leveraging Mentors, Allies and Sponsors for Career Advancement**

In October 2025, WHA hosted the webinar “How Women Leaders Can Make the Most of Mentors, Allies, and Sponsors,” in partnership with WittKieffer. The session emphasized the critical role of mentors, allies, and sponsors in career advancement and offered strategies for building reciprocal, influential professional relationships. WHA extends its appreciation to WittKieffer for delivering this valuable program.

## **WHA Speed Networking Event: A Night of Connection & Growth**

The Women in Health Administration (WHA) Speed Networking Event brought together members and non-members for an engaging evening of connection and professional growth.

Women at all career stages built relationships and expanded their networks through meaningful conversations that highlighted the importance of mentorship, allyship, and sponsorship in health administration.



## **WHA's Impact at the 2025 ACHE SoCal Annual Conference**

WHA demonstrated its commitment to advancing the professional development and visibility of women in healthcare at the 2025 ACHE SoCal Annual Conference on November 14, 2025. The event brought together healthcare executives from across Southern California to discuss leadership and the future of healthcare delivery, with WHA playing a prominent role.

Karen Ochoa, MA, CDP, moderated the panel “Navigating Key Legislative Issues Facing Healthcare Leaders,” highlighting key regulatory and policy considerations. Joanne Laguna-Kennedy, MSN, RN, CENP, FACHE, contributed to the panel “Innovation and the Changing Face of Healthcare Delivery,” addressing emerging trends in patient care.

WHA's participation reinforced its commitment to thought leadership, collaboration and elevating women's influence across the healthcare ecosystem.



## **Holiday Party Highlights: A Festive Evening at Santa's Workshop**

On Thursday, December 4, WHA members and guests gathered at “Santa's Workshop” for a festive year-end celebration filled with camaraderie and holiday cheer. The event also supported WHA's Toy & Coat Drive, with attendees donating unwrapped toys and gently used coats to benefit the community. WHA extends its appreciation to Servicon for sponsoring this joyful gathering.



## **Fall Networking Coffee Social at CSULB: Strengthening Pathways for Emerging Leaders**

In December 2025, WHA board members participated in the Fall Networking Coffee Social at California State University, Long Beach, co-hosted by the Healthcare Administration Student Forum (HCASF) and Upsilon Phi Delta (UPD). The event facilitated meaningful dialogue between current and future healthcare leaders, offering opportunities for career insights, mentorship and relationship building. WHA extends its gratitude to HCASF and UPD for their partnership and commitment to leadership development.





*Save the Date*

2026

WOMAN  
*of the* YEAR

*Friday, June 5, 2026*

THE QUEEN MARY

*Long Beach, Ca*



Anne Tanner, MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE  
Executive Director, Special Projects  
Rady Children's Health

[Sponsorship Opportunities](#)  
[Click Here](#)

[Tickets & Event Details](#)  
[Click Here](#)

As we enter the holiday season, the Women in Health Administration Sponsorship Committee extends our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Your partnership and support are truly invaluable, helping us cultivate a community where women in healthcare can grow, lead, and thrive together.

We look forward to coming together at our upcoming 2026 Women of the Year Award celebration, where we will honor Anne Tanner, Executive Director of Rady Children's Health, and recognize the inspiring leadership that continues to shape our field.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a bright, beautiful New Year ahead.

To learn more and get involved, please reach out at:  
[whasocal@gmail.com](mailto:whasocal@gmail.com)