



Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

Newsletter

March 2021

Volume 31

1st Quarter

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President's Message



Kevin Feyen
WHEA President

It looks like winter is behind us and we are moving into Spring. It has been around a year since COVID became more prominent in Wisconsin. The stress and fatigue this pandemic have put on our patients, families, staff, and facilities have been unbelievable. Staff can't be thanked enough for the work that has been done to keep facilities open, clean, and running smoothly during this pandemic.

Things are starting to get better with less cases and more people vaccinated. Please remember to maintain social distancing and wear your mask to help minimize the spread of the virus.

The WHEA Board continues to meet via video conferencing to help keep WHEA in the forefront, offer education for its members and to support members and their facilities. Remember there are Lunch and Learn Webinars available each month, work continues with the Spring Conference along with work on the Annual Conference later this year. We are working hard to have an in person Annual Conference in La Crosse this year.

Chapters continue to have virtual meetings with educational sessions included. Chapters are looking to have in person meetings again soon following all guidelines for gatherings. Some of these meetings might be outdoors or in larger venues but will allow colleagues to get together. This is a big step in getting "back to normal" for everyone.

Thank you again to everyone for your patience and hard work through this pandemic. Please reach out to me or anyone else on the Board if you have questions or concerns regarding WHEA.

Kevin Feyen, President 2021

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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

- 1 Apr, Thu** | Chapter II Zoom Meeting
- 8 Apr, Thu** | Lunch & Learn Series Webinar - 11:30am – 1pm
Chapter I Zoom Meeting
- 9 Apr, Fri** | Conference Committee Virtual Meeting
- 29 Apr, Thu** | Chapter V Training for Techs
- 30 Apr, Fri** | Directory Mailing Deadline
- 7 May, Fri** | Education & Professional Development Committee Virtual Meeting
- 13 May, Thu** | Lunch & Learn Series Webinar - 11:30am – 1pm
Chapter I Zoom Meeting
- 27 May, Thu** | Chapter III Virtual Meeting
- 4 Jun, Fri** | Board Meeting - Glacier Canyon Conference Center - 9am
Member Services Meeting - 1pm
- 8 Jun, Tue** | Code Committee Meeting - Glacier Canyon Conference Center
- 10 Jun, Thu** | Lunch & Learn Series Webinar - 11:30am – 1pm
Chapter I Annual Banquet
- 11 Jun, Fri** | Annual Conference Early Bird Registration Prize Drawing Deadline
- 17 Jun, Thu** | Chapter V Meeting
- 21 Jun, Mon** | Chapter VI Golf Outing - Cedar Creek
- 8 Jul, Thu** | Lunch & Learn Series Webinar - 11:30am – 1pm
- 16 Jul, Fri** | Annual Conference Early Bird Registration Discount Ends
Conference Committee Meeting 9 am - Radisson Hotel La Crosse

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2021 WHEA Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition



Ed Cosner
Committee Chair

This year's conference will be held at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse from Monday, September 21 through Friday, September 24 with the Technical Exhibition occurring on Wednesday, September 22 and the Tuesday Evening Open House on the night of the 21st.

Details for this year's conference in La Crosse are being finalized. The Conference Committee members will be heading over to La Crosse for their July meeting to look at the progress on the La Crosse Center remodel. Conference registration will open in mid-April with the early bird discounted registration to end July 16th. If you register and pay before June 11th, you will be placed in a drawing for a free hotel stay for the entire conference.

Our conference pricing will stay the same this year. With early bird registration at \$240, going up to \$280 after July 16th. A one day registration is \$140 and our spouse/guest program is \$50. Complete conference information will be available on www.whea.com under the Conference tab soon.

The cancellation of last year's conference and technical exhibition was extremely disappointing for us all and we are doing our best to plan both an educational agenda that will cover topics that are extremely important this year, and networking events that we can attend responsibly.

The technical exhibition registration has been open since January and the event is close to being filled. Complete information can be found on the website including a link to the registration form. Don't miss out! Register soon!

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2021 WHEA Annual Conference Technical Exhibition



Wednesday, September 22, 2021
(Setup & Open House - Tuesday, September 21)

La Crosse Center
La Crosse, WI

Online registration open at www.whea.com

All registrations must be submitted online. We will not accept faxed or mailed paper registrations. You will find this online registration form, along with additional information on the technical exhibition webpage, at **www.whea.com** under the drop-downs from the “Annual Conference” tab.

2021 Technical Exhibition
Booth Registration Fee \$750

Payment is due upon receipt of your confirmation email. We strongly encourage you to pay using a credit card, which will automatically guarantee your technical booth registration. Complete cancellation policy restrictions may be found on the registration form.

Please direct all questions regarding registration, invoicing & payment to:
Jane Bruvold, WHEA Administration Assistant
920.570.4081 • info@whea.com

**Thank you for your
continued support of WHEA!**

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 30th 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.

Chapter I News



Heather Slottke
Chapter I President

Chapter 1 Officers

President – Heather Slottke
Vice President – Cory Majszak
Secretary – Jim Benedict
Treasurer – Dave Guberud
Officer at Large – Grace Redovich
Junior Past President – Mike McGeorge
Senior Past President – Jason Sipiorski
Membership Coordinator – Eric McLaughlin

Chapter 1 continues to meet via Zoom and engage our membership through technology platforms as partnership with the new Technology Committee.

Our Meetings and Educational Topics have been:

February - Design and Build a Field Hospital presented by HGA and Their Trade Partners

March - Lesson's Learned from COVID 19 and its Impact on HVAC Presented by IMEG Corporation

Upcoming Zoom Meetings are scheduled for:
Thursday, April 8th – Overview on Focus on Energy
Thursday, May 13th – Education TBD

Notably, we voted Mike Scherbel and Bill Lauzon in as Retired Members.

We have continued to hold steady on our overall Membership Numbers.

Our Members have shared some interesting Lesson's Learned at the end of our meetings and continue to use this platform to provide valuable information relevant to our industry. Chapter I has kept the team together approach even amid social distancing.

We very much look forward to see each other in the near future!

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Chapter III News



Eric Braun
Chapter III President

Chapter III held a virtual meeting on Thursday, March 25th. The Chapter officers met in person at Holy Family Memorial, in affiliation with Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, in Manitowoc, WI. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$13,563.87 and membership roster of 61 Associate Members and 53 Full Members. Two new members applied for Membership; Mark Guth with Bellin, and Carol Williquette, with Advocate Aurora Health. Clark Brenner from UW Health provided a great overview on the Sustainability and Energy Care Committee. Jenna Jordan also presented on the WHEA Technology Committee Initiative and the goal to have a better presence with social media, specifically LinkedIn. Following our Business Meeting, IMEG presented on "HVAC Facts Learned During COVID-19 / Pandemic."



For those in attendance, Chapter III provided sponsorship to various WHEA educational opportunities. Winners for attendance included Shane Raymaker, Brian Fryman, and Matt Zimmerman. Dan Loest with CD Smith also sponsored conference attendance and lodging. The winner was Cory Krause with ThedaCare.

The next upcoming meetings are May 27th, September Golf Outing, and September 23rd at the Annual Conference.

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Chapter V News



Darrell Courtney
Chapter V President

March, time is flying by, once again. As 2021 move steadily ahead, we can start to see positive progress. Chapter V has been maintaining our scheduled meetings by connecting by virtual meetings.

Meetings via the web:

Chapter 5 continues to meet via the internet. We are looking to once again proceed with our annual technician training at the end of April. If all goes as we hope, June will be our first in person meeting since February of 2020. Most of the Chapter V attendees cannot wait to move away from the office and meet in person once again.

We just held our last meeting February 18th. Our practice with the web-based meetings is starting to

pay off. We held our normal business agenda with 22 participants present. Our April training was a topic with the venue and the training that would be offered this year. A discussion around our chapter dues was bought up. Not meeting face to face created an issue on receiving timely payments. Our educational topic was presented by Phigenics on "Keeping Your Water Management Program in Alignment. This was a well-received topic that that delt with ASHRAE 188 and preparation for any 2021 Joint Commission surveys. This topic may be brought to our technicians later this year.

As Chapter V goes, we are all looking forward to getting together with all of you later this year at the annual conference. Until then, stay safe and continue to be healthy.

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Code Critical

Codes & Standards Committee



Jeff Eckstein
Co-Chair

David Soens
Co-Chair

Updates to Management of Hazardous Waste in Wisconsin

By Marge McFarlane, PhD, MT(ASCP), CHSP, CHFM, CJCP, HEM, MEP
Principal of Superior Performance, LLC, LaPointe, WI

Healthcare facilities such as hospitals, physician's offices, dental practices, nursing homes, veterinary hospitals and others may generate hazardous waste, infectious (red bag) waste, solid waste, recyclable materials, universal waste, chemotherapy waste and radioactive waste. Each of these waste types is subject to certain rules requiring the waste be managed and disposed of properly. Different types of waste should be separated and managed accordingly.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The EPA RCRA rules have posed a challenge to healthcare facilities since they were implemented in 1976 as hazardous waste determinations are complex and hazardous waste management confusing. The EPA issued updated rules in August 2019 which will significantly ease the burden for healthcare facilities. Each state is required to adopt these EPA changes before the new RCRA rules can go into effect for the management of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals.

(continued on page 13)

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Code Critical (continued)

In September 2020, several changes to Wisconsin's hazardous waste management rules took effect. The changes affect most healthcare facilities and reverse distributors that generate or handle hazardous waste and are intended to streamline aspects of the rules while making them more protective of public health and the environment. All healthcare facilities that generate hazardous waste must comply with certain requirements based on the amount of hazardous waste produced in any given month.

The rule revisions implemented three major federal initiatives including the generator improvement rule, the pharmaceutical (Subpart P) rule and the definition of solid waste rule which defines recycling of secondary hazardous waste materials.

The generator improvement rule allows facilities to exceed the limits for hazardous waste generation in any one month without being reclassified into the higher generator class. A small quantity generator (SQG) could generate more than 2200 lbs of hazardous waste in a month as an episodic event and if properly managed, not be bumped up into large quantity generator (LQG) status for the next 12 months. The rule also allows very small quantity generators (VSQG) to ship hazardous waste to a LQG for consolidation.

The EPA SubPart P pharmaceutical rule allows all healthcare facilities to dispose of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals separately and not count their total weight in the monthly RCRA hazardous waste

(continued on page 14)



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Code Critical (continued)

tally. Wisconsin also adopted the nicotine exemption rule in which over-the-counter nicotine replacement products (gum, lozenges, or patches) are no longer considered to be acutely hazardous (P) waste. Empty packages and used nicotine patches are now considered regular trash. This will eliminate much of the acutely hazardous waste generated in healthcare facilities. The "empty container" improvements mean that blister packaging for coumadin is also regular trash rather than P listed waste. Undispensed coumadin tablets, liquid nicotine and vaping pens are still P listed waste. VSQG and SQG are bumped up to LQG if they generate more than 2.2 lbs of P listed waste in multiple months of the year. The training, security, emergency planning, and monitoring requirements for LQG are significant. Any ability to be classified as a VSQG or SQG would be a savings of time and resources.

Work with the pharmacy and your hazardous waste vendor to determine the pharmacy drug waste characterizations. It is estimated that 5-7% of formulary is hazardous waste. Review the waste generator status for your facility to see if P listed waste can be removed from the other RCRA hazardous waste tally (e.g., lab waste). It is very possible that if the P listed waste is removed from the generator status, a lower classification may be possible. Many facilities are LQG because of the generation of more than 2.2 lbs of P listed waste (nicotine wrappers, coumadin wrappers and coumadin tablets) in multiple months.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted the equivalent content and format of the federal regulations. Guidance documents and forms are being revised and can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/HealthWaste/Business.html>.



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"Wow my friends! Ten years certainly have flown by. You know what they say, when you do what you love, you love what you do.

*To the WHEA organization and all of our customers and friends: we'd like to send out a huge **THANK YOU** - straight from the heart. You will always hold a special place there!*

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Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC)

2021 Creeping Out of the Abyss



Darrell Courtney
Committee Co-Chair



Terry Phillips
Committee Co-Chair

Once again, in 2021, WHEA is committed to supplying excellent learning opportunities at a reasonable fee for our members. The first Healthcare Construction Certificate (HCC) program of the year was virtually a great success. Learn the necessary safety and infection control requirements to perform work in healthcare. This is a one-day seminar provides a certificate. This is a must for any contractors, facility managers and/or facility staff. Another Advanced HCC course will be held this year in November for our learners that are looking for more. The prerequisite will be to have a current HCC certificate.

Lunch and Learns are back for our 8th year. They offer education on code, operation, energy and safety issues related to the healthcare industry. Even though the first 3 webinars have already aired, you can still register and have the previous subject available to you through recordings. The programs are all recorded so that you can view at your leisure or as assigned to staff for necessary information. Through the end of this year, if your facility has purchased a webinar subscription, feel free to login in separately and have your personnel login separately from their personal computers or smart phones.

Our Spring Conference will be held May 19th, "A Day of NFPA". This will be a day of NFPA codes. NFPA 72, 25, 99, 110 and 70 are current topics to be reviewed. Watch for your invitation and register early. The WHEA Code Committee and the EPDC are working to provide wonderful programs.

We look forward continuing to provide great educational opportunities, with the help of the Resource and Code Committees, in 2021.

You or your organization can still sign up for the 2021 Lunch and Learn webinar programs. As a subscriber, you will receive the recorded links to all the webinars; past ones to review or watch for the first time. These may be watched at any time that you wish. Go to the Education tab at the www.whea.com site, sign up, and start your learning today. You will receive the login information for the next scheduled webinar and the links to all previous recordings.

(continued on page 16)

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Madison, Wisconsin 53717

EPDC News (continued)

You never have to miss a program again. The cost for the annual webinar series will again be \$300 for WHEA members and \$500 for non WHEA members. Join now: www.whea.com.

2021 Webinar Schedule

Date	Program
Apr	Joint Commission Update
May	Maintaining Exhaust Fans
Jun	Maintenance of AHU's , Belts, Alignments, Damper (Operations), Pumps (couplings, Alignments, Gauges)
July	Life Safety (Rated Walls & Systems)
Aug	OSHA Safety for Workers (Confined Space)
Sept	High Voltage Switchgear
Oct	Fire Door/Fire Compartment Training
Nov	Infection Prevention and What Facilities Can Do To Assist
Dec	Water Quality Issues Around Chlorine Dioxide Additives and Legionella



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Our People ARE OUR POWER

Technology Committee



Heather Slottke
Committee Chair

Committee Members:

- Heather Slottke, Chair - Chapter I
- Jenna Jordan – Administrator - Chapter I, Chapter III
- Katie Smith - Chapter I, Chapter II

The Technology Committee has been meeting this quarter to bolster our WHEA LinkedIn Page. We have been posting roughly once a week and continue to work with all Chapters to meet our goal to increase that to twice a week. We now have 339 followers!



Go to the WHEA website (www.whea.com) and click on the LinkedIn symbol either at the top right on the main page or at the bottom right on the main page.

We have currently started reviewing other ways to further engage our members through Survey Monkey, Zoom and Conference Management Apps.

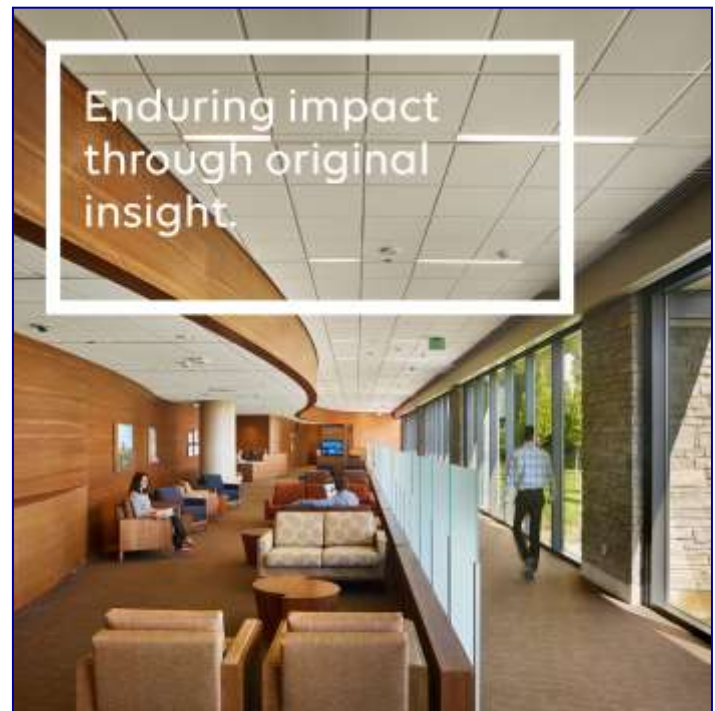
Our Committee will be reaching out to those who have expressed interest in the upcoming quarter and look forward to our continued growth.

Please reach out to us for posting inquiries and ideas for leveraging technology!

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Employment Opportunities

Are you looking for a change -- an opportunity to advance your career?

Check out the following pages for employment opportunities available for healthcare facilities professionals.

Facilities Reg Compliance Coordinator Children's Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

Full-Time

Job ID: 34654

Coordinates CHW compliance with applicable codes and standards including Joint Commission, (TJC), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), and all Federal, State, and local regulations. Coordinates and provides initial and ongoing training for Facilities staff. Perform a variety of skilled maintenance and repair duties.

- High school education or equivalent and completion of a mechanical apprenticeship, associate degree, post high school education or equivalent experience.
- Successfully complete Healthcare Construction Certificate program from WHEA within one year.
- Five or more years of healthcare facilities maintenance experience.
- Comprehensive knowledge of all applicable codes and standards including Joint Commission Environment of Care, Life Safety, related NPFA, and Federal, State, and local standards.
- Demonstrated ability to apply these codes and standards in healthcare setting.
- Good customer service and communications skills.
- Organizational skills to self-manage areas of responsibility and ensure equipment, parts and reference materials are readily available to a departmental staff.
- Basic computer skills to document work assignments, communicate status, and research issues or compliance needs. All technicians use tablet PC in field to receive assignments and track work.
- Experience working with monitoring and communication software (Microsoft Office, BAS and CMMS systems).
- Knowledge in refrigeration, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, electronic and/or carpentry preferred.
- Ability to read blueprints and schematics.
- Ability to work independently and utilize critical thinking to respond to emergency situations.

Candidates can apply by visiting <https://childrenswi.org/careers/search-jobs-and-apply> and searching for job ID 34654.

Organizational Information

At Children's Wisconsin, we believe kids deserve the best. Children's is a nationally recognized health system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of children. We provide primary care, specialty care, urgent care, emergency care, community health services, foster and adoption services, child and family counseling, child advocacy services and family resource centers. Our reputation draws patients and families from around the country.

We offer a wide variety of rewarding career opportunities and are seeking individuals dedicated to helping us achieve our vision of the healthiest kids in the country. If you want to work for an organization that makes a difference for children and families, and encourages you to be at your best every day, please apply today.

Please follow this link for a closer look at what it's like to work at Children's Wisconsin:

<https://www.instagram.com/lifeatchw/>

Employment Opportunities (continued)

Healthcare Mechanic

Mercyhealth Hospital – Rockton Ave, Rockford IL

Experience a rewarding and fulfilling career with Mercyhealth. Mercyhealth is committed to offering our partners a best place to work. Our unique workplace Culture of Excellence is built upon:

- Employee engagement, empowerment and growth
- Teamwork toward our common goal – providing exceptional health care services with a passion for making lives better
- An atmosphere of caring and quality that cascades throughout the organization

We're currently seeking a full time healthcare mechanic at our Rockford, IL location to join our team.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Performs preventive maintenance on plant equipment.
- Monitors all areas of the building for maintenance issues including, but not limited to the building envelope (exterior siding system, windows, doors) etc.; recognizing problems and reporting to appropriate facilities staff grounds related issues or concerns, i.e. sidewalk issues, asphalt paving problems etc.
- The Healthcare Mechanic II shall monitor, maintain and troubleshoot problems with the utility system within the building to ensure the proper and optimum operation including plumbing, mechanical, electrical, life safety and energy management systems. This includes being responsible for systems such as boiler plant, chiller plant, ventilation system, fire protection systems, refrigerator equipment and other hospital systems as may be assigned.
- Knowledge in the use of a computer and related organizational programs, CMMS and BAS is required. This position installs televisions as required, maintains motors, fans, and other hospital equipment.
- This position will also require possessing an understanding of cooling tower and chiller functions, air filter properties and water treatment system operations in order to optimize operations of the system.
- This position will require minor carpentry, electrical, painting, and tasks associated with HVAC.

Education and Experience

M.E.C.H. certification or 5 years of Mercy FMES experience or 10 years of documented commercial/industrial maintenance experience.

At Mercyhealth, we serve with a passion for making lives better, and we truly believe our accomplished staff is second to none in this mission. We hope you'll consider becoming part of the Mercyhealth family. To apply, please visit [Healthcare Mechanic – Mercyhealth \(healthcaresource.com\)](https://healthcaresource.com)

Employment Opportunities (continued)

Healthcare Mechanic

Mercyhealth Hospital – Janesville, WI – FT – 7am – 3:30 pm

Experience a rewarding and fulfilling career with Mercyhealth. Mercyhealth is committed to offering our partners a best place to work. Our unique workplace Culture of Excellence is built upon:

- Employee engagement, empowerment and growth
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High school diploma or equivalent

M.E.C.H. certification or 5 years of Mercy FMES experience or 10 years of documented commercial/industrial maintenance experience.

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