



ACHD 73RD ANNUAL MEETING

★ ROCKIN' RESILIENCE ★

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES
& SERVING COMMUNITIES

⚡ AWARDS RECEPTION ⚡

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025
5:30-6:30 PM
GARDEN TERRACE, SHERATON SAN DIEGO



ACHD
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS

The background of the top half of the page is a vibrant blue with a bokeh effect of light spots. A white line-art graphic of a musical note is at the top right, with a line extending from it that loops around to form the neck and body of a guitar on the left side. Several white spotlights are shown as beams of light shining upwards from the bottom towards the center of the page.

ACHD is pleased to continue our tradition of honoring the hard work of healthcare districts, CEOs and Trustees and their significant achievements in governance, strategic planning and partnership, stakeholder relationships, leadership and finance.



ACHD

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS

AWARD SUMMARY & CRITERIA

⚡ TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR ⚡

Recognizes a Healthcare District Trustee who has notably impacted their healthcare district by taking significant steps to deliver outstanding governance, strategic planning and partnership with constituents. Nominees must meet the following minimum criteria:

- A member of ACHD
- Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- Nominated Trustee has attended at least one ACHD educational event in the last year
- Attend the 2025 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee

⚡ CEO OF THE YEAR ⚡

Recognizes a Healthcare District CEO whose leadership, efforts and achievements have resulted in a positive benefit to their District and community. Nominees must meet the following minimum criteria:

- A member of ACHD
- Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- Nominated CEO has attended at least one ACHD educational event in the last year
- Attend the 2025 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee

⚡ DISTRICT OF THE YEAR ⚡

Honors a Healthcare District that has implemented one or more initiatives to improve the health and well-being of District residents. Nominees must meet the following minimum criteria:

- ACHD Certified Healthcare District, or in the process of becoming Certified, at the time of submission
- A member of ACHD
- Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- District leadership has attended at least one ACHD educational event in the last year
- Attend the 2025 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee



2025 TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CORRINE STROMSTAD

Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District

Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District is proud to nominate Corinne Stromstad for the ACHD Trustee of the Year Award. With over 25 years of service on the Board—serving as both Chair and

Vice Chair—Corinne's steadfast leadership has been integral to the district's growth and fiscal success.

Corinne brings more than 30 years of financial expertise to her role, having served as Vice President Manager at our local bank. Her strategic insight and guidance have helped steer the district from a break-even financial position to a historic milestone—achieving \$40 million in revenue this past year. Her professional experience has proven invaluable to the administrative team and to the long-term financial health of the organization.

What sets Corinne apart is her deep-rooted commitment to the Southern Humboldt community. She is a respected presence on several local boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, the Civic Club, and Soroptimist International of the Redwoods. Her decisions are grounded in a holistic understanding of the community's needs and priorities. When Corinne casts a vote, we know it reflects not just sound judgment, but the voice of the people she serves.

Corinne Stromstad's financial acumen, community engagement, and unwavering dedication to public service make her a deserving nominee for this distinguished award.



2025 TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



MIKE PACHECO

Palomar Health

Palomar Health is proud to nominate Mike Pacheco, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, for the ACHD Trustee of the Year Award. Now in his fourth year of service, Mike continues to demonstrate visionary

leadership, a strong commitment to youth education, and meaningful community engagement.

This past year, Mike played a key role in expanding Middle School M.D., Palomar Health's hands-on education program that introduces students to healthcare careers. With over 7,500 students reached to date, the program has inspired many to pursue internships, training programs, and even apply lifesaving skills in real situations.

To build on this success, Mike helped launch *Doc for a Day*, a new high school-level track that will welcome 600 students this year for deeper clinical experiences. He also helped reestablish a partnership with Del Lago Academy, providing health sciences students with real-world exposure and mentorship from Palomar professionals.

Mike Pacheco leads with heart, strategy, and service. His dedication continues to strengthen Palomar Health's connection to the community and invest in the future healthcare workforce.



2025 TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



KEVIN NORTHCRAFT

Tulare Local Healthcare District

Tulare Local Healthcare District is proud to nominate Kevin Northcraft for the ACHD Trustee of the Year Award. Since his election to the Board in 2016, Kevin has demonstrated unwavering leadership, integrity, and commitment to restoring trust in the district.



Kevin emerged as a key voice for accountability during one of the district's most difficult times. As one of only two board members to challenge the mismanagement under HCCA (former hospital management), he played a pivotal role in exposing actions that led to the hospital's closure and bankruptcy. His leadership contributed to the recall of a board member, formation of a reform-minded majority, and the termination of the damaging management contract.

As Board President since 2017, Kevin led the effort to reopen the hospital just one year after its closure, secure a new hospital partner in Adventist Health, and successfully guide the District through Chapter 9 bankruptcy—officially resolved in April 2025 with commendation from the presiding judge.

Beyond financial recovery, Kevin has championed legal efforts to hold former leadership accountable and continues to advance long-term improvements, including the long-delayed hospital tower project. His decision to seek re-election reflects his ongoing dedication to the district's future.

With decades of public service—including a decade as Tulare City Manager—and recognition as Tulare's Man of the Year in 2019, Kevin brings experience, resilience, and deep community commitment to his role. He is a truly deserving candidate for this honor.



2025 CEO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



RACHEL MASON

Fallbrook Regional Health District

Fallbrook Regional Health District (FRHD) is proud to nominate Rachel Mason for the ACHD CEO of the Year Award. Now in her sixth year as Chief Executive Officer, Rachel has led the district with purpose, innovation, and

unwavering commitment to improving community health.

Since assuming the role in 2019, Rachel has guided FRHD through a period of transformational growth. Her steady leadership during times of organizational change helped stabilize internal operations, build trust among staff and board members, and align the district with its long-term mission.

Rachel's forward-thinking strategy has led to significant infrastructure improvements, including the revitalization of the Community Health & Wellness Center. The facility officially reopened in January 2025 following key enhancements, such as solar energy upgrades and expanded parking access—reflecting Rachel's vision for a more sustainable, accessible, and inclusive space for wellness services.

Her leadership has also extended far beyond the walls of the district. In 2024, FRHD was honored as ACHD's "District of the Year," a reflection of Rachel's impact on both policy and practice. Signature initiatives such as the *Pedal Power Bike Event*, which provided over 70 children with bikes and safety gear, have deepened the district's engagement with the community and promoted active, healthy living.

Rachel leads with clarity and compassion, balancing data-driven decision-making with a genuine care for people—whether employees, partners, or the residents of Fallbrook. Her work has positioned FRHD as a model of modern healthcare governance and community-centered leadership.



2025 CEO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



MARY CASILLAS

San Benito Health Care District

San Benito Health Care District is proud to nominate Mary Casillas for the ACHD CEO of the Year Award. In just three years, Mary has led a powerful transformation at Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital, guiding the organization from financial crisis

to renewed strength, stability, and purpose.



When Mary stepped into the role of CEO, the District faced significant financial and operational challenges. Under her leadership, the hospital emerged from Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceedings and closed the fiscal year with record results, including \$33.9 million in EBIDA and a Debt Service Ratio of 18.14—far exceeding bond covenant benchmarks. These achievements reflect Mary's sharp financial insight, strategic cost reductions, and targeted physician recruitment.

Operationally, Mary modernized service lines, improved revenue cycle processes, and expanded community access to care—all while maintaining high clinical standards. Just as notably, she revitalized workplace culture by promoting transparent communication, recognizing staff contributions, and investing in leadership development. Employee satisfaction has grown, and turnover has declined as Hazel Hawkins becomes once again a destination for top healthcare talent.

Mary Casillas exemplifies the qualities of a visionary healthcare leader: strategic, steady, and deeply committed to the community she serves. Her ability to restore confidence, build resilience, and lead with compassion makes her a truly deserving recipient of the CEO of the Year Award.



2025 CEO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



DEBI STEBBINS

City of Alameda Health Care District

The City of Alameda Health Care District is proud to nominate Debi Stebbins for the ACHD CEO of the Year Award. With over 14 years of dedicated service, first as CEO of Alameda Hospital and later as

Executive Director of the District, Debi has guided the organization through transformational change and long-term growth.

As CEO beginning in 2007, Debi led key initiatives including the Park Bridge Leadership program to improve skilled nursing care, and the creation of the Creedon Wound Care Center—one of the few Bay Area facilities offering hyperbaric treatment. She was also instrumental in the 2014 affiliation between Alameda Hospital and Alameda Health System (AHS), helping secure the hospital's future.

After returning in 2018 as Executive Director, Debi became a vital link between the District and AHS, advancing collaboration and shared goals. She launched the Communications Committee, oversaw the district's website redesign, and initiated joint community events to deepen public engagement.

Her leadership on the 2030 Seismic Compliance Project has been especially impactful. Debi formed the Joint Planning Committee, engaged key stakeholders, and secured Certificates of Participation (COPs) to finance the seismic upgrades, ensuring Alameda Hospital's long-term viability.

Debi has also strengthened board governance, supported leadership transitions, and actively advocated for the district at the local and state levels. As she prepares to step down, her legacy includes improved infrastructure, stronger partnerships, and a more resilient healthcare system for the Alameda community.



2025 CEO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



RAMONA FAITH

Healthy Petaluma District and Foundation

Healthy Petaluma District and Foundation is proud to nominate Ramona Faith for ACHD CEO of the Year. With over 14 years of service, Ramona has led with vision, integrity, and a deep commitment to health equity and community transformation.



Under Ramona's leadership, Healthy Petaluma has evolved from a hospital-owning district into a powerhouse for community health and advocacy. Following the sale of Petaluma Valley Hospital, she guided the district through a successful rebrand, launched the Healthy Petaluma Foundation, and established a five-year strategic plan rooted in local needs.

A fierce advocate, Ramona held Providence accountable for the closure of the Family Birthing Center—securing an unprecedented \$10 million settlement for women's and behavioral health. She also launched a comprehensive Women's Health Needs Assessment to guide future funding, already resulting in new collaborative grantmaking efforts.

Ramona has expanded its impact through signature programs like the Blue Zones Project Petaluma, which has engaged thousands across schools, businesses, and city policy. Her leadership has also driven major growth in the district's grantmaking—allocating over \$2 million to local nonprofits in 2024–2025—and deepened community outreach through the HeartSafe Program, youth cardiac screenings, and a new Community Health Worker initiative.

Through her inclusive, strategic leadership, Ramona has built meaningful partnerships, strengthened financial accountability, and redefined what a health district can achieve. Her decades-long commitment to Petaluma and exceptional accomplishments make her a truly deserving CEO of the Year.



2025 DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



ANTELOPE VALLEY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

The Antelope Valley Healthcare District is proud to submit this nomination for consideration as District of the Year, in recognition of its bold expansion of advanced tertiary care services, innovative technology, and infrastructure designed to meet the complex needs of its growing community.

Over the past few years, Antelope Valley Medical Center (AVMC) has launched numerous groundbreaking programs, including a Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center, three new heart procedures (TAVR, Mitral Valve Clip, and LAAO), and a pioneering Ion Robotic Bronchoscopy program for early lung cancer detection. The district also introduced a comprehensive kidney and pancreas transplant program, directly addressing regional health disparities identified in the L.A. County Needs Assessment.

The hospital has continued to invest in infrastructure, adding 7,200 square feet and 40 treatment bays to one of California's busiest emergency departments, launching a new Infusion Suite and Rehabilitation Center, and opening a state-of-the-art Pediatric ICU—the first in the region. AVMC also expanded its imaging capabilities with an AI-enhanced MRI and established a cutting-edge Biplane Cath Lab to improve diagnostic precision.

These initiatives are driven by the district's commitment to delivering high-quality care locally, so residents no longer need to travel 50 miles or more for advanced treatment. AVMC's model combines community need, innovation, and fiscal responsibility—funding new programs through its operational budget and focusing on long-term sustainability.

Now celebrating its 70th year, Antelope Valley Healthcare District is also planning a new hospital to meet future seismic and capacity needs, with community input guiding design. From surgical robotics to social support programs, AVMC exemplifies how a district can evolve into a full-spectrum health system that serves nearly one million residents with compassion, excellence, and vision.



2025 DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



PALOMAR HEALTH DISTRICT

Program Highlight: Middle School M.D. (Middle School Medical Discoveries)

The Palomar Health District is proud to submit its Middle School M.D. for consideration of ACHD District of the Year. Now in its fourth year, this immersive healthcare education program has introduced over 7,500 middle and high school students to the possibilities of a future in medicine, public health, and hospital operations.

Middle School M.D. brings students onsite to Palomar Medical Center for hands-on, station-based experiences led by real clinicians and staff. From CPR and bleeding control to radiology, lab diagnostics, and EMS demonstrations, students gain practical knowledge while exploring career paths in a fun, engaging way. The program has grown each year, recently expanding to include Doc for a Day, a new high school-level component serving 600 additional students.

What sets Middle School M.D. apart is its intentional design for scalability and community alignment. Developed with input from educators, school leaders, and Palomar's President's Council, the program directly responds to regional workforce needs while building early pipelines into healthcare careers. It is funded through trusted partnerships with private foundations and driven by volunteer support from Palomar staff. The results speak for themselves: students have used their training in real-life emergencies, joined the Pathmaker Internship Program, and pursued post-secondary healthcare education. With low-cost materials, flexible curriculum, and replicable structure, Middle School M.D. is a model that any district can adopt—and one that Palomar Health is proud to share.

Through this initiative, Palomar Health is not only advancing community health—it is investing in the future of care, one student at a time.



2025 DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



PLUMAS DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Program Highlight: The Plumas Model

Plumas District Hospital is proud to submit The Plumas Model for consideration as ACHD District of the Year. In response to the loss of labor and delivery services in 2022, PDH developed a scalable, community-centered solution to preserve rural maternity care and protect emergency obstetric access in one of California's most remote regions.

The Plumas Model is the first of its kind in the state. It integrates a Standby Perinatal Medical Service (Team on Call), a PDH-managed Alternative Birthing Center, and Rural Health Clinic-based midwifery care to support a low-volume birth environment while meeting emergency standards. Designed specifically for frontier hospitals like PDH, the model includes a rapid-response team (physician, certified nurse midwife, and OB-trained RN) able to intervene within 30 minutes for urgent obstetric cases. It also leverages telehealth, transfer protocols, and partnerships with higher-level facilities for specialty consultation and neonatal care.

The need for this model was confirmed through town halls and patient feedback, following extended OB diversions that left local families facing 90-minute drives to the nearest delivery facility. With 60–100 annual births in the county and demonstrated preference for midwifery-led care, PDH built the model around access, safety, and cultural alignment. It has been formally submitted to the California Department of Public Health as part of a program flexibility application and is reinforced by pending legislation—Senate Bill 669, co-sponsored by PDH—to authorize this new class of perinatal care statewide.

Nationally recognized, The Plumas Model has been featured in *The New York Times*, CalMatters, and KQED, and is slated for publication as a case study by the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center.

By bridging out-of-hospital birth preferences with in-hospital emergency readiness, Plumas District Hospital is redefining rural maternity care. The model is scalable, sustainable, and ready to serve as a blueprint for other critical access hospitals across California and beyond.



2025 DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



CITY OF ALAMEDA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

Program Highlight: 2030 Seismic Compliance Initiative

The City of Alameda Health Care District is proud to submit its 2030 Seismic Compliance Initiative for consideration as ACHD District of the Year. Through innovative financing, transparent governance, and deep community engagement, the district has taken bold and strategic steps to ensure the long-term safety and resilience of Alameda Hospital.

Recognizing the urgent need to meet California's 2030 seismic requirements for acute care hospitals, the district launched a multi-year planning and funding initiative to address this critical infrastructure challenge. With leadership from its Executive Director and Board, the District created a Joint Planning Committee, engaged financial advisors, and successfully secured Certificates of Participation (COPs) to fund major seismic upgrades—ensuring continuity of hospital services for decades to come.

This effort stands out not only for its technical success, but for the district's exceptional approach to public stewardship. In 2024, the district earned a rare AA credit rating from Moody's—an extraordinary milestone for a small healthcare district—allowing it to access capital at the lowest possible interest rates and maximize the impact of public funds.

Equally notable is the district's commitment to transparency. It implemented a public-facing communication strategy that included a dedicated website with real-time updates and opportunities for community feedback. This proactive approach strengthened public trust and positioned the district as a model for open governance.

The City of Alameda Health Care District has proven that even smaller healthcare districts can lead with innovation, fiscal responsibility, and community focus. Its seismic initiative not only protects critical infrastructure—it demonstrates what is possible through collaborative planning, strong financial oversight, and a clear commitment to the health and safety of the community.





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★ *Thank You!* ★

A big Thank You to our Independent Panel of Judges:

Aaron Avery, California Special Districts Association

Larry Walker, The Walker Company

Chris Hartsfield, Moorefield Construction

