

## THOMAS MENIGHAN | EXECUTIVE VP & CEO, APhA



This narrative biography is intended to give some context to my commencement address for the spring of 2020. Typically, we are more inclined to hear one's message if we know a bit about them.

In 2009 I was hired by the volunteer APhA Board of Trustees to lead APhA, and to manage the association's diverse enterprise of information, education, and advocacy. As CEO, I work in service to pharmacists and in this role I have loved these last 11 years, I consider myself your strongest advocate.

My pharmacy career began in 5th grade when I went to Phillips Pharmacy in Sistersville, WV to replenish my chemistry set. From the summer before my 7th grade year, I worked as a janitor, soda fountain clerk, delivery guy and pharmacy tech. Weekends and summers through college were spent learning from an awesome mentor.

Upon pharmacy school graduation from WVU, I spent the next 5 years learning about the business and practice with a community pharmacy chain before opening my own pharmacy in Huntington, WV -- a Medicine Shoppe, with my wife. We learned shortly after that she was pregnant, and then within a couple of months that she had a recurrence of an earlier tumor. Her cancer was treated at Duke. The chemo that cured her almost starved her, so she was started on home IV feeding, unique in 1980. Jeanie lived over 20 years after that, and saw our daughter earn her master's degree. She passed away a few years ago, but her illness and our conquering it taught me many things.

Soon after we started her home IV feeding, I began working with local hospital discharge planners to provide similar services to others in our area. Together with two other partners, we founded a home infusion and specialty pharmacy practice, both unique and innovative at that time, that I still own 38 years later, although it is very different today, operating as CompreCare and PursueCare ([www.PursueCare.com](http://www.PursueCare.com)).

During this same time, I got involved as a volunteer in Hospice, Cancer Society, Red Cross and my local and state pharmacy associations. Volunteer and elected leadership roles and an invitation to join APhA's staff (1987-1992) followed.

During the ensuing years, I built an amazing network of colleagues and mentors, helped launch a Drug Utilization Review business, continued building our infusion practice, developed venture-backed [CornerDrugStore.com](http://CornerDrugStore.com), and created a consulting practice for a dozen major pharmaceutical companies to help eliminate counterfeits in the U.S. supply chain. Along the way I served as a volunteer elected Trustee and President of APhA.

For over 11 years now, I have dedicated myself, together with an amazing staff and thousands of volunteers to get you on the team and in the game in health care. As you start your pharmacy careers today, I ask you to join us. You are now part of something bigger than your next job. Your entry into our profession affords you many opportunities to make a difference and to serve with gratitude.