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Contact: Jennifer Schleman, (202) 638-5491
       Carly Moore, (202) 638-5487

AHA NAMES NEW TRUSTEES TO THE BOARD

WASHINGTON (August 8, 2013) - The American Hospital Association (AHA) has selected eight new members to its Board of Trustees for three-year terms beginning January 1, 2014. In addition, the board appointed one new member to fill a one-year vacancy. The Board of Trustees is the policy-making body of the AHA and has ultimate authority for the governance and management of its direction and finances.

Appointees include:

Alan D. Aviles is the president and CEO of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, a post to which he was appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in February 2005. He is currently the longest-serving president of the corporation, serving in leadership roles within HHC for the past 12 years. Before his appointment as president, Aviles served as HHC’s general counsel and also led one of HHC’s seven regional health care networks.

Aviles currently serves on the AHA’s Board of Trustees, filling a previous vacancy, and is a member of the Circle of Life Awards committee; and a former two-term member of AHA’s Regional Policy Board 2. He has served on the boards of the Greater New York Hospital Association and the Healthcare Association of New York State and is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

Before entering the health care field, Aviles was an assistant attorney general. His longstanding involvement in civil rights litigation includes a groundbreaking 1982 lawsuit that challenged discrimination against HIV/AIDS patients and later litigation that led the United States Supreme Court to compel a major skilled trade apprenticeship program to open its doors to qualified minority candidates. Aviles is a graduate of Columbia College and the Rutgers School of Law in Newark, N.J.

Kris Doody, RN, is the CEO for Cary Medical Center in Caribou, Maine, which is the largest employer in the city. Doody has spent much of her career at Cary Medical Center serving as a candy stripers, nurse’s aide, emergency room nurse, operating room manager, manager of surgical
services and, finally, as CEO. She was appointed chief operating officer in 1994 and then CEO in 1999.

Doody has served two terms on AHA’s Regional Policy Board 1 and is a former chair of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Hospital Association. She is actively involved in the State of Maine Community College System, serving as a member and chair of its Board of Directors. She is a long-time member of the American Nurses Association, the National Association for Healthcare Quality, and the Association for Operating Room Nurses. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Husson University and is a recipient of the ACHE Early Career Regents Award.

Doody became a registered nurse, earning her bachelor’s degree from the University of Maine in 1983. Doody earned a master's degree in business from Husson University.

**Brian A. Gragnolati** is a senior vice president for the Johns Hopkins Health System in Baltimore, a post he has held since March 2011. Before that, he was president and CEO of Suburban Hospital, a member of Johns Hopkins Medicine, and joined the Suburban Hospital Healthcare System in November 2001.

Previously, Gragnolati was president and CEO of York Hospital, a 580-bed teaching hospital, and senior vice president of WellSpan Health, an integrated health care system based in York, Pa. He also has held a number of key executive positions at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., and at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, now Fletcher Allen Healthcare in Burlington, Vt., which is the teaching hospital associated with the University of Vermont.

Gragnolati is a past chairman of AHA’s Metro Governing Council and served as a delegate on AHA’s Regional Policy Boards 2 and 3. He is the past chair of the Community Hospitals Connection of the Maryland Hospital Association (MHA) and served on the MHA Council of Financial Policy Executives. He was a member of the Base Realignment and Closure Implementation Committee, which studied the impact of the relocation of medical activities from the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda (now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center). He has served on the board of the Westminster Retirement Community.

Gragnolati earned a bachelor’s of science in health systems analysis from the University of Connecticut and a master’s in business administration from Western New England College in Massachusetts. He received an Executive Leadership Certificate from the JFK School at Harvard University. Gragnolati is appointed to the AHA Board of Trustees for a one-year term to fill a vacancy.

**Daniel L. Gross, RN, DNSc** is the executive vice president for Sharp HealthCare in San Diego, where he oversees four acute care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, government relations and clinical effectiveness.
Gross began his career at Sharp in 1979 as a clinical nurse at Sharp Memorial Hospital. During his tenure, he served as clinical nurse IV, director of patient care services, regional director of critical care, regional director of patient care services and system vice president of clinical services. Prior to his role as executive vice president, Gross was CEO of the Sharp Metropolitan Medical Campus for 11 years, where he had oversight of three hospitals, an outpatient surgery center, home care services and two senior centers.

An at-large AHA board member, Gross is board liaison to the association’s Section for Metropolitan Hospitals, a member of the Operations Committee, a member of the Committee on Research, a member of the Health Research & Educational Trust Board and ex-officio member of Regional Policy Board 9. He is a member and former chair of the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties Board of Directors, past chair of the California Hospital Association and a Board Member of the California Healthcare Foundation. In addition, he is the immediate past chair of the Trauma Center Association of America and a member of the San Diego State University Campanile Foundation Board. Gross serves as adjunct faculty for San Diego State University, the University of San Diego and University of California at San Diego.

Gross received his bachelor of science in nursing from Wichita State University, his master of science in nursing administration from San Diego State University, and his doctorate of nursing science from The University of San Diego.

**Constance A. Howes, FACHE, Esq.** is the president and CEO of Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island in Providence, R.I., an academic specialty hospital for women and newborns. As a major teaching affiliate of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University for obstetrics, gynecology and newborn pediatrics, as well as a number of specialized programs in women’s medicine, Women & Infants has one of the 10 largest stand-alone obstetrical services in the country with more than 8,400 births per year. Howes was recently appointed executive vice president of women’s health for Care New England Health System, the health system comprised of Women & Infants Hospital, Kent Hospital, Butler Hospital, as well as the VNA of Care New England and the Care New England Wellness Center. In this role, she is responsible for improving the women’s health services, including defining strategy and improving clinical growth, patient satisfaction, access, quality, and staff and physician engagement across the system.

Previously, Howes served as executive vice president and COO of Women & Infants Hospital from 1998 until 2002. Prior to that role, she was vice president and general counsel for Care New England Health System. Before her appointment with Care New England, she was vice president and general counsel for Women & Infants Hospital. Earlier in her career, Howes was an attorney with Tillinghast, Collins & Graham for 17 years where she practiced primarily in the area of business law and served as chairman of the corporate department.

Howes is a past member and currently an alternate of AHA’s Regional Policy Board 1 and a past member and past chair of the AHA’s Section for Maternal and Child Health. She is chair of the Governor’s Workforce Board and the Innovation Providence Implementation Committee, a board member of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island and Roger Williams University School of Law, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Providence Chamber of
Commerce and the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. She also is a member of Providence College President’s Council and the Rhode Island Commodores. She served on the National Institutes of Health Advisory Committee on Women’s Health Research and the executive group of the Council of Women and Infants Specialty Hospitals.

Howes graduated magna cum laude from Kenyon College and received her J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Steven A. Rose, RN, MN is the CEO at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, a 99-bed rural acute care hospital, and Nanticoke Physician Network in Seaford, Del. Rose is currently implementing a master facility plan and program to update infrastructure and improve technology. He has led the hospital through a major information technology conversion, investing $16 million in a new electronic medical record (EMR), obtaining Meaningful Use 2 and reaching Level 6 of the US EMR Adoption Model.

Before joining Nanticoke Health Services, Rose served as administrator and executive vice president for the Mishawaka campus of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind., part of Trinity Health, where he led design teams to build a new replacement hospital. Prior to that, he served as chief operating officer at United Samaritan Medical Center with Provena Health in Danville, Ill. He has also held the position of chief operating officer at hospitals with Catholic Health East and Catholic Health Initiatives.

Currently, Rose serves as the chair of the Delaware Hospital Association Board of Directors and is a member of AHA’s Regional Policy Board 3. He also chairs the Southern Delaware Chapter of the American Heart and Stroke Association Board and has been appointed by Governor Jack Markell to the Governor’s Hispanic Commission.

Rose earned his bachelor’s degree in nursing at Penn State University through an Army scholarship. After graduation, he served his active duty assignment at West Point Military Academy in New York. He returned to Penn State for a master’s in nursing, becoming a nurse practitioner. He also has a post-master’s certificate in healthcare administration from Villanova University.

John Vassall, M.D., is the chief medical officer (CMO) for Swedish Health Services in Seattle. Vassall is a board-certified internist and is a liaison between Swedish medical staff and Swedish administration, overseeing the management of medical education, medical staff services, patient safety and quality, regulatory compliance and other areas associated with medical affairs.

Prior to becoming CMO, Vassall served as vice president of medical affairs. He was chief of staff from 2005 to 2007 and former division chief of General Internal Medicine at Minor & James Medical. He served as chief of staff-elect from 2003 to 2005 and he was medical staff president for Swedish Medical Center/Cherry Hill Campus. He has been on staff at Swedish since 1983.

Vassall earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and his master of science and doctor of medicine from the University of Washington (U.W.) School of Medicine. He
completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at Grady Memorial Hospital and Emory University Affiliated Hospitals in Atlanta. He is a graduate of the U.W. Certificate Program in Medical Management, the Intermountain Healthcare Advanced Training Program and the U.W. Foster School of Business Executive Development Program. He served as director of minority affairs for the U.W. School of Medicine.

Vassall has served on AHA’s Regional Policy Board 9 since 2011. He also serves on Swedish’s bylaws committee and is past president of the U.W. School of Medicine Alumni Association. He served as a Washington State Medical Association delegate to the American Medical Association from 1987 until 2012. He served as speaker of the House of Delegates for the Washington State Medical Association and is a member of the Boards of Trustees for both the Washington State Hospital Association and the Washington State Medical Association.

**Larry Veitz** is the CEO of Spearfish Regional Hospital in Spearfish, S.D., a position held since 2002. Spearfish, a 40-bed hospital owned by Regional Health in Rapid City, S.D., is an integrated health care system of more than 40 entities working together to provide and support health care excellence through a continuum of care that includes hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Prior to joining Spearfish Regional Hospital, he served as CEO for Canton-Inwood Memorial Hospital, in Canton, S.D., from 2000 to 2002 and, from 1990 to 2000, as CEO at Sioux Valley Vermillion Campus, in Vermillion, S.D.

Currently, Veitz serves on AHA’s Regional Policy Board 6 and previously served on it in the early 2000s. He has served as board member and chairperson of the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations, and is an associate member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has also served on the boards of the South Dakota Peer Review Organization, Rural Policy Research Institute (Federal Office of Rural Health Policy), Good Shepherd Clinic (Spearfish) and Black Hills State University’s Healthcare Advisory. Veitz has been in health care administration since 1984 and most recently served as Board Member and Chairperson of the Spearfish Economic Development Corporation, Spearfish Chamber of Commerce and Northern Hills United Way Campaign Chairperson.

**Eugene A. Woods** is the executive vice president and chief operating officer (COO) of CHRISTUS Health in Irving, Texas, a position he has held since June 2011. He is responsible for overseeing acute, post-acute and international operations for all of CHRISTUS Health’s regions in the U.S., Mexico and Chile. CHRISTUS is a health system of more than 40 hospitals and long-term care facilities, with 175 clinics and outpatient centers and 30,000 associates.

Woods has nearly 25 years of experience in senior health care leadership positions. Previously, he served in dual roles at Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) - as CEO of the eight-hospital Saint Joseph Health System and as a national senior vice president responsible for helping to implement system-wide initiatives for the faith-based system, which operates in 18 states and includes 86 hospitals. Before joining CHI, he served as COO of the Washington Hospital Center, a 968-bed teaching hospital which is part of Medstar Health and located in the nation’s capital.
Prior to his appointment to the AHA Board, he served on the AHA’s Health Care Systems Governing Council as well as Regional Policy Board 3. Woods also served as a regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) on two occasions, and is an ACHE Fellow. Additionally, he previously was the president for the Washington D.C. chapter of the National Association of Health Service Executives (NAHSE) and is currently a member of the national NAHSE Board.

Woods received his bachelor’s degree in health planning and administration, master’s degree in business administration and master’s in health administration from The Pennsylvania State University. He was named a Modern Healthcare Up and Comer in 2001, and is a two time recipient of Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Minority Executive honors.

About the AHA
The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care and 43,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit www.aha.org.

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