

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

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President's Address

We have officially reached the midpoint of our year. It is a privilege to reflect on the incredible milestones we have accomplished together. The Southern California healthcare landscape continues to evolve rapidly. Through every shift, your leadership, resilience, and dedication to WHA shine brightly.

This milestone carries a deeply personal significance for me. As I serve out this final term, reflecting on the past three years as your President fills me with immense gratitude. Serving this organization has been the honor of my professional journey.



Leading WHA has taught me invaluable lessons about the power of collective impact. To be completely candid, there was a time early on when I truly did not know if WHA would be able to pivot and grow alongside the rapid, disruptive evolution of healthcare. But this community is remarkably resilient. Instead of faltering, we experienced a powerful rebirth — one that has entirely reinvigorated our community, sharpened our focus, and breathed new energy into our mission. I have learned that true leadership is about creating a space where resilient minds can collaborate, challenge the status quo, and lift one another up during times of profound transition.

The definitive highlight of our first half was our spectacular 2026 Woman of the Year celebration aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. It was an honor to celebrate our 2026 awardee, Anne Tanner, MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, recognizing her four decades of trailblazing clinical and administrative leadership.

Our signature gala panel, *“Anchoring a Legacy in Leadership,”* brought together powerhouse voices: Anne McCune (CEO, Carol Emmott Foundation), Melanie Fontes Rainer (Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, L.A. Care Health Plan), Dr. Kimberly Long (CEO, Association of California Nurse Leaders), Bonnie Panlasigui (SVP, Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara), and Nate Shinagawa (SVP and COO, UCI Health). Their candid insights on equity, innovation, and systemic change left us inspired and re-energized. Beyond the powerful dialogue, your presence and corporate sponsorships directly funded our next generation of leaders.

As we look to the future, I am absolutely thrilled to announce the upcoming transition of our leadership. Please join me in warmly welcoming our incoming President, **Deanne Lamb**. Deanne is a visionary leader whose dedication to our mission ensures that WHA's next chapter will be its brightest yet. Over the next six months, Deanne and I will work hand-in-hand to guarantee a seamless, strong transition that maintains our momentum.

I challenge each of you to dive deeper into our community during this second half. Attend an upcoming event, mentor an emerging professional, or connect with sisters in the community. Your voice and expertise are the driving forces behind our collective success.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission, to our community, and to me over these past three years. Together, we are not just navigating the future of healthcare — we are actively shaping it.

With gratitude,
Tricia Gray, WHA President

2026 WOMAN OF THE YEAR GALA

A Magical Night Filled with Spirit and Connection

Summer opened with a truly magical evening aboard the Queen Mary, where WHA gathered to honor Anne Tanner, MN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, as the 2026 Woman of the Year. This year's beautiful event was made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and the support of our diverse and distinguished panelists, each of whom boarded the ship and contributed to the event's success.

Connecting, empowering, and developing the next generation of healthcare leaders through scholarships, networking, and professional development.

Legend says the glorious Queen Mary is haunted by more than 150 "ghosts." Whether or not that's true, the only spirits present exuded the enthusiasm, joy, and genuine camaraderie of 246 executive and student attendees, intentionally seated together to foster meaningful mentorship. Our Woman of the Year, Anne Tanner, summed up the evening in one word: "MAGICAL." Let's keep the magic flowing by showing up for one another and never forgetting that excellence has no limits when we lead by example. See you all next year. Cheers!



Thank You, 2026 Woman of the Year Gala Sponsors

The 2026 Woman of the Year Gala would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors — your investment funds scholarships, mentorship, and the next generation of women leading healthcare across Southern California. Thank you for standing with WHA.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Women in Health Administration is delighted to introduce our newest cohort of student interns — emerging healthcare leaders who bring a wealth of talent, enthusiasm, and diverse experience. Through this internship, they'll engage with WHA initiatives, contribute to meaningful projects, and connect with accomplished leaders across the industry. Please join us in welcoming them to the WHA community!




Meet Janette Avalos

Janette Avalos is entering her second year in the Master of Science in Health Care Administration (MSHCA) program at California State University, Long Beach. While she is still discovering which areas of healthcare administration resonate most with her, she is passionate about learning, professional growth, and embracing new opportunities that broaden her understanding of the healthcare industry.

Janette joined Women in Health Administration (WHA) because of the strong sense of community and inspiration she experienced from her very first event. She is excited to contribute to the organization, learn from industry leaders, and continue building meaningful connections with fellow healthcare professionals.

Sisterhood 🌸 Diversity 🌸 Advocacy 🌸 Community




Meet Ngan Kim Vo

Ngan Kim Vo earned her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of California, Irvine in 2025 and is currently pursuing a Master of Healthcare Administration, with an anticipated graduation date of 2027. Passionate about improving the patient experience and advancing healthcare delivery, Ngan is building a strong foundation in both clinical operations and healthcare leadership.

Professionally, Ngan serves as a Patient Service Representative with the Enhanced Primary Care Team at Cedars-Sinai Internal Medicine, where she supports patient care coordination and helps ensure a seamless experience for patients navigating the healthcare system. Through her work and academic pursuits, she is committed to developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become a future healthcare leader.

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Upcoming Events

Strategic Alignment: Driving Physician Success Through Managed Care & Legislative Reforms

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: California Rehabilitation Institute, Century City

Past Events



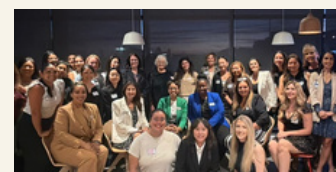
**Hospitals & Healthcare
Human Resources:
The Future of Non-Clinical
Roles in Healthcare**



Meet the Board Brunch



**Bridging The Gap
Tackling Health
Disparities Together**



**WHA 2026 Annual
General Body Meeting**

For more information, please visit whasocal.org or email whasocal@gmail.com