

# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

# Newsletter

March 2020

Volume 30

1st Quarter

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## President's Message



*Kevin Feyen*  
WHEA President

With spring on the horizon, we are all preparing and dealing with COVID-19 within our facilities. Thank you all for making sure everything is operating correctly, rooms are getting cleaned and patients can get the medical attention they need. If you are struggling with a question or concern in your facility, reach out to a colleague in WHEA for help. Everyone is going through some of the same issues and new/different challenges every day. Please remember to wash your hands and keep your social distance as much as possible. Take the advice from your leaders, local and state government to stay home to minimize the spread of the virus.

As we work through the challenges of COVID-19, we can continue with our education. The webinars are every second Thursday of each month starting at 11:30. It is not too late to sign up. These will allow you to get education while still keeping your social distance. If you miss a session, they are all recorded and can be viewed at a later date. Plan is to have the Spring Code Conference May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Glacier Canyon with registration beginning April 8<sup>th</sup>.

As for your Chapter meetings, try and do those virtually if possible. This is an unprecedented time right now and we will adapt and change as needed. Guidelines and restrictions change daily and everyone is taking them in stride and doing what is best for the patients and staff.

Thank you again for all your help through this pandemic. WHEA is an amazing organization with outstanding members. Many days of hard work are ahead of us, but your efforts to prepare ensure our patients and communities are in great hands.

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**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all scheduled events are subject to change. Be sure to check with your Chapter, Committee or the WHEA website for a possible schedule change.**

# WHEA CALENDAR

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**  
Chapter II Meeting, Leidos

**Thursday, April 9, 2020**  
11:30am – 1pm ~ Lunch & Learn Series Webinar

**Friday, April 10, 2020**  
9am – 12pm  
Board Meeting, Glacier Canyon Conference Center

**Friday, April 17, 2020**  
9am – 12pm  
Conference Committee Meeting ~ Conference Call

**Thursday, May 1, 2020**  
Education & Professional Development Committee Meeting ~ Conference Call

**Thursday, May 7, 2020**  
Chapter II Annual Banquet, Green Acres

**Thursday, May 14, 2020**  
Chapter I Meeting 4:30 pm ~ HGA Architects and Engineers

**Thursday, May 14, 2020**  
11:30am – 1pm ~ Lunch & Learn Series Webinar

**Thursday, May 21, 2020**  
Chapter III Meeting, Sheboygan

**Thursday, May 28, 2020**  
Chapter IV Meeting

**Friday, June 5, 2020**  
Newsletter Article Deadline

**Friday, June 5, 2020**  
9-noon  
Board Meeting  
Glacier Canyon Conference Center

**Friday, June 5, 2020**  
1 – 4pm  
Member Services Meeting  
Glacier Canyon Conference Center

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020**  
12:30 – 5:00 pm  
Codes & Standards Committee Meeting,  
Glacier Canyon Conference Center

**Thursday, June 11, 2020**  
11:30am – 1pm  
Lunch & Learn Series Webinar

**Thursday, June 25, 2020**  
Chapter V Meeting, TBD

**Thursday, July 9, 2020**  
11:30am – 1pm  
Lunch & Learn Series Webinar

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## IN MEMORIAM - Marlon Boettcher

Retired WHEA member, Marlon C. Boettcher, 72 of La Crescent, MN, died at his home on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. He was born in Winona, MN, on June 10, 1947 to Helmuth and Marion (Pflughoeft) Boettcher. He married Ann E. Papenfuss on July 26, 1969.

Marlon graduated from Winona State University in 1969 with a degree in Industrial arts and mathematics. Early on in his career, he taught for a year as an industrial arts teacher in Elkton, MN. Afterward he served with the National Guard and worked in construction for CBS Homes of La Crescent. He then began a 35-year career at Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center as a maintenance technician retiring in 2010 as Construction Coordinator. He had been a member of WHEA Chapter VI since 1995



Hunting, fishing, gardening and bowling were all interests of Marlon's. After retirement, he spent much of his time working at the property he affectionately called "The Ranch." He liked to putz around on his tractors and plant crops for the deer so that his family would have the opportunity to have successful and exciting deer hunts. He was not one to turn down a day out on the river fishing for whatever was biting. His wife, Ann, would often ask him to take her out in search of crappies, and he and his grandson, TJ, had more than a few adventures in search of walleyes up by the dam.

Back home he prided himself in his garden. It's been said that he was supposed to be a farmer due to the amount of joy he took in growing crops. Cucumbers, sweet corn, green beans, and squash were among the many things that his family had more than enough of every fall. On Thursday nights during the fall and winter, you could find Marlon bowling with friends, son, and grandsons on their bowling team. For him, it was never about the scores so much as it was the comradely.

He was an active member at First Lutheran Church in La Crescent serving as an usher, participating on the Finance committee, plowing snow, and volunteering with building construction. Offering his problem-solving abilities to others will be one of the many things that is remembered about him. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed something fixed or made. WHEA retired member Joe Melde has referred to Marlon as one of the best people he had ever known. He was a great co-worker as well as a friend outside of work – always willing to help anyone that needed it.

Marlon and Ann spent their time taking many trips visiting and exploring with friends and family, including trips to Florida visiting Marlon's brother Roger and his wife Carol. They also had many other friends that they shared adventures with stretching as far back as High School.

Memorial services were held at 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at First Lutheran Church of La Crescent; officiated by Rev. Mark Rieke.



## Chapter IV Report



Ed Radtke  
Chapter President

**President:** Ed Radtke  
**Officer at Large:** Jeff Thompson  
**Vice President:** Travis Gunderson  
**Past President:** Troy Torgerson  
**Secretary/ Treasurer:** Christopher Ecke

Chapter IV held our January 1<sup>st</sup> meeting at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, with Grainger as our sponsor, we had training provided by Nephros on maintenance and cleaning of Ice Makers. Voted in 8 new members. Voted to approve the increase of annual dues to \$60 starting with 2021. Started a group to organize a golf outing.

Reports were given and approved. Round Robin discussions held on what is going on at everyone's facility.

### Treasurer's Report (as of March 1, 2020):

Checking Account	\$ 9,709.18
Savings Account	\$ 5.00
Account totals	\$ 9,714.18

### Chapter Member Status (as of March 10, 2019)

Full	39	Retired	2
Associate	70	Honorary	1
Life Time	1	MECH	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>	

### 2019/2020 Meeting Dates and Locations:

**Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>** meeting sponsored by Miron Construction and help at their Wausau office with education on Sustainability practices for Healthcare.

**Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>** meeting sponsored by Boldt, we have Heather Lauzon-Werner presenting the education on Life Safety updates, Fire Stop, ILSM, and ICRA/PCRA

**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>** meeting is sponsored by Grainger; with training provided by Nephros on Ice Maker filtration and upkeep.

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** meeting we have Water Tech USA lined up for training on maintenance and upkeep of Cooling towers, this will be a virtual meeting due to COVID-19.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** we have Badger Balancing lined up for training

**June** we are looking at options for our Chapter IV golf outing

**August** we will have our annual election of officers and trap shoot

### 2019/2020 Goals & Challenges

- Maintain a minimum of \$5,000 in checking account (current balance \$9,709.18)
- Increase membership by 10% or more (currently at 18% increase)
- Grow our attendance at Social / Networking opportunities (golf outing and trap shoot in planning)

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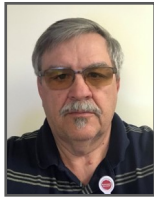
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## Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC) News



Darrell Courtney  
Committee Co-Chair



Terry Phillips  
Committee Co-Chair

The EPDC has had a very busy 1st quarter. We've held 2 Healthcare Construction Certificate (HCC) programs and 3 webinars.

The first HCC was held on January 8 at the Tundra Lodge Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay. 73 people attended with at least 18 of them renewing a current certificate. The second HCC was held on March 5 at the Marriott Milwaukee West in Waukesha. 204 people were registered for this program. These Healthcare Construction Certificate programs are still very important and necessary for anyone that works in a healthcare facility.

The 2020 Webinar Series is off to a great start. January's topic was *"Electrical System Inspections"* given by Bill Lauzon of Lauzon Life Safety Consulting. In February the topic was *"The Role of Healthcare Engineers"* (continued on page 7)



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*Education and Professional Development Committee (continued)*

*USP 797 & 800 Compliance*” presented by Tony LaMacchia & Jim Lewandowski, Class 1 Air. The last webinar for the quarter was titled *“Something New in Water Treatment...Plus a Little Review Along the Way”* given by Jeff Freitag, Kyle Pachowitz, and Dennis Kwasny of Watertech of America.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thrown everyone into a tailspin especially the WHEA membership who are trying to do the best for their facilities and companies. We encourage you all to look for guidance from the professionals that are helping us through this. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>) and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>) are both excellent sources of information.

As of now, we are putting our Spring Conference that was scheduled for May 20th on hold. We are hoping to reschedule it yet, but watch your emails and our website for further information.

Our webinars will continue as scheduled but we will be lifting our single connection requirement. As long as your facility has a registration to the webinars, you and your employees can access the webinars individually from separate computers or smart phones, to keep that social distancing that we should all be taking seriously.

The Healthcare Construction Certificate program continues to be a popular program among contractors and healthcare workers alike. The WHEA Codes & Standards Committee continues to give their time and talent to teach our attendees the importance of safety in our healthcare facilities.



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**TENTATIVE 2020 WEBINAR MONTHLY TOPICS**

**January:** Electrical Generator Design & Maintenance Testing Part 2 (Intermediate)

**July:** Electrical Panel Requirements

**February:** USP 797-800

**August:** Air Filtration

**March:** Water Treatment - Overview

**September:** Steam Maintenance

**April:** Sprinkler System Requirements

**October:** Single Line Drawings

**May:** Healthcare Design Trends

**November:** Humidification

**June:** Water Management Trends

**December:** Infection Control - Maintenance and EVS



**It is not too late to sign up for these webinars. All our webinars are recorded and once you register you will be sent a link to those recordings.**



*"Great job by all - this was my first webinar by WHEA, I am looking forward to others this year!"*

*"Presenters did a great job. Lots of great info on all that was presented during webinar."*

*"Thought the speaker was extremely knowledgeable. I work 2nd shift so I listened to the recording."*

*"Thank you very much for providing these!"*

*"It's a pleasure to watch the programs."*

# WHEA's 2020 Monthly "Lunch & Learn" Webinars *Every 2nd Thursday of the month*

WHEA's Educational and Professional Development Committee is offering 12 webinars for the 2020 calendar year for a one time, low price per computer connection.\*

**\$500** Regular Registration (\$42 per webinar)

**\$300** WHEA Member Discount (\$25 per webinar)

**NO LODGING NO OVERTIME ONE TIME PAYMENT**

**PLUS if you sign up now, you'll receive the login information for the last webinars of the 2019 series.**

This is a cost effective, professional development series for facility staff, administrators and contractors. This is a fantastic opportunity to stay up to date on current issues without leaving your facility. You will receive complete session information approximately 2 weeks before each webinar. Each webinar offers 1.5 Contact Hours/.15 CEUs approved by ASHE.

Registration is now open at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) for this 2020 webinar series. Follow the drop downs under the Education tab to "Education Programs".

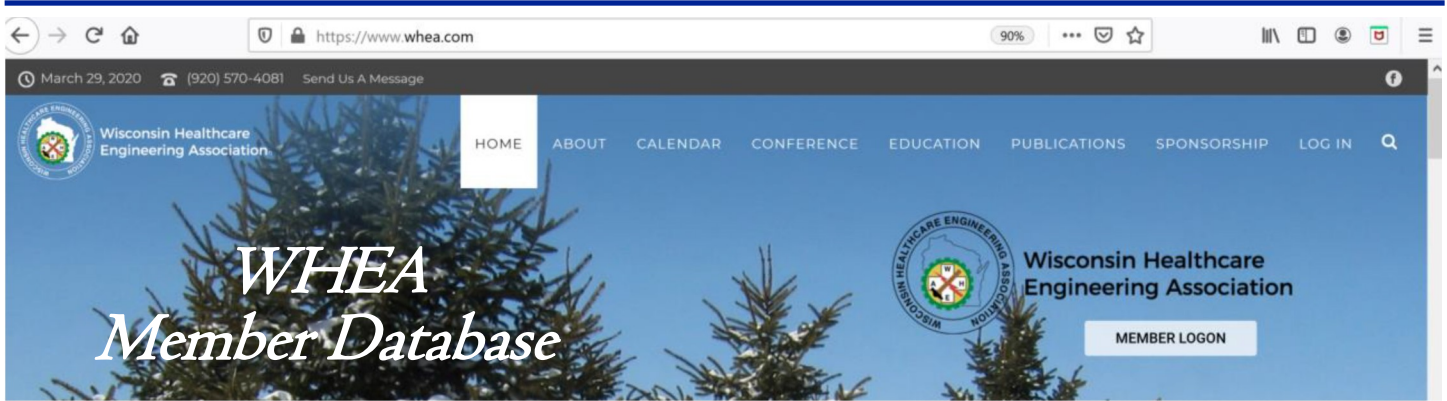
To receive the members only discounted rate, you must log into your WHEA membership account and use the Members Only registration form. If you have forgotten your login, just use the "Forgot Login" feature to gain access.

You may sign up anytime during the year but the cost will stay the same - there is no individual webinar pricing. All webinars will be recorded and you will receive a link to that recording after the webinar has been presented. Even if you are not able to attend, you can still have these important updates to watch at your convenience.

The webinars will cover a variety of topics that focus on "hot-topic", code alerts and management level subjects throughout the year. Below is a tentative list of the 2020 topics.

*\*Per Connection equals one computer login in one room. You may have as many people sitting in that room watching the webinar as you wish, but you may not share your login information with any other person in or outside your facility.*





We are entering our 2nd year utilizing the new WHEA website. Along with the new look, our member database was also revamped. As a WHEA member, you now have direct access to your user-friendly account. The process of membership renewal has been going on for the past few months. Now that it's winding down, it's important to know that you as the WHEA member are in charge of your own contact information. This website relies on you personally keeping your account up-to-date. Just log in to your account from the website main page and edit it as necessary. The chapter representatives are there to help if you need them.

Go to [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) and under the "About" tab you'll find your chapter page. That page has all the information needed regarding your chapter membership. The contact information at the bottom of the page is your chapter representative. Contact them if you have any questions, comments, or just need help.

An advertisement for JPCullen. The top half features the JPCullen logo in white on a dark background, with the tagline 'THE TOUGH JOB EXPERTS' below it. The bottom half shows a photograph of a hospital interior with medical equipment. Overlaid on this image is the text: 'COLLABORATING WITH HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS TO MAXIMIZE THEIR MARKET SHARE WHILE ENHANCING THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE'. At the very bottom, it lists locations: 'MADISON | MILWAUKEE | JANESVILLE | JPCULLEN.COM'.

 An advertisement for Riley Construction. The top section has the heading 'ProvenPartners' in green. Below this are four colored boxes, each representing a partner company:
 

- FROEDTERT**: 44 YEARS, + 975,000<sup>+</sup> SF (green background)
- ASCENSION**: 30 YEARS, + 900,000<sup>+</sup> SF (green background)
- PROHEALTH**: 11 YEARS, + 475,000<sup>+</sup> SF (orange background)
- CTCA**: 23 YEARS, + 435,000<sup>+</sup> SF (green background)

 Below these boxes is the Riley Construction logo, which consists of the word 'RILEY' in green and 'CONSTRUCTION' in smaller green letters below it. Under the logo is the text 'Your Healthcare Construction Experts'. At the bottom, it lists locations: 'MILWAUKEE • KENOSHA • CHICAGO'. On the right side, there is a vertical text 'rileycon.com'.



## Conference Committee News



*Ed Cosner*  
Committee Chair

Final details are being set for the 2020 WHEA Annual Conference which will be held September 29th through October 2nd at the Red Lion Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center in Appleton. We have an impressive schedule of speakers with a range of topics that will help all healthcare maintenance personnel with their jobs. The opening of conference registration will be scheduled for a little later than normal this year. The June Newsletter will have more complete information. Also watch your mail for the flyer and check back at the website often. We hope to see you at our 55th Annual Conference!

The technical exhibition will again be held at the Fox Cities Exhibition Center and the early bird discount ended on March 31st. We are very close to being full once again. If you would still like to register for a booth, please go to the website under the Conference tab and submit a registration before the booth space is gone.



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## Chapter I News



Mike McGeorge  
Chapter I President

As I write this article to reflect on our Chapter's recent activities, I find it amazing how quickly our paradigms can change. It was just a few weeks ago, our Chapter 1 Board was discussing the details of our remaining meetings on the schedule, and planning our Annual Banquet in early June. Now we are faced with postponing or cancelling these events, and I can't get the song 'Yesterday' out of my head.

Following the mandates of our state and national governments, we made the decision to cancel our April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 WHEA Chapter 1 meeting. It was scheduled to be held at Eppstein Uhen Architects, with Johnson Controls presentation on "RCx and Energy Savings". Along with these gracious sponsors, we plan to reschedule this event next season.

As with everyone else, we will continue to ready our healthcare facilities, practice excellent hygiene, and patiently wait as the future unfolds. Our plan for upcoming events is the same as everyone's, and hope this global crisis makes a turn for the better soon.

### January Holiday Party:

Our Chapter 1 Annual Holiday Party was held again at Mo's Irish Pub. We did not have a business meeting with this event, as it is a purely a social get-together with a white elephant gift exchange. Over 70 members attended and enjoyed the festivities!



*"Dean Pufahl was thrilled to open up his white elephant gift - a portable table tennis game for this desk"*

### February Business Meeting

Was held at Mortenson's Milwaukee office on Febru-

ary 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We had 63 members and guests in attendance. The educational presentation was "Parking Structure Maintenance and Rehab" presented by Charlie Gresser, P.E., ECS Midwest.

### March Business Meeting

Our March meeting took place on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We had 40 members and guests in attendance. It was held at JP Cullen's Milwaukee Office, and the educational topic was on "FGI Guideline Updates" presented by IMEG.

### Noteworthy Chapter 1 Happenings

Chapter 1 has officially changed the name of our annual golf outing held in September. It will now be known as the "WHEA Chapter 1 Memorial Golf Outing". This was done in response to memorialize past Chapter 1 members that have made significant contributions to WHEA. We will post individual Memorial Hole Signs on various tee boxes, listing the past member along with their WHEA contributions. A Golf Oversight Committee has been created to establish this program and review member submissions. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact me.

Heather Slottke, Chapter 1 Vice President has established a Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association page on LinkedIn to promote our digital footprint!

### Future Chapter 1 Events

As previously stated, our Chapter 1 April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Business Meeting has been cancelled.

Our May Business Meeting is currently still scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at HGA. The educational topic will be on "VR in Design and Construction".

The Chapter 1 Annual Banquet is scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Muskego Lakes Country Club. However, a contingency plan is being developed if this needs to be postponed.



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## NFPA ITMs and COVID-19

Is Life Safety fire protection equipment inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) something we wish to stop doing during the current health emergency – no. The largest piece of durable medical equipment we all need to maintain during the current health emergency is the building that houses and protects our patients, residents, staff, contractors, inspectors, and authorized vendors. This is particularly important as our facilities may be taken to the breaking point with patients and caregivers during this emergency. Agree the current CDC, state, and federal directives are restricting access to visitors; yet these same entities are also supporting continuance of essential services, and Life Safety ITM remains an essential service. Might these emergency declarations afford some flexibility – yes. Here are a few scenarios:

**Scenario 1:** A facility could screen a fire protection contractor for fever or respiratory symptoms and if found to be negative, could ask the contractor to then follow the CDC guidelines for Transmission-Based Precautions, and then permit the contractor to perform their work in a timely manner, not engage in any unnecessary non-essential activities while performing the testing, and document their work offsite.

**Scenario 2:** The Fire protection contractor could be stationed at the fire protection main manifold or fire alarm panel which is typically located in a secluded space (basement) and does not require access to patient or resident spaces. Then a facility physical environment staff member could assist and walk the facility and individually activate respective fire protection devices ( detectors, pull stations, etc.). The Fire protection contractor then can complete most of the fire protection testing at a remote location and not interact with any patient / resident spaces.

**Scenario 3:** Virtual inspections via internet or visual technology for more routine inspections ( IE monthly ) or similar events could be transferred to a remotely located fire protection contractor. The remote fire protection contractor then can request additional information or document the virtual inspection.

**Scenario 4:** Facility staff who are qualified and competent in inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) could perform the work and document. Example: Fire alarm system testing technically does not require a certification or unique credential in Wisconsin. Reminder to take advantage of **NFPA 25** ( 2011 edition) and **NFPA 72** ( 2010 edition) for details of the frequency, testing procedure, and examples of documentation. These codes and standards and as well as others, IE NFPA 10, NFPA 80, NFPA 96, NFPA 99, NFPA 110, etc. are available at available at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

**Scenario 5:** Fire Watch is well known procedure, typically for a system outage, yet could be expanded to assist during this unique event. Wisconsin Department of Health Services fire watch procedure is outlined within **DQA Memo 17-003** available at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dqa/memos/index.htm>

Resist the temptation to experiment with a blanket “waiver” of critical or essential systems for the interim. Maintaining critical functions through this current health emergency, then will not only protect your current health care community, but will also reap significant rewards in reducing the time to recovery, and reach full building stabilization.

Stay Well

## Code Critical

### Codes & Standards Committee



Jeff Eckstein  
Co-Chair



David Soens  
Co-Chair



## Where Are They Now?

### Paul Feldner


By Paul Feldner with Introduction by Roger Elliott

*Where are they Now?* (WATN) features appeared in WHEA newsletters with some regularity in the late '90's and early 2000's; conceived as a vehicle for active members to learn about what some of our more recognizable retirees were up to. However, until the Carl Budde article in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter newsletter of 2019 we had not included a WATN story for several years – not since the passing of one of our founding fathers, Bob Botts. That's because many of our more active retirees are Resource Committee members these days and they're quite visible at WHEA functions; making their WHEA histories less of a mystery to us than those of our earlier retirees. I'm happy to say, however, that another of our more notable retirees, Paul Feldner was kind enough to provide us with the story of his life as influenced by his years of working and volunteering within the healthcare industry. I've known Paul since first joining WHEA over 35 years ago; sharing membership with him on the Chapter III board, working with him in various committee and task force capacities and as a fellow member of the state board. Paul is only the second of our members to have logged a 50-year career with our organization. His story should serve as an inspiration to any of our members who are contemplating further involvement within WHEA.

Paul writes.....When Roger Elliott asked me to participate in the "where are they now" article I tried to find an excuse not to. I really don't feel very comfortable writing about myself. But those of you who know Roger know he is a hard man to say no to. So here it goes.

As I thought of how my life has unfolded, I think of it in the form of three "buckets" of time. Bucket one is from birth to the end of my military service. Bucket two is family and work. And bucket three is retirement.

Bucket one started by being part of a very normal, middle class family growing up in Fond du Lac. I was raised in a Catholic family going to Catholic grade school and high school. I served 5:00 A.M. Mass most Sundays through high  
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## *Paul Feldner (continued)*

school. Along with my older sister and younger sister and brother, I did all the things ordinary kids did. I had a paper route, cut grass and shoveling snow. I played as many sports as I had time for. Through a mutual friend I met a girl in high school by the name of Beth Hammang. Our mutual friend informed us that we were born on the same day and there might be a connection there. We dated through high school and after. Beth played a much larger role in bucket two.

Like everyone else, my junior year in high school brought me to the point where I had to start being serious about the future. Two of my best friends and I came to the realization that we probably weren't ready for the college scene. The country was in the middle of a war and the potential for the draft was there. All three of us considered ourselves to be very patriotic. We felt we wanted to have at least some control over our future so we decided to join the Navy Reserve and start the next phase of education there. We attended meetings, boot camp and Summer training through high school and after. Beth went off to medical imaging training in Chicago and I went off to active duty.

In the summer of 1965 I was assigned to the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier that was in the process of being converted from a support carrier to an attack carrier. The ship was in the Brooklyn Naval shipyard, in drydock. When I told my family I was going to New York they reminded me that my prior travels outside Wisconsin consisted of a trip to Minnesota to pick blueberries and a trip to Illinois to smuggle margarine across the border. Prior to leaving I was required to go to the Naval Reserve center and take a skills test to determine what my rate (job) was going to be. I tested high in engineering and became a Machinist Mate. Job choices were many. Since we were at war and I was being assigned to an attack carrier which would likely be going to Vietnam the choices became clearer. Vietnam has average daily temperature of 115 degrees with a relative humidity of 100% so I thought air conditioning and refrigeration would be a rate which would be in high demand. I spent the remaining three months, while we were in drydock, attending Navy air conditioning and refrigeration school.

The Intrepid was in fact heading to Vietnam. After having sailed half way around the world, the next year was spent in The Gulf of Tonkin conducting air strikes in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. I was in charge of a crew that was responsible for the air conditioning of the ship's bridge which included everything above the flight deck. We soon learned  
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*Paul Feldner (continued)*

that our most important job was to keep the Admiral cool at all times.

Out of five thousand sailors on board I found three from Wisconsin and one from Minnesota who knew how to play Sheepshead. When we would leave the combat zone to take on fuel, provisions and ordnance we would play as many games of 25/50/75 as we could. The fifteen months we were away from our home port of Norfolk VA went fast. After returning to Norfolk and spending time preparing the Intrepid for her next tour in Vietnam it was time to make another decision. Do you make a career of the Navy or do you start working on bucket number two? A month before I was released from active duty, I received a letter from my father with some interesting news. My father was the chief engineer of the power plant that served St. Agnes Hospital, the Convent and the School of Nursing in Fond du Lac. He told me that the maintenance organization that served the Hospital, Convent, School of Nursing, Marian College, and Nazareth Heights Infirmary was seeking an assistant director. I submitted my one page, hand written resume to the Board of Directors and was granted an interview two days after I returned home. I was hired and was on my way to starting bucket number two. After observing other governments and how they treated their citizens my patriotism and love of country had doubled during my time in the service.

The organization I started working for was St. Agnes Campus Services. It consisted of thirty- five employees. Gene Frei, a long- time member of WHEA directed the operations of master electricians, plumbers and journeyman carpenters and painters. The organization also provided safety, security, laundry and grounds keeping services for those organizations.

When I started I was responsible for assigning work orders and administering the preventive maintenance program. Half of my time was spent serving an apprenticeship program to include electrical, plumbing and carpentry. I had learned my supervisory skills in the Navy. The lesson was easy. If you understood the chain of command you knew who to take orders from and who you gave orders to. There were no unions, HR Departments or employee advocates. If you didn't understand the chain of command there were other, more unpleasant, duties you were assigned to.

Realizing the need for additional skills to manage multimillion dollar operating, capital and construction budgets, I sought management training. With GI funds I had available I enrolled in the UW Green Bay Extended Degree Program and the Technical College. I also attended ASHE and WHEA management training courses specific to Healthcare.

Beth and I were married in February of 1968. We recently celebrated our 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. We have two sons who we are very proud of.

As time passed the organizations we served grew. It was decided that decentralized maintenance would serve the member organizations needs better. At that point I was named Plant Services Director of St. Agnes Hospital and Gene Frei was named Administrative Engineer, responsible for Safety, Security and Risk Management. As programs and facilities grew the hospital acquired the Fond du Lac Regional Clinic and Waupun Memorial Hospital. At that point I was named Facilities Management Director for what is now known as Agnesian Healthcare. A new Clinic was constructed on the Hospital campus and thirty- two satellite facilities were acquired.


In 1999 Gary Smith, the owner of C.D. Smith Construction, informed me that the company was in need of a project manager with a healthcare background. Since the construction portion of my job was always the most enjoyable, I applied for the job. I was hired and started work the day after the Y2K technology fears were addressed. For the next six years I managed healthcare construction  
*(continued on page 16)*



## Paul Feldner (continued)

projects in the Milwaukee and Fond du Lac area.

Starting to work on bucket number three has been very easy. I have done all the things retired guys say they love to do and more. One wall in my office holds all the plaques my peers in WHEA honored me with over the years. The accomplishment which I am most proud of is the fact that I have encouraged special people to become involved in WHEA not only for what they have to gain but what value they could bring to the organization. As for the remainder of time in bucket number three, I intend to remain active in the Bylaws Committee as well as the Resource Committee. I will remain open to any opportunities to serve WHEA Leadership.



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## Sustainability and Energy Committee



*Clark Brenner  
Committee Chair*

### Energy to Care Treasure Hunt

Even though we are currently all involved with our facilities working with our practitioners to meet the challenges for the COVID-19 pandemic there will be a time that we will return back to our normal operations and we hope to be able to get this program started. The board has approved funding to sponsor a facility for an Energy to Care Treasure hunt, this is a great opportunity to have a free energy audit for your facility. The Treasure hunt uses experts and tools from ASHE to guide you through a two-day energy audit of your facility. You will have a great opportunity to save energy and energy dollars through a low cost and easy to implement energy audit.

We are looking for facilities that are less than 150,000 sq feet and have been registered with energy star and energy to care. We just need your energy star rating of the proposed building, your building type (hospital, nursing home or clinic.), the age of the building, the size of the building and the name of a dedicated senior leader who will sponsor the treasure hunt. The treasure hunt will take no more than two days you will need a dedicated team from your facility to participate in the treasure hunt, this team can and is encouraged to have team members from other groups than facilities group to participate in the treasure hunt. The dedicated senior leader is an important piece to ensure the success of the treasure hunt they will be responsible for making sure there are resources dedicated to the treasure hunt and can help lead the implementation of the recommendations..

The board will make a selection of this first Treasure Hunt facility by which facility would benefit most from the exercise.

The goal of this exercise to create a WHEA treasure hunt team that will carry on these Treasure Hunts as a sustainable program for our membership. Once your institution's team has experienced this treasure hunt it will be able perform these treasure hunts on other facilities in your organization. Also it is expected that your team will help lead these treasure hunts for two other institutions after it's been completed for your facility, and the teams for those facilities will lead treasure hunts for other facilities. It is a way for all of us to learn easy to implement strategies for saving energy and to increase awareness among all your colleagues of how to and the savings from doing easy thing to save energy in our facilities

Please contact Clark Brenner at [cbrenner@uwhealth.org](mailto:cbrenner@uwhealth.org) of your interest in having a treasure hunt at your facility.  
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## *Sustainability & Energy Committee (continued)*

### **Energy to Care Chapter Challenge**

We are looking for at least five facilities to volunteer for the Energy to Care National Chapter challenge this year. You will be representing WHEA in the chapter challenge against all the other chapters nationwide. We have one facility signed up and we would like at least four more. It is not hard to do, just have two years of utility data entered into energy star and Energy to Care from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 through March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 and give WHEA permission to access your data. **ASHE has extended the Deadline to May 1, 2020** to apply but we would like to have all our volunteers by the end of April. Please contact Clark Brenner at [cbrenner@uwhealth.org](mailto:cbrenner@uwhealth.org) for further information if your facility is interested in participating.

### **Energy to Care Award!**

The Energy to Care Awards honor health care facilities that reduce energy consumption by 10 percent in a single year or by 15 percent over two years. The program also recognizes previous year award winners that reduce energy consumption by 5 percent. **ASHE has extended the Deadline to May 1, 2020**

### **Energy Champion Award**

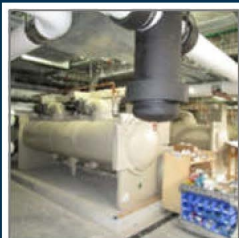
The Energy Champion Award is given out once per year to honor a single facility (acute care hospital or medical office building as defined by Energy Star) that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in energy efficiency. Hospitals and medical office buildings participating in Energy to Care that have an ASHE member on staff are eligible for this prestigious award. **ASHE has extended the Deadline to May 1, 2020.**

## *WHEA Foundation (WFI)*



*Kevin Feyen*  
WHEA President

As we continue to work through different opportunities at our facilities to help combat COVID-19, keep in the back of our heads the need for more facilities personnel to help maintain, update and keep our patient, visitors and staff safe. Currently, the WHEA Foundation is looking to create a scholarship program that may support that effort. Criteria is being developed to help this process with the board of directors. We are looking forward to another Fundraising Event in 2020. We are planning to have another social event during the Annual WHEA Conference in September. We are still working through all of those details but are excited for another fun-filled affair. Stay tuned. We continue learn every day on the inner workings of a foundation. We have reached out to the Wisconsin Philanthropy Network about their mentorship program to help us better understand what we need to be doing. We have had our initial discussion and so far things are going great. As we move into spring and allow ourselves to get outside and enjoy the change to warmer weather, the Foundation is also going to go through a change. Current President and Board Chairman Jim Teunas will be retiring from Johnson Controls and the WHEA Foundation. We want to thank Jim for his tireless efforts to get the Foundation back up and running and moving in the right direction. The board will work to find a new President and keep everyone up to date on that process. Thank you to everyone who is putting in long hours to help keep our facilities running, clean and safe during this pandemic. We will get through this stronger.



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# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

## Robert H. Botts HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING PIONEER AWARD

The intent of this award is to annually recognize a member of WHEA who has made significant contributions through personal or professional initiatives to improve and promote health care facilities management or the health care industry, in keeping with the mission statement of the organization: "The Wisconsin healthcare Engineering Association serves the community by providing a safe and comfortable environment for health care through the application and practice of health care engineering developed through education, professional growth, and advocacy in codes and standards."

### The AWARD:

Will be presented annually and consists of an engraved plaque displaying the WHEA logo, the recipients name and chapter, and the year awarded. Additionally, a letter recognizing the award with a brief synopsis of details of the recipient's accomplishments will be presented to both the recipient and his/her CEO/President.

### Qualifications:

In order to be nominated for the WHEA Healthcare Engineering Pioneer award, the candidate must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a current member of the WHEA
- Must have held continuous membership for a minimum of three (3) years
- Must not be a current elected state board member or an elected board member during the previous calendar year.

### Achievements & Contributions:

In order to be selected for the WHEA Healthcare Engineering Pioneer award, the successful candidate must have attained a significant level of achievement (as a professional working in the field of health care facilities management, or allied health care professions,) in one or more of the following areas:

- through achievement of significant operational efficiencies,
  - through implementation or design of cost containment strategies,
  - through significant innovation in facility design,
  - through innovative facilities management practices,
  - through innovative safety initiatives,
  - through innovative technology initiatives,
  - through innovations in construction management strategies,
  - through participation in citizen advisor boards or other advocacy projects where personal facilities management expertise or applied engineering excellence:
- significantly improved the overall quality of health care in the community(s) being served,
  - significantly improved accessibility to health care services,
  - significantly improved local, state, or national code compliance or code revisions, or
  - significantly improved levels of health care services to the community(s) served.

### Selection Procedure:

1. Candidates must be nominated by another member of the WHEA, in writing, including:
  - A written narrative of not less than 250 words, describing the actions that you feel qualifies your nominee for the Healthcare Engineering Pioneer award.
  - Include one (1) additional letter of support if so desired (not required)
  - Attach other supporting documentation as needed to validate the accomplishments of the nominee.
2. Nomination papers must be submitted to the current state WHEA President for the previous calendar year, prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year.
3. The WHEA elected state board members will evaluate all submitted nomination papers, with the aid of a criteria-based scoring grid.
4. The selected recipient will be determined by a simple majority vote of the elected state board members.
5. The award will be presented to the selected recipient by the President of WHEA at the Annual Banquet or other appropriate event or venue prior to the end of the calendar year.



# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

## Robert H. Botts HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING PIONEER AWARD

### Nomination Form

I nominate the following individual for the \_\_\_\_\_ WHEA Robert H. Botts  
Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award. Year

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

MANAGER/CEO/PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### NOMINATED BY:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ATTACHMENTS/INCLUSIONS: (Check all that apply.)

\_\_\_\_ Nomination Narrative

\_\_\_\_ One additional letter of support (Optional) Limit, one (1)

\_\_\_\_ Support documentation: Published articles, Financial documentation, and other documents as needed to validate the accomplishments of the nominee.