

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello!

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and keeping your heads above water. As the temperature warms up, I know my schedule tends to accelerate exponentially. There have been some really exciting events put on by the chapters recently. I wanted to highlight Chapter V. They organized a bus trip where they had a business meeting on the bus, some comradery building time, and a tour of the new Ho-Chunk Casino project in Beloit put on by Miron Construction. The ability to learn from the industry partners and each other highlights the purpose of WHEA. Thank you to everyone who planned and participated in the event!

I am excited to see all of the planned events for the spring and summer. Between the golf outings, clay shoots, and banquets, the ability to connect

with new and existing members is endless. Many of the events help fund donations to the WHEA Foundation, which in turn provide scholarships for education/training for healthcare engineering related opportunities. If you're looking for ways to pay for ASHE education classes or pay for books for a technical class, please look at the Foundation website or reach out to anyone on the Foundation board.

Registration for the September 22-24, 2026 conference has officially opened. Check out social media sites or the WHEA website to get the link to register via CVENT. We have a great line up of presenters and are excited for everyone to join us in Appleton!

Happy Spring!

Jenny Nelson

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## FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Six free ASHE memberships are available to anyone who is currently a paid Full member of WHEA and who has never previously been an ASHE member. There can only be one application received each year from any one facility. The application blank is on page 3. Applications will be accepted beginning April 1st and must be received no later than April 24th. So... time is of the essence! Please don't delay. Print the application blank, fill it out

legibly and completely, scan it and attach it to an email to Roger Elliott at [rwelae@charter.net](mailto:rwelae@charter.net). The Member Services committee will verify the applicant is a current WHEA member and will have ASHE verify that the applicant is not currently or has ever been an ASHE member. Successful candidates will be contacted by the Member Services Committee with instructions for completing the actual ASHE membership application.

The free memberships will be processed prior to May 1st, but just as in previous years, the recipients' names will be publicly announced at the annual meeting in September. For further clarification of anything involving free scholarships for ASHE membership, please contact Roger Elliott at (715) 563-2069, or at [rwelae@charter.net](mailto:rwelae@charter.net).

# FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The WHEA Board of Directors awards six (6) free memberships in the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) each year. The purpose of the program is to promote the value of membership in ASHE within the ranks of WHEA members and to make the free memberships available to any Full member of WHEA, regardless of chapter affiliation or years of membership.

## Process for applying for a free ASHE membership:

- Applicant must be a paid Full WHEA member for the current year.
- Applicant must certify that they are not now nor have ever been an ASHE member.
- Applicant must submit a completed application to Member Services Committee Co-Chair, Roger Elliott, no earlier than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and no later than noon on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Applications must be completely filled out, signed and dated.
- Completed applications should be scanned and attached to an email addressed to [rwelae@charter.net](mailto:rwelae@charter.net).
- Applicants must keep this original completed document to be included with their completed ASHE application subsequent to being notified of selection for a free ASHE membership.

## Fill out the following completely – Please print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Facility \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that I am a paid Full member of WHEA.

I hereby certify that I am not now nor have I ever been a member of ASHE.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Member Services Committee use Only – Do not write below this line

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Time Received \_\_\_\_\_ am pm

WHEA Membership status Verified/Approved  ASHE Membership status Verified/Approved

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# WHEA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

April	9	Chapter I Meeting	Ring & DuChateau
April	15	Chapter V Meeting	Mechanic Education, Mayo, Eau Claire
April	16	Chapter III Annual Banquet	Van Abels, Hollandtown
April	23	Chapter IV Meeting	Education Meeting, TBD

## MAY

May	8	Directory Mailing	
May	14	Chapter I Meeting	Grunau Company
May	21	Chapter III Meeting	Tripel J Wing & Clay, Brillion

## JUNE

June	5	Newsletter Article Deadline	
June	5	Board Meeting	9:00 am - Glacier Canyon
June	5	Member Services Meeting	1:00 pm - Glacier Canyon
June	11	Chapter III Meeting	12:00 pm, SSM-St. Agnes
June	15	Chapter VI Golf Outing	10:30 Cedar Creek Country Club
June	18	Chapter V Golf Outing	1:00 pm, Whitetail, Colfax
June	30	Newsletter Mailing Deadline	

## SEPTEMBER

September 3	Chapter III Golf Outing	TBD
September 24	Chapter III Meeting	7:30 am, Paper Valley Conference

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# MEMBERS ACCESS TO THE WHEA ROSTER DATABASE

Members...when you first join WHEA your demographic information from your application is loaded into the roster database on [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) by the Member Services Committee representative from your chapter. Once loaded, the database sends you a notice, giving you your username and a temporary password. You are then offered the opportunity to go onto the website, log in and change your password to something you want to use. Only you and the database know what that password is, and only a Member Services Committee administrator can go in and make any future edits to your demographics.

It is very important that from time to time you log onto [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) to access your account information and make any changes needed to keep your information current. Those of you who have been members for a long time, never had to indicate if you were also a member of ASHE or NFPA. All members that have been added within the last 2-3 years have had to check those membership boxes as either Yes or No and indicate the year you first joined. If you have

joined ASHE recently, you should indicate so in your demographics. Likewise, if your job title has changed, or you have changed employers, changed your email or phone number since you first joined you should make those changes. Frankly, one of the most important pieces of data to keep current is your email address – if it is not current, you won't receive any correspondence from the state WHEA office or your chapter.

Forgot how to access the database? Log onto the website, click on MEMBERS LOGIN, and enter your user-name and password. Once in, you can go to MEMBERS and then click on View MY Account to see what's there. You can change any of the fields that you see there including your password and then click on Save Profile. Voila! You're done.

If you have trouble getting into the MEMBERS area, make sure you are using the correct user-name and password. Your user-name is the initial of your first name and then your entire last name. If your password doesn't work, you can ask to reset it and that should get you in. If all else fails, contact your chapter Member Services Committee representative and they'll help you.

Once you get used to accessing the MEMBERS section of the website, this whole process will become second nature to you. Logging into the MEMBERS section of [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) gives you access to a wealth of information that casual browsers of the main site can never see. Log on! You'll be surprised at what you can find.

Please keep your information current, and if you have any questions or concerns you can contact your chapter Member Services Committee representative directly or contact me, Roger Elliott at [rwelae@charter.net](mailto:rwelae@charter.net) or Brian Seymour at [brian.seymour@froedtert.com](mailto:brian.seymour@froedtert.com).

Roger Elliott & Brian Seymour  
Co-Chairs, WHEA Member Services Committee



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# 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2026**

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# WHEA CHAPTER III NEWS

Chapter III is off and running into another great year of networking and education. We have had 3 business meetings since our last report, as well as our annual Mini-Life Safety conference held 2 weeks ago. We have had great turnouts at all of our meetings this year, and are well on our way to hitting our goals for the year. Business meetings have been as follows:

- December: Tour of ThedaCare/Froedtert new Hospital in Oshkosh with Tweet Garot and Acorn/HSA, with lunch and business meeting at the Mineshaft in Oshkosh
- January: Emplify Health Titledown as host, with Grunau Company presenting on Medical Gas FAQ's and Inspection Questions
- February: Aurora BayCare Medical Center as host, with Vyron presenting on AHU rebuild/upgrade opportunities
- March: Mini-Life Safety Conference at Encircle Health in Appleton, with the following presenters:
  - oNV Technologies on Fire Protection Inspections
  - oPhigenics on Legionella Management
  - oKelman Restoration on Water Events

We have our 3rd Annual Banquet coming up on April 16th at Van Abels in Hollandtown, and we would like to thank all of our sponsors and folks who have bought tickets so far. We are very excited for this year's banquet, and I think it will be the best one yet.



Membership renewal for the chapter concluded on February 28th, and thank you to all of the members who have either renewed or just joined Chapter III. We look forward to seeing you all at future events.

It may seem like September is far away, but we are still looking for the Chapter's next officer at large. If you or anyone you know is interested, please feel free to reach out to any of our officers.

Hopefully second winter (or third, fourth, whatever number it is, I lost track) is on its way out of here, with nice weather following right behind it. I look forward to a great remainder of 2026.



# SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

DENNIS HAVLIK, DONELLA SARAUER, CO-CHAIRS



## WHEA Board Meeting Report Sponsorship Committee

Board Meeting Date: 3/6/2026

Mass emails were sent in October, November, and December for 2026 sponsorships. Follow up emails and phone calls were made in January and February. To date we have received 97 requests for Sponsorship. Out of the 97 requests, 15 are for platinum, 49 for gold and 33 for silver. Total Sponsorship dollars are \$230,500.

Below are the lists of organizations requesting sponsorship:

Platinum: 3G Companies\* Badger Balancing  
Balfrey & Johnston\* CD Smith  
Grunau Herkowski Stickler  
HGA HOH  
IMEG Corp Miron Construction  
OPN Architects Pieper Electric  
RTM SMART  
Tweet/Garot

**Gold:** AAF Affiliated Engineers  
August Winter BEAR Construction  
Beeler Construction Berghammer  
Boldt CG Schmidt  
Dunham EUA  
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PRA Precision Balancing  
Riley Ring & DuChateau  
Setra System\* Somerville  
TLC Engineering Total Energy Systems  
Total Water Trane Technologies  
Tremco Vyron  
Wendel  
WHEA Board Meeting Report

**Silver:** Aero Performance Group\*\* Allume Architect  
BWBR Chem-Aqua  
Complete Control Cummins\*  
Energy Control and Design Evergreen\*  
Flad Focus on Energy  
Gilbane GRAEF

GROTH Grumman/Butkus Associates  
Hurckman Mechanical\* JSD Professional Services  
Kraemer Kurita  
Lee Mechanical Macco's  
Muza Nalco Water  
NV Technologies Paul Davis  
Pearson Engineering Purely Med Gas  
Restoration Systems\* Samuels Group  
Siemens Uihlein Electric  
WHV Wold  
Zimmerman Architectural Studios  
\* Denotes new sponsorship request  
\*\* CEPRO was purchased by Aero

## Goals

**Goal # 1:** Do a better job of communicating Sponsorship Opportunities at the Annual Conference  
Expected Outcome: Increase the number of companies sponsoring activities.  
Results: More sponsorship requests.

**Goal # 2:** Recruit 10 new Sponsors for WHEA  
Expected Outcome: Sign up 10 new sponsors.  
Results: 12 new sponsors have signed up

## New Sponsorship Requests

3G Companies - 2025 Technical Exhibition Exhibitor  
Balfrey & Johnston - Board Approved  
Cummins - 2024 and 25 Technical Exhibitor  
Evergreen - 2024 and 25 Technical Exhibitor  
Fabick - 2023, 24 and 25 Technical Exhibitor  
Garland Company - Board Approved  
Hexmodal - Board Approved  
WHEA Board Meeting Report  
Hurckman Mechanical - 2023 and 24 Technical Exhibitor,  
Member of Chapter 3  
McGough - Board Approved  
NAMI - Board Approved  
Restoration Systems - Board Approved  
Setra Systems - 2025 Technical Exhibitor

The Sponsorship Committee is planning to meet in April to discuss Sponsorship opportunities at the annual conference and look at different or additional sponsorship levels as directed by the Board at the December meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Dennis Havlik Sponsorship Co-Chair  
Donella Sarauer Sponsorship Co-Chair

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# TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

JIM BENEDICT, CHAIR

The Technology Committee is working in collaboration with WAM and our Cvent account representatives on the platform / app for the annual conference in September. Exhibitor registration has already started and we are estimating a potential April date for member registration. Look for updates in the near future regarding registration and the app.

There were some unexpected delays in discussions regarding a new website for WHEA. There will be meetings held virtually each month starting in April to discuss ideas / thoughts / concerns regarding a new website. We will start internally with input from the WHEA State and Chapter Boards & Committees. In the near future, we will also be asking for input / ideas from our members. More details / emails to follow on this.

The Technology Committee and WAM continue to ask for input / content / pictures from all Chapters and Committees on pertinent information that can be posted on social media. If you have any pictures you have taken at any Chapter or State event, please be sure to share them with your Chapter Board so they can pass them along to us.

If you have any thoughts or ideas on possible future technology needed for your Chapter or Committee, please reach out to us for discussion.

Jim Benedict  
Chair, Technology Committee



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# CHAPTER V NEWS

Our current slate of officers for 2026 includes:

President – Morgan Weiss

Vice President – Walker Golubiff

Treasurer – Kelly Roshell

Secretary – Dwight Heath

Office at Large – Rhonda Flagstad

Past President – Ben Trachsel

Chapter V remains financially strong entering 2026, with \$5,990.36 in savings and \$9,434.93 in checking. In addition, the Chapter maintains three Certificates of Deposit totaling over \$28,000, including funds dedicated to education and scholarships. A new account has also been established to support ongoing Chapter operations and event management. Overall, the Chapter continues to maintain healthy reserves to support educational programming, scholarships, and member engagement initiatives throughout the year.

We kicked off 2026 with our Annual Banquet on January 29th at the American Legion Post 53 in Eau Claire. Members enjoyed a Dartball tournament, followed by networking and social time. NEI and Siemens generously sponsored dinner, and the event provided a great opportunity to reconnect, unwind, and celebrate another successful year for Chapter V.

Our February 19th meeting was hosted at Allina Health in River Falls, where B&B Electric provided Arc Flash training. Members also participated in a facility tour following the education session. The meeting was well attended and continues our focus on providing relevant and practical education to healthcare facilities professionals across the region.

Looking ahead, Chapter V will hold a Special Meeting on March 26th, including a bus trip to Beloit to tour the Ho-Chunk Casino Project, with a business meeting held during travel. Our April 15th meeting will take place at Mayo Clinic Health System – Eau Claire and will feature extended Mechanic Training sessions. This year, we are collaborating with regional health systems to provide training focused on verbal de-escalation for staff who also serve in security roles at their facilities.

Our annual Golf Outing will be held June 18th at Whitetail Golf Course in Colfax, followed by our August meeting at Mayo Clinic Health System – Osseo, where Siemens will provide education on sustainability initiatives. We will then gather at the WHEA Annual Conference in Appleton in September and conclude our fall programming with our October meeting and trap shooting event at the Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club.

Chapter V currently has 35 Full members, 37 Associate members, 9 Life members, and 13 Retired members, for a total of 94 members. Membership engagement remains strong, and we continue to focus on growing participation across all categories.

## Our goals for 2026 include:

- Continue hosting at least one “special” Chapter V meeting that incorporates a hands-on or fun group experience.
- Improve full-member participation and engagement through meetings, committees, and Chapter activities.
- Increase funding and visibility of our scholarship program to support future healthcare engineering professionals.

Chapter V looks forward to another strong year of education, networking, and professional development in 2026.

Respectfully submitted

Morgan Weiss  
President, Chapter V, 2026





# EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EPDC)

Darrell Courtney, Travis Gunderson, Co-Chairs

## 2026 Goals and Progress Report

1. Provide site based and web-based educational programs that align with WHEA’s mission.

2026 Site-Based Programs			
Date	Program	Presenter	Location
01/14	HCC – 1	Code Committee	Virtual
04/15	HCC - 2	Code Committee	Glacier Canyon
06/03	Spring Conference	EPDC	Glacier Canyon
11/04	HCC – 3 or Advance Course	Code Committee	Glacier Canyon

2026 Web-Based Programs			
Date	Program	Rep	Chapter
January	Patient Voice in Healthcare	Darrell Courtney	VI
February	Energy Retrofit Projects in Healthcare	Travis Gunderson	III & IV
March	Budgets and More	Trent Yunker	V
April	Building Envelope - Testing Methods and Repairs	Chase Hildebrand	III
May	ASHRAE 170/Guideline 43	Walker Golubiff	II
June	Cooperation Between FM & CM	Dale Wilson	I
July	Facility Condition & Assessments	Trent Yunker	VI
August	Hazard Waste	Mike McArdle	VI
September	Emerging Technologies in Healthcare	Frank Gorham	II
October	IMC 2021 Adoption	Travis Gunderson	III & IV
November	Fire Systems During Construction - Including Fire Marshall	Matt Barnett	II
December	New Air Handling Unit Technologies and Modernizations	Jim Schabowski	I
	Lunch and Learn Subscriptions		55
	Completed		

2. Provide a minimum of three (3) Healthcare Contractor Certificate programs working with the Code Committee. Dates set for HCC and Spring Code (Completed 10/03/2025)
3. Host a joint meeting with the Code Committee leadership to collaborate on program development (HCC, Spring Code, Webinars, etc.) and HCC renewal. 10/03/2025 Glacier Canyon (Complete)
  - a. Discussed and reviewed the current HCC program with Co-Chairs
  - b. Discussed:
    - i. Providing 3 HCC in 2026 (one virtual and 2 in person)
    - ii. Provide a Spring Conference
4. Provide value to WHEA Sponsors through educational opportunities. (On going)
  - a. Lunch and Learn(s) to be offered through our associate members and sponsors first
  - b. May include associate members and sponsors to again perform “Advanced” HCC

5. **Achieve and maintain a membership that has a minimum of 2 members from every Chapter. Ideally, 1 Full Member and 1 Associate Member from each Chapter. (In process)**

Sustainability, Mentorship, Primary School outreach

- Take to the Board and present a possible sub committee
- Bring in people to find out about hospitals and our vendors
- More than just an EPDC subject

2026 Meeting Dates

- March 20, 2026 – Virtual
- June 19, 2026 – Virtual
- October 2, 2026 – In person Glacier Canyon, WI Dells



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# Memoriam – DARWIN CLAUSEN

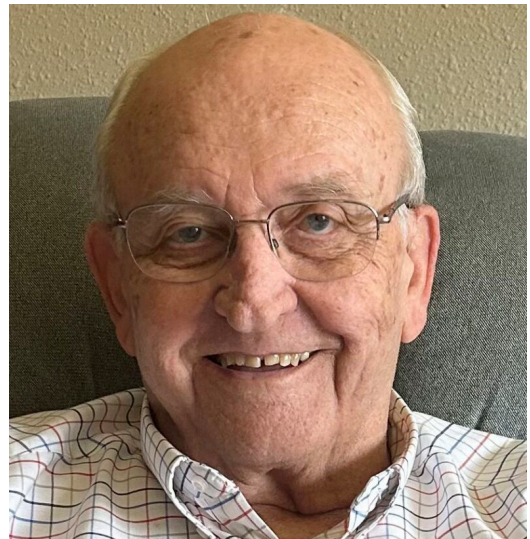
Darwin Clausen, age 84, passed away surrounded by family on April 4, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Darwin Gene Clausen was born in Atlantic, Iowa on November 11, 1941, to Raymond and Irene (Nelson) Clausen. Tragically, his mother passed away due to complications from childbirth seven days later. Darwin was lovingly raised by John and Veneta Sorensen (Veneta being Raymond's sister), alongside his older cousin, Linda Sorensen (Nelson) in rural Elk Horn.

Darwin began his education in rural Oakfield Township #6 School and later attended Elk Horn High School in Elk Horn, Iowa. Following high school, he was drafted into the Vietnam War in 1964, where he served as a Supply Truck Driver before being injured and honorably discharged.

After his military service, Darwin began his career in Audubon, Iowa, working as a Maintenance Technician at Audubon County Memorial Hospital. It was there he met Kathryn Wright, whom he married on October 14, 1967. After several years working at the hospital in Audubon, the couple moved to Hutchinson, Minnesota, in 1970, where Darwin worked at Hutchinson Community Hospital as Director of Maintenance. In 1981, the Clausen's moved to La Crescent, Minnesota, where Darwin continued his career, eventually retiring in 2001 as Director of Plant Services for Franciscan Skemp/ Mayo Clinic Health Systems.

In 1980, Darwin joined WHEA Chapter VI and attended annual conferences where he developed great friendships with many members including Steve Vinopal and Joe Plonka. After Joe served two terms as state President in 1986 and 1987, Darwin served in the same capacity for two years in 1988 and 1989. Shortly thereafter, in an effort to ensure continuity of quality for future annual conferences, Steve Vinopal was appointed to lead a newly formed Conference Committee, and Darwin became one of the original members of that group. Darwin helped Steve shepherd the Conference Committee for several years until they turned over the reins to Mike Blackwood in 2003. Darwin received a plaque for 40 years of continuous membership in 2020 after serving in various committee roles throughout the years. He retired and became a life member in 2006, and he joined the ranks of the newly-formed Resource



Committee that year, where he assisted the Education Committee with on-site seminar registrations and as a volunteer at annual conferences until 2024.

His involvement and contributions to WHEA were recognized in 1990 with an Outstanding Member award and one of the earliest Robert H. Botts Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Awards in 2008. He helped to initiate the early Technical Exhibitions, and often worked with Bob Botts in hosting the "Bob's Bargain Basement" WHEA merchandize sales at annual conferences. His leadership and mentorship of WHEA leaders contributed greatly to the success of WHEA well into the 21st century.

Throughout his life, Darwin built many lasting friendships, both from his time in Vietnam and his civilian life. He had a lifelong passion for stock car racing and spent many Saturday nights at the West Salem Raceway in Wisconsin. His enthusiasm for racing took him to tracks such as Daytona and Phoenix International Raceway, and he cherished the opportunity to drive laps in a professional NASCAR at the Richard Petty Driving School in Chicago. Above all, Darwin treasured time spent with his family, especially attending his grandchildren's events with Kathryn, a tradition he continued even after her passing. He will be remembered as a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a deeply valued member of his family.

A family service will be held at a later date when all surviving family members can be present.

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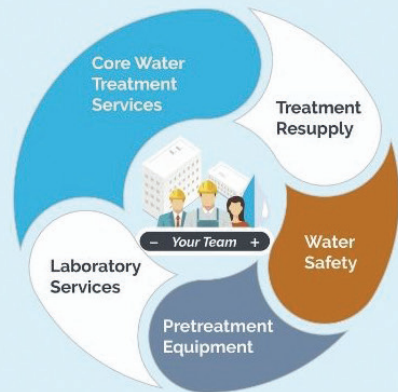
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# CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BY JEFF ECKSTEIN, RICH HELFRICH, CO-CHAIRS



## Water Metering:

IAPMO is an organization that provides a wide range of services to protect public health and safety associated with building water systems. With this mission in mind, IAPMO developed the Water Demand Calculator (WDC) in response to historical oversizing of potable water distribution systems in the built environment. The tool more accurately estimates peak water demand, reducing the carbon footprint of the structure which can drive water and energy savings for the entire life of the plumbing system. Proper sizing also significantly reduces the potential for significant bacterial growth within the system, which reduces the risk of Legionnaires' Disease and other waterborne disease or adverse conditions.

The IAPMO Research Team continues to partner with building owners and industry partners, with a focus to further characterize how the WDC can improve the design of complex water systems across the broad landscape of healthcare.

In 2026, WHEA Leadership has approved financial support to expand WDC data collection in Wisconsin through the purchase of water meters. Members of the WHEA Code Committee are partnering with residential, long-term senior care facilities to install the meters and collect the necessary flow data to further refine the WDC tool. If you would like to offer your building for this testing please contact Rick Helfrich ([richard.helfrich@ssmhealth.com](mailto:richard.helfrich@ssmhealth.com)) or Missy Cain ([mcain@hga.com](mailto:mcain@hga.com)).

## Congratulations Rick!

Rick Helfrich is now serving on the NFPA Health Care Section Codes and Standards Review Committee. Specifically, he will be assisting the Extinguishment sub-committee.

## HCC Update - Thanks Marilyn!

Marilyn Michels, MSN, RN, CRRN, CIC, FAPIC, has served as our ICP for HCC programs for years. Marilyn has retired from her full-time work at Emplify Health and also will be stepping back from her role with our HCC program – although she says she can be "on call" if ever need her. She has worked in infection control for over 40 years in various settings. She has presented on numerous topics related to infection prevention and developed an orientation program for infection preventionists that was introduced to numerous health care

facilities across the state. She has responded to numerous events related to construction and renovation through the years. She has witnessed the impact the health care environment has on a patient's risk for developing an infection due to poor planning, design, execution and maintenance. We are honored to have worked with her and wish her well in retirement. Thanks again Marilyn!

## AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION GUIDANCE FOR DISINFECTION OF NEW OR RENOVATED POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS

By Missy Cain, HGA - Environmental Planning Principal

New construction and renovation projects are part of the constant rhythm of healthcare organizations, and with these complex projects comes the challenge of managing the building infrastructure during the construction phase, including the potable water system.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) released important guidance via the November 2024 Technical Report titled "Disinfecting Building Potable Water Plumbing in New or Repaired Systems," filling a significant void in water management industry standards for premise plumbing disinfection protocols during construction and renovation.

While both the International and Uniform Plumbing Codes require new or renovated potable water systems to be flushed and disinfected before occupancy, these codes do not include detailed implementation protocols. AWWA Standards C651 and C652, which were designed for water mains and storage facilities, are referenced for disinfection requirements. These Standards present several practical challenges when applied to healthcare water systems, notably that disinfectant levels are specified at very high concentrations for building plumbing materials, and protocols do not address the unique challenge of dispersing disinfectants throughout the complex water systems that exist in healthcare facilities. You may have experienced some of the following challenges within your last project:

- Accessing all sections for proper flushing and sampling can be difficult, especially in occupied buildings where certain areas may have limited access or require coordination.
- Coordination and downtime can be difficult to coordinate, especially when the construction project scope is a renovation within a functioning hospital.

- Plumbing systems in a hospital facility are far more intricate than distribution mains, with numerous branches, dead-ends, fixtures, and equipment connections.
- Achieving and maintaining the C651-specified chlorine residual throughout an entire building system is challenging based on complexity of the plumbing system and overall chlorine demand.
- C651 requires representative sampling to confirm disinfection effectiveness, but determining representative sample points throughout the hospital water system warrants a comprehensive plan that is in sync with the construction schedule.

The 19-page technical report provides comprehensive, step-by-step procedures specifically tailored to potable water systems within the built environment. Key recommendations include:

- Thorough pre-disinfection flushing to remove construction debris and reduce initial chlorine demand.
- Specified minimum disinfection levels, with the targets incorporating a safety factor to account for variations in materials, biofilms, and sediment. The feed strategies help avoid uncontrolled fluctuations that can potentially damage plumbing components.
- Systematic dispersal of disinfectant from entry points

to the farthest outlets, with measurement of chlorine residuals throughout the distribution system.

- Bacteria testing for validation purposes - for total coliforms and Legionella bacteria - at least 24 hours after final flushing. The guidance document requires complete absence of both organisms in all samples.
- Final disinfection is to occur no more than three weeks before beneficial occupancy to minimize water quality deterioration during building turnover. This point directly aligns with Section 8.4 in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 188.

The AWWA technical report represents a collaborative effort involving industry experts and is intended for reference in construction documents and by authorities having jurisdiction. It does not replace nor supersede AWWA C651 but can provide your organization with science-based protocols that balance effective disinfection with protection of building materials and public health.

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# THE WHEA FOUNDATION-

Advancing Healthcare Engineering Through Philanthropy

By Gordy Howie, President

Established in 2009, the WHEA Foundation, Inc. (WFI) is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of the Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association (WHEA). The Foundation supports education, research, and innovation that strengthen healthcare engineering across Wisconsin and the broader healthcare community.

Today, the WHEA Foundation focuses its grantmaking on initiatives that elevate professional development, advance research, and promote excellence in the healthcare engineering field.

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## Who We Are

The WHEA Foundation is committed to building the future of healthcare engineering. Through philanthropic support, we invest in education, research, and leadership development to ensure healthcare engineering professionals are prepared to manage safe, efficient, and high-performing care environments.

Our work supports the professionals who create and maintain environments that enable caregivers to deliver exceptional care to every patient and community they serve.

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## Vision

To advance the art and science of healthcare engineering by promoting excellence through education, research, and philanthropy.

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## Mission

To engage and inspire individuals and organizations to contribute their time, talent, and resources in support of healthcare engineering excellence. The Foundation provides financial support to meet the diverse educational and research needs of the healthcare engineering community.

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## What We Support

The WHEA Foundation provides philanthropic funding for initiatives including:

### Scholarships & Professional Development

- Engineering degree programs
- Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM) certification
- Healthcare-related internships

### Education & Training Grants

- Webinars
- Management seminars and leadership programs
- Annual conferences
- Mechanic training programs
- ASHE conferences

### Research & Innovation

- Data collection and research initiatives
- Pilot healthcare sustainability and green programs

### Support of WHEA Programs

- Membership assistance
- Committee participation
- Chapter programming
- Virtual education and conferencing programs

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why was the Foundation formed?

The Foundation was established to advance WHEA's mission through charitable, educational, and scientific efforts. It invests in programs that improve the design, development, construction, and maintenance of healthcare facilities

through research and education.

**Does the Foundation have its own Board?**

Yes. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of up to 14 Officer and Elected Directors. The WHEA President, Past President, and Vice President serve as members of the Foundation Board.

**What is the relationship between WHEA and the Foundation?**

The WHEA Foundation operates as the official 501(c)(3) fundraising arm of WHEA. The Foundation reports annually to WHEA. The Association retains authority over:

- Election of Foundation Board members
- Dissolution of the Foundation
- Expulsion of a member

---

**Get Involved**

Your support helps secure the future of healthcare engineering.

For more information about donating, applying for funding, or getting involved, please contact:

**Gordon Howie**

President, WHEA Foundation Board

(715) 838-1999

howie.gordon@mayo.edu

Donor and funding request forms are available on the WHEA Foundation webpage:

<https://www.whea.com/about/whea-foundation/>



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- January 8** Budgets and More
- February 12** Energy Retrofit Projects
- March 12** Patient's Voice in HC
- April 9** Building Envelope
- May 14** ASHRAE 170 Guideline 43
- June 11** Cooperation between FM & CM
- July 9** Facility Condition and Assesments
- August 13** Hazard Waste
- September 10** Emerging Tech in Healthcare
- October 8** IMC 2021 Adoption
- November 12** Fire Systems During Const.
- December 10** New AHU Tech and Modernization



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# SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY COMMITTEE 2026 GOALS

Eric Braun, Chair

## Goal # 1 - Host a minimum of one lunch and learn for 2025.

Expected Outcome: Host a standalone lunch and learn session with presenters from this committee.  
Action: Committee: The committee has a topic and speaker selected. Still trying to finalize the date. Looking at the week of May 18th or May 25th  
Results: On Track

## Goal # 2 – Continued participation in the ASHE Chapter Challenge

Expected Outcome: Continued participation in the ASHE Chapter Challenge. Ensure diversity within the facilities that participate. The committee’s goal is to enroll 10-12 facilities from at least 5 different health systems.

Action: Energy commitment forms are due to ASHE April 1st, 2026 (need minimum of 5 locations)  
Committed Facilities as of meeting on February 17th

1. Meriter Hospital
2. Froedtert West Bend Hospital
3. Aurora BayCare Medical Center
4. SSM Health (location still TBD)
5. Bellin Health (location still TBD)
6. Gunderson (location still TBD)

Results: On Track

## Goal # 3 – Re-alignment of the committee members and retain committee members that are actively participating in the committee.

Expected Outcome: Create a more active committee  
Action: Eliminate a few in-active members and replace them with active participants. Maintain a minimum of one full member and one associate member per chapter  
Results: On track

## Goal # 4 – Retain a presentation slot at the 2026 WHEA Conference in which some of our committee members could present.

Expected Outcome: Present at 2026 WHEA Conference  
Action: Abstract submitted  
Results: Pending

\*\*\* In person meeting scheduled for April 21 at St. Mary’s Hospital – Madison






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