

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich.***

***JAMES LEE, C.O.O OF LAWRENCE HOSPITAL
HOSPITAL MRGERS AND THE FUTURE OF HOSPITAL CARE IN
CONNECTICUT***



James Y. Lee, Board certified in Health Care Management, is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President at New York Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital Center in Bronxville, New York. 2004. Drawing upon some 30 years of experience, Mr. Lee, will discuss the ever growing consolidation in the hospital industry, as hospitals merge and buy up physician practices, creating fewer, but ever-larger institutions. Fueling this trend is the belief that such consolidation is

bringing a range of benefits to patients, including larger and more integrated health systems that are better able to contain costs and improve care in a market increasingly shaped by government cuts, and more risk-based health insurance. As one hospital executive has stated: "Only the larger institutions with integrated services can meet the tremendous accountability that's required of hospitals today by Medicare, Medicaid, and private payers. We're moving into a period where electronic medical records will not only be necessary, they'll be mandated. That takes capital and concentration, and it takes larger institutions. The freestanding hospital is just going to have a hard time sustaining itself in that environment."

Other recent studies have reached opposite conclusions. "The evidence is pretty clear. When hospitals and providers are competing against one another and they merge, it allows them to eliminate competition, and it drives up prices. Every hospital merger case is essentially about health insurance contracting. If insurers have two or three dominant systems in their networks, they may not need the community hospitals, and those hospitals could get squeezed out." Dr. Lee will offer a personal evaluation of these issues, as well a look at what the future will bring.

Dr. Lee was appointed to the Board of Governors of the American College of Healthcare Executives, an international professional society executives dedicated to improving the delivery of healthcare services. Before being appointed an ACHE Governor, Mr. Lee served as the Regent for the Metropolitan New York chapter from 2007 to 2009. He also served as chapter president for the Healthcare Leaders of New York from 2005 to 2007. He was selected as one of the Country's "Top 25 Minority Healthcare Executives" by Modern Healthcare magazine. Mr. Lee received his master's degree in business administration from Cornell University and his bachelor's degree in economics from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

RMA meetings are free and open to the public; no reservations are required. Please plan to arrive around 10:45 for our social break (coffee and cake), followed by our speaker at 11:00. Meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.