

## HCA executive Margaret Lewis is retiring

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Margaret G. Lewis, who started her career as a student nurse at Chippenham Hospital and worked her way up to president of HCA Inc.'s Capital Division, is retiring at the end of the year.

"I will leave HCA with more great memories than I can count," Lewis, a 37-year veteran of the giant hospital chain, said in an internal statement about her retirement released Tuesday.

"At every step of my career, I've had the privilege of working alongside compassionate and skilled caregivers and staff who have devoted their lives in service to others. And that's what I'll remember most," she said.

Lewis has been president of HCA's Capital Division since January 2006. In that position, she oversees 17 HCA hospitals in Virginia, New Hampshire, Kentucky and Indiana.

Before that, she served as president of the Central Atlantic Division of HCA. She also had been chief executive officer of CJW Medical Center, which oversaw operations of Chippenham and Johnston-Willis hospitals in the Richmond area.

An internal search is underway for her replacement, HCA said.

HCA, based in Nashville, Tenn., operates 162 hospitals and other medical facilities in 20 states.

HCA hospitals in the Richmond area include Chippenham, Johnston-Willis, Henrico Doctors', Parham Doctors' and Retreat Doctors' hospitals, and John Randolph Medical Center.

Lewis, according to her colleagues and competitors, is known for being an effective and savvy businesswoman and leader.

"Among the health professionals I've encountered in my career, Margaret Lewis ranks at the top," said Dr. Sheldon Retchin, CEO of the VCU Health System. "She has brought grace, integrity and class to her role as president of HCA's Capital Division. ... She's a tough competitor in a competitive industry, but her word is golden. She is among the most trustworthy executives I've ever worked with. She will be sorely missed by us all."

"While her announced retirement means I have lost a colleague, she and her husband, Richard, will remain dear friends," Retchin added.

Lewis, 59, is married to Dr. Richard G. Lewis, a retired cardiologist.

Katharine M. Webb, senior vice president of the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, described Lewis, who she has known for more than 20 years, as a go-to person. Lewis has been a member of the professional group since 2001, has served as a board member since 2005, and currently serves as its chairman.

“She has done a great job as our chairman,” Webb said. “There is probably no more time in health care that is as challenging, frankly, in a positive way. The changes are many. It requires a huge amount of talent, so I’m sad to see her leave for that reason.”

Lewis has served or currently serves on various nonprofit boards, including those of the Science Museum of Virginia and the American Red Cross Greater Richmond Chapter. She served as a gubernatorial appointee to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, serving 2004-2009, and was recently appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond’s board.

She also served as a board officer from 1998 to 2003 for Virginia Health Information, a nonprofit agency that has state contracts to collect and report health information, including reports about hospital efficiency, outpatient care costs and managed care quality.

“These were difficult times for nonprofit organizations; VHI was no exception,” Virginia Health Information executive director Michael Lundberg said.

“Margaret has a way of quickly finding the important issues and follows with helpful suggestions to resolve them. When it came to navigating a difficult course in health care, Margaret was a great captain and focused on doing the right thing.”

Lewis also has been a role model for other women executives.

“As one of Richmond’s most talented leaders — male or female — Margaret has been an inspiration to me as we’ve laid the footprint for Health Diagnostic Laboratory and grown during the past five years,” said Tonya Mallory, co-founder and CEO of Health Diagnostic, a Richmond-based company that provides screenings for the early signs of illnesses such as diabetes.

“As someone who has worked in nearly every role in a hospital, she has earned and can command respect, and she is someone whose opinions I have trusted in times when the answer isn’t so clear.”

C. Burke King, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, also lauded Lewis’ impact as a leader.

“She has worked tirelessly to improve the health of Virginians,” King said. “Under her leadership, HCA has been at the forefront of driving innovation and quality improvement in our health care system.”

Chuck Hall, president of HCA National Group, marked Lewis’s retirement in an internal announcement.

“Margaret’s leadership has been highlighted by growth that brought quality health care to more patients in the Richmond area and throughout our Capital Division,” Hall said in the announcement.

“Starting as a nurse and working her way up to division president gave her a unique appreciation for how hospitals can best meet the needs of their patients,” Hall said. “Her focus on quality and deep commitment to serving the community are the hallmark of her 37-year career.”

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