



# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

# Newsletter

**October 2023**

**Volume 33**

**3rd Quarter**

## Inside this issue:

Thank You WHEA Sponsors!	2
Calendar of Events	3
President Message (continued)	4
Education News	5
2024 Webinar Registration Open!	6
2024 Sponsorships Available!	7
Conference Committee	8-11
2023 Pioneer Award	12
2023 Founders Award	13
Member Services Committee	14
Technology Committee	15
Chapter I News	16-17
Code Critical	18
Chapter V News	19
ASHE Presidents Award	20-21
WHEA Foundation News	22
Employment Opportunities	23-24

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Jeff Weber*  
*WHEA President*

Hello WHEA members, hope everyone is well as we move into the fall season. Fall is a time of change where we start to focus on getting kids ready for another school year, attending fall sports that we enjoy in cooler temperatures and a time to prepare for the holidays. Like myself and my wife we enjoy getting out to pumpkin patches, corn mazes, wineries, picking grapes, apples, taking in some farming (on the farm for us city folks) and fall festivities. So much to do before we head into the winter months ahead. Speaking of staying busy and thing to come we have our upcoming Healthcare Construction Certificate training coming up here soon on November 1st. Great content and a certificate good for 3 years if you are new to the Healthcare environment. If you missed the email sent out, please be sure and go to [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com), Education, Educational Programs, HCC Program 11/1/2023 to register.

Great to see everyone who could make the WHEA Annual Conference in Green Bay this past September. We set an annual conference record for attendance, 341 attendees. I hope you found some humor listening to Charlie Berens, our keynote speaker. I want to give a shout out and a thank you to all our educators, sponsor, exhibitors and WHEA committee members, for helping us make this the largest attended conference. I always enjoy walking through the exhibit hall and seeing new products, finding solutions, and watching one of WHEA's finest aspects at work, "networking". The networking atmosphere delivers a great opportunity to grow your knowledge and expand your resources.

Just want to mention some things we are currently working on. Between now and the first State Board meeting our State Treasurer is putting together the next annual budget for us to approve. All our Standing Committees are hard at work getting their new committee members up to speed and planning for 2024. The Conference Committee has begun working on the results of all the surveys and feedback from the conference, so they can start plans for next year. Thank you to all that filled them out and provided feedback. Education has sent out next year's WHEA online webinar sessions, be  
(continued on page 4)



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**All scheduled events are subject to change. Be sure to check with your Chapter, Committee or the WHEA website for a possible schedule changes.**

# W H E A C A L E N D A R

For additional details on calendar events (time, location address, etc.), go to [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) and click on the individual event under the "CALENDAR" tab.

**11/1/2023**      **Healthcare Construction Certificate (HCC) Program**  
**Glacier Canyon, Wisconsin Dells**

**11/2/2023**      **Chapter II Meeting - 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**11/9/2023**      **Chapter I Meeting - 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

**11/9/2023**      **Lunch & Learn Series November Webinar - 11:30 am**

**11/14/2023**      **Codes & Standards Committee Meeting - 12:30 pm**

**12/1/2023**      **Member Services Committee Meeting - 1:00 pm**

**12/1/2023**      **State Board Meeting - 9:00 am - noon**

**12/7/2023**      **Chapter II Meeting**  
**11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**12/14/2023**      **Chapter I Meeting**  
**4:30 pm - 6:30 pm**

**12/14/2023**      **Lunch & Learn Series**  
**December Webinar**  
**11:30 am**



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## Presidents Message (continued)

sure to sign up for this monthly webinar subscription service starting in January. All this goes toward what WHEA is about; providing quality education, resources to knowledge, and keeping us in the know about education opportunities and codes and standards.

In closing, if you enjoy all the above mentioned items and have a few ideas to share or want to get involved, please reach out to any of our board members and committee chairs, let them know you are interested. WHEA would not be the remarkable organization it is today without the participation of our members.



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## *Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC)*



Darrell Courtney  
Co-Chair



Terry Phillips  
Co-Chair

### **Winter is at the ready. Are you?**

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we are offering the final Healthcare Construction Certificate Program (HCC) in Wisconsin Dells for 2023. The Healthcare Construction Certificate is a one-day seminar designed for contractors and hospital construction supervisors to provide knowledge of issues pertaining to construction in a healthcare environment. The HCC program is instructed by our very own Code Committee members. The one-day program is set up with an opportunity for all to participate.

The 2024 Lunch and Learn programs are set. The EPDC is proud to once again offer programs that our members have requested. Our 2023 programs have been received with very good reviews. We attempt to work with our contractors or suppliers to maintain a high level of training with our very low costs. All the programs listed came from your suggestions throughout the 2023 year as responses to our program evaluations. Thank you for your continued support to the education of our members in 2023.

Sign up for the 2024 Lunch and Learn Webinar Subscription and receive the remaining 2 webinars of 2023 as a bonus. As a subscriber, you will receive the recorded links to all the webinars and any you miss to re-view 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](http://www.whea.com) site, sign up, and start your learning today. You will receive the login information for the next scheduled webinar. The cost for the annual webinar series will again be \$300 for WHEA members and \$500 for non WHEA members. Register now at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) under the Education tab and receive the remaining 2023 webinar programs free.

See the next page for the complete webinar flyer including the proposed monthly topics.

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# WHEA's 2024 Monthly "Lunch & Learn" Webinars

Every 2nd Thursday of the month  
11:30 am to 1:00 pm

Available by yearly subscription only.

*There has been a very good mix of topics that relates to every day activities.*

*All was very beneficial and great knowledge to take in.*

*Thanks so much for making these available and for allowing us to be informed.*

*Keep up the good work!*

*I appreciate the ability to earn CECs on relevant topics via these convenient webinars.*

WHEA's Educational and Professional Development Committee is offering 12 webinars for the 2024 calendar year for a one time, low price per computer connection.\*

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

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

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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 CECs approved by ASHE.

**PLUS if you sign up now, you'll receive the login information for the last webinars of the 2023 series.**

**Registration is now open at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) for this 2024 webinar series.** Follow the drop downs under the Education tab, click on "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 subscription is location specific. Each facility/company location must purchase their own separate subscription, and if your facility or company has more than one location that you'd like to be able to watch the webinars, you must purchase a subscription for each location.**

## 2024 WEBINAR TENTATIVE TOPICS

<b>January 11</b>	ADA in Healthcare	<b>July 11</b>	FGI 2022 Impacts
<b>February 8</b>	Daily Rounds	<b>August 8</b>	Leadership
<b>March 14</b>	Generators	<b>September 12</b>	Suites
<b>April 11</b>	Heat Pumps	<b>October 10</b>	Construction Delivery
<b>May 9</b>	ICRA 2.0	<b>November 14</b>	Thermal Imaging
<b>June 13</b>	BAS	<b>December 12</b>	Critical Environment Ceiling Grids

# Apply for 2024 WHEA Sponsorship Today!



Dennis Havlik  
Sponsorship  
Committee Co-Chair



Donella Sarauer  
Sponsorship  
Committee Co-Chair

2024 will be our 22nd year of the sponsorship program, and the success of this program in past years has been outstanding! We would like to thank the 103 sponsors that pledged their support in 2023!

A WHEA sponsorship's primary purpose is to provide financial support for our annual conference and educational seminars throughout the year. WHEA cannot begin to express the sincere appreciation to these associate members and technical exhibitors who will support WHEA in the upcoming year.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. Within those levels of sponsorship are opportunities for free advertisements in the directory and newsletters, technical booth registrations and other ways to promote your company within the WHEA membership, depending on which level of sponsorship you choose.

Below is a link to the sponsorship webpage which explains all the perks of the different levels. Once you apply for sponsorship using the online registration form, your sponsorship request will be processed and you will be informed at the first of the year if your application has been accepted.

Follow this link: <https://www.whea.com/sponsorships/become-a-sponsor/>

Or go to [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) and click on the Sponsorship tab. Apply today!

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## Highlights from the 2023 WHEA Annual Conference



Ed Cosner  
Co-Chair



Kevin Feyen  
Co-Chair

The 2023 WHEA (Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association) Annual Conference brought together a conference record amount of professionals from the healthcare engineering industry to discuss the latest advancements, code updates, and strategies for improving healthcare facility operations. Held from September 19th to the 22nd, the conference featured an extensive agenda of informative sessions, engaging speakers, and networking opportunities. Some of the noteworthy highlights from this highly anticipated event's agenda were:

### Keynote Speaker: Charlie Berens:

The conference kicked off with a comedic and lively keynote address by Charlie Berens, captivating the audience with his unique blend of humor and insightful commentary. Berens, known for his "Manitowoc Minute" series and his Packer pre-game shorts, shared anecdotes and showed us the importance of humor in our lives.

### Code Compliance and Safety:

The conference dedicated considerable attention to building assessments, life safety code compliance, and fire protection concepts. Dale Wilson from Code Consultants, Inc., led an informative session that emphasized the significance of developing comprehensive assessments to meet the needs of healthcare facilities and discussed strategies for establishing effective fire protection systems, particularly in the context of "Defend in Place" protocols.

### ASHRAE 170 and Critical Environment Professionals:

Bill Middleton from Critical Environment Professionals shed light on the common misunderstandings surrounding ASHRAE 170 standards, which dictate ventilation requirements for healthcare facilities. His session focused on clarifying the nuances of the code and providing practical insights to ensure proper implementation. Middleton's expertise helped attendees grasp the importance of maintaining healthy indoor environments in healthcare settings.

(continued on page 9)

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## *2023 Annual Conference Recap (continued)*

### **Code Committee Updates:**

Wednesday's presentations sparked conversation around all things "codes". Various WHEA Code Committee members gave valuable instruction on Code Updates, Security in Healthcare, Life Safety and OSHA EPA/DNR & CMS Updates.

### **Infection Prevention**

Marge McFarlane, our resident expert in infection prevention, shared valuable insights on emerging hot topics in the field beyond the scope of COVID-19. Her session highlighted the need for proactive approaches to infection control, emphasizing the significance of comprehensive protocols and technological advancements to minimize healthcare-associated infections.

### **Water Resilience**

Another critical topic addressed was establishing water resilience in healthcare facilities. Joss Hurford from Affiliated Engineers, Inc., discussed strategies for safeguarding water systems, addressing potential vulnerabilities, and implementing resilient infrastructure to ensure a continuous and safe water supply within healthcare environments.

### **Industry Updates: DNV and The Joint Commission:**

Brennan Scott from DNV provided attendees with valuable updates on accreditation standards and regulations, emphasizing the importance of staying up-to-date with evolving compliance requirements. Additionally, Jim Kendig from The Joint Commission presented an overview of the 2023 updates to their accreditation standards, informing participants about the latest expectations and best practices in healthcare quality and safety.

*(continued on page 10)*



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## 2023 Annual Conference Recap (continued)

### Maintaining Rural Healthcare Access

Friday closed out with Kahler Slater taking an important look at accessing a community healthcare needs and identifying top priorities. The future of rural healthcare is an important subject for everyone.

### Technical Exhibition

The success of the WHEA Annual Conference depends on it's always popular technical exhibition that showcases current technology available to our healthcare engineering professionals. Thank you to all our exhibitors for their time and talent for bringing the updates on the latest & greatest in the healthcare engineering field. The opportunity to meet the excellent firms that supply and provide these services and technology are invaluable to our conference attendees.

**Finally**, the lighthearted moments of this past conference were exceptional. The planning that went into both the Tuesday Evening Open House and the Thursday Annual Banquet was extensive and exceptional. The work that all the various committees do to make these events run smoothly is nothing short of amazing. In addition, recognizing our leaders and members for their service to WHEA is important and the chance to laugh and mingle while networking with our industry peers at these conference casual events is rejuvenating for all our hardworking professionals.

The 2023 WHEA Annual Conference has proved to be a dynamic platform for healthcare professionals to exchange knowledge, explore innovative solutions, and strengthen their commitment to enhancing healthcare facility operations. Through a diverse range of sessions and engaging speakers, attendees gained valuable insights into code compliance, safety, infection prevention, water resilience, and industry updates. The conference's success lay in its ability to foster collaboration, driving the industry forward as it *(continued on page 11)*

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## 2023 Annual Conference Recap

continues to evolve and address the challenges of delivering high-quality healthcare in an ever-changing landscape. Thank you to all that both made this conference what it is and to all that attended. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

### 2024 WHEA Annual Conference Dates:

October 1st to October 4th

KI Convention Center, Green Bay

### Conference Committee Members:

Co-Chair	Ed Cosner
Co-Chair	Kevin Feyen
WHEA Administrative Assistant/ Conference Coordinator	Jane Bruvold
Special Events/Promotions	Darrell Courtney
Tech Exhibit Coordinator	Dennis Havlik
Tech Exhibit/Conference Assistant	Donella Sarauer
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Resource Committee Rep	Dennis Havlik



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— Michael Curry, VP of Risk Management, Rosford, Milwaukee, WI

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## *2023 Robert H. Botts Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award*



### **Amy Cote**

The 2023 Robert H. Botts Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award was conferred upon Amy Cote during the 2023 WHEA Annual Banquet in recognition of her significant achievements and contributions to the profession of Healthcare Engineering in the field of healthcare facility maintenance, construction management and innovation.

Amy has been a member of WHEA Chapter III as an Associate Member for 15 years. Since joining WHEA in 2008 she has proven to be a respected member. As a young individual, new to healthcare, she has grown as a healthcare engineering supporter and as a leader. She has been involved in many ways.

She started in Chapter III as Officer at Large, became the President of Chapter III and then Secretary/Treasurer for 13 years. In addition to her chapter involvement Amy serves on the Code Committee, Member Services Committee, and stepped in to lead the initiative to start a WHEA Facebook page.

Rick Helfrich, President, WHEA



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## 2023 Founders Award for Outstanding Service



### Katie Smith

The Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association on the 21st of September, awarded special recognition to Katie Smith for her endless contributions, dedication, and volunteerism to WHEA.

Katie currently serves as a volunteer for the WHEA Foundation and is a member of both the Conference, Member Services and Technology Committees.

While working with the Foundation Board, she was instrumental in setting up the Annual Golf Outing, which raises funds for the WHEA Foundation to grant to individuals who can apply for educational opportunities that they might not be able to receive in other ways.

As a member of the Technology Committee, she has led the way for new technology to be integrated into our Annual Conference, including the conference/technical exhibition app. She is the Technology Committee liaison to the Conference Committee.

Katie was recognized for all her hard work and dedication and for furthering WHEA's commitment to the healthcare organizations of Wisconsin. Her dedication is commendable and has not gone unnoticed.

Rick Helfrich, President, WHEA



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## Member Services Committee Q3 Update



*Roger Elliott  
Co-Chair*



*Brian Seymour  
Co-Chair*

This time of year the WHEA organization as a whole has a lot that we can be proud of as a membership. As a group, we are fresh off our annual conference, which was a huge success. We are settling back into our regular home chapter meetings and soaking up the educational opportunities that WHEA provides. After the annual conference, it is nice to ease back into our regular schedules as the leaves start to fall.

Since 2012 Member Services Committee's own Roger Elliott has regularly dedicated his time and care to the garden at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in



Chippewa Falls, WI. Roger was recently recognized for his dedication with being awarded the Jefferson Award by WQOW News 18 for his work in the community garden. Since founding the garden in 2012, Roger has guided the growth of the garden to make up 24 plots, all of which are tended by volunteers. Those volunteers pledge to donate all the produce that they grow and they deserve tremendous credit for the success achieved. The results are astounding! The 2023 harvest season has just been completed and has to date produced over 13 tons of food for local foodbanks and nonprofits. The positive impact this garden has on surrounding communities is immeasurable.

Please join our committee in congratulating Roger Elliott for his hard work, dedication and selflessness.

We are very proud of you Roger!

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## Technology Committee News



*Jim Benedict*  
Committee Chair

The Technology Committee continues to work behind the scenes on exploring Board, Committee and member ideas that could potentially benefit the membership from a technology side.

The WHEA LinkedIn page has continued to grow. As of this article, we have 901 followers with an increase of 167 new followers in the past year. The Technology Committee continues to post content that is relevant to both current members and possible future members.

The WHEA Facebook page has gone through some updates. We ask that all members / Boards / Committees please continue or start to send us information and pictures that we can post to ensure the page remains relevant.

The WHOVA App was once again used during the 2023 annual conference in Green Bay. This was the third year we used this app and it was once again beneficial to those that used it. The app creates opportunities for all attendees to stay connected and has eliminated the need for the binders, which ensures sustainability and reduces the amount of labor needed to input information.

The Technology Committee continues to ask for input / content / pictures from all members on pertinent information that can be posted on social media and for ideas on possible future technology needs. Please reach out to one of our members for further information.



## Chapter / News



Grace Redovich  
Chapter President

Chapter 1 kicked off our 2023/2024 season (third quarter 2023) with a golf outing on September 8 at Edgewood Golf Course in Big Bend. This was our first outing at this course, and we filled it up with 288 golfers and 36 hole sponsors. It was a picture perfect summer day, and everyone had a great time on the two 18 hole courses. After golf we had drawings for 50 gift packages from our generous sponsors, and everyone enjoyed an amazing buffet.

(continued on page 17)



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## Chapter 1 News (continued)



Chapter 1 has such generous Associate Members, and our whole year's worth of monthly meetings are already scheduled with hosts and education. Our first monthly Chapter Meeting was held on Thursday, September 14 at JM Brennan. Just over 40 of us enjoyed a warm sunny social time on their spacious patio, followed by a Business Meeting. After the business portion, JM Brennan shared an informative presentation on Fire Extinguisher Maintenance.

At that first meeting Grace Redovich presented the Board's chapter goals for the year, which were finalized at the October meeting. The six WHEA Chapter 1 goals for the 2023/2024 year are:

- Increase Full Member membership and attendance.
- Onboard New Members.
- Increase Committee Member report outs after committee meetings.
- Lessons Learned shared at monthly meetings.
- Full Member Financial Education Assistance available
- Annual Support of the WHEA Foundation.

We are excited about the year ahead!



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## Code Critical



Jeff Eckstein  
Co-Chair



David Soens  
Co-Chair

We have some news to share regarding updates on two new codes editions and general updates on other code topics.

- **WI Plumbing Code.** New Plumbing Code in effect. The updates to Wisconsin plumbing code since 2009 will take effect on October 1. The Code Committee is working on a summary of changes...stay tuned for those.
- **Wisconsin Commercial Building Code – ICC.** Wisconsin State Legislature Joint Committee's in the Senate and Assembly reviewed and objected to the DSPS proposal to adopt the 2021 IBC on September 29, 2023. The State of Wisconsin will continue to use the 2015 IBC at this time. Details

available at: [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/chr/all/cr\\_23\\_007](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/chr/all/cr_23_007)

- **FGI:**
  - ◊ 2022 editions: No adoption updates yet
  - ◊ 2026 editions: Work starting in December 2022

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## Chapter V Update



Matt Preston  
Chapter President

We held our October meeting on October 19, 2023, at the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club in Eau Claire. We had a great turnout of (27) attendees and enjoyed networking. The training for the meeting was provided by Trane and was a session on the electrification of heating systems for a sustainable future. Following the meeting we had our annual trap shoot and fun was had by all in attendance. Meeting topics included board reports, discussed the January banquet, voted in (2) new members, and confirmed our new Chapter board members.

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024 with the location to be determined.

### Chapter V Officers for 2024

- President – Matt Preston
- Vice President – Ben Trachsel
- Treasurer - Kelly Roshell
- Secretary – Morgan Weiss
- Officer at Large – Walker Golubiff
- Past President – Kris Hahn



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## INTERVIEW // BY LONDON HEGEDUS



# ASHE President's Award recipient touts teamwork

**Dean M. Pufahl**, CHFM, CHC, past president of the American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE) Advisory Board, was presented the 2023 ASHE President's Award during August's ASHE Annual Conference. In this month's *HFM* interview, Pufahl reflects on his personal philosophy and the impact of his involvement.

### How does it feel to receive this year's President's Award?

It is humbling that I am being recognized for what I would call team success, and yet it is very rewarding to be acknowledged by peers for my ideas and efforts. I am very grateful for the people who have supported me over the years, for those who have trusted me enough to let me run with my crazy ideas, those who challenged me to be better and for those who blazed the trail that made it possible for me to be successful.

### What philosophies do you hold that have helped you succeed in your work?

Volunteer every chance you get. You gain valuable experience, expand your knowledge and strengthen your peer network. That, and get up every morning with the intent to improve one thing, fix one process, remove one barrier or make someone's job easier. Just one thing — that's all it takes. It doesn't need to be a transformational change; most often it's a simple transitional change or process improvement that will make the biggest difference. If you do this, in a week you will see the change in your job; at the end of a month, your team will feel the impact; in a few months, your peers and leaders will have noticed the improvements; and at the end of a year, you will have had a positive impact on your organization that everyone will have noticed.

### Was there a turning point in your career that affirmed your confidence in your abilities as a health facilities leader?

In 2006, I was recruited by a small hospital system in my hometown, and it gave me an opportunity to find out whether my prior success was due to my efforts or if I was just part of a great team. It turned out to be both. I learned that my programs worked; I also learned that in the expanded role directing several services departments, I needed additional skills to continue being successful.

Looking for experts in the areas where I lacked knowledge had me reaching out to other ASHE and Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association (WHEA) members, who openly shared their experiences and pointed me to the best education programs.

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEAN PUFahl



This left me with a far deeper appreciation for ASHE and WHEA education programs and the benefits of networking, which are such an important part of both the ASHE and WHEA experience. This was also the period where I became aware of the need to give back.

#### How did you get your start with ASHE?

There was a series of events that led to my involvement and commitment to ASHE. I had attended the ASHE Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition for a few years at that point, and several of those times were on my own dime. I have always felt that the Annual Conference provided value that I could not get elsewhere, and it was worth the investment.

While traveling to the Annual Conference one year, I met Steve Vinopal, WHEA member and ASHE Advisory Board Region 6 Representative. Steve pulled me into the ASHE Region 6 Conference Committee, where I learned about the need for quality education at a regional level and the value that education brought to ASHE members who were unable to attend the ASHE Annual.

A few years later, I joined the WHEA Board. Wade Rudolph, then president of WHEA, nominated me for the ASHE Region 6 Emerging Leader Award, which I did receive. As my region's emerging leader, I was invited to the ASHE Leadership Institute, which was an amazing experience and opened new doors and opportunities to participate on ASHE committees and task forces. Also, networking with the other emerging leaders, members and ASHE staff has led to many new opportunities to get involved.

#### What value did ASHE provide for you at that phase of your professional life?

In the early part of my career, much of my education and facility operations knowledge came from reading ASHE articles and white papers. These became the foundation of my job knowledge, and as my role in the facilities department progressed from maintenance mechanic/stationary engineer to supervisor, manager, director and then director over multiple departments, the articles I read supported that growth. ASHE as an organization has a wealth of information available to

## THE PUFahl FILE

### CV

- Director of enterprise facility service (retired), Froedtert Health, Froedtert West Bend Hospital, West Bend, Wis.
- Director of facility management, SynergyHealth — St. Joseph's Hospital, West Bend.
- Director of plant operations, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare — Elmbrook Memorial Hospital, Brookfield, Wis.
- Manager of plant operations, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare — Elmbrook Memorial Hospital.
- Maintenance supervisor, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare — Elmbrook Memorial Hospital.
- Maintenance mechanic/stationary engineer, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare — Elmbrook Memorial Hospital.

### AFFILIATIONS

- American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE) member.
- ASHE Advisory Board president (2019).
- Wisconsin Healthcare Engineers Association (WHEA) president (2012).
- WHEA Foundation board member.
- YMCA Construction Advisory Committee Volunteer of the Year (2021).
- National Fire Protection Association member.

### EDUCATION

- Certificate, electronic service from Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee, Wis.
- Certificate, machine repair from Moraine Park Technical College, West Bend.

the membership. No matter where you are in your career, ASHE has resources in multiple formats that can help you grow your job knowledge and skills.

I also have to recognize the value of attending the ASHE Annual Conference. The networking aspect of the conference is invaluable for career development, but for me, the real benefit is learning from experts in the field and health care facilities leaders. As a maintenance mechanic, I had a sign in my toolbox that read, "A good mechanic has the right tool for every job." I found out in my career that ASHE is the "right tool."

#### Which issues facing the ASHE membership were most important to you during your time as president?

The timing here is key, as my term as president was ending as the COVID-19 pandemic started, which changed everyone's focus in the months following. Prior to the pandemic, I would say that "change" was the issue. There was no one specific issue when it came to challenges the ASHE Advisory Board faced during my term as president, as everything was changing rapidly.

Technology advancements changed how people learned and wanted to learn; there were urgent conversations happening around diversity; member expectations exceeded our capacity to meet the speed of change; the American Hospital Association changed how it viewed and managed its professional membership groups (including ASHE); budgets were in flux; and long-term ASHE staff turned over. For each of these issues, there was pressure pushing for the change and also pushing back against that change.

Navigating these pressures offered unique challenges for the ASHE Advisory Board, but by tapping into our most valuable resource — our members' knowledge and experience — through open communication with board members, we were able to make impactful positive changes.

#### Which accomplishments in your career or with ASHE are you most proud of?

For me, the pride comes in two areas: seeing the success of the people I have worked with or helped along in their careers, and seeing the processes and programs I have been able to put in place to help the next person. If I had to pick two examples, they would be the Women's Networking and Mentoring initiatives and the work with the Region 6 Educational Conference Committee.

Again, these were great successes not because of my work alone, but because many other people took these ideas and brought them to fruition. Kudos to all the ASHE members, chapter leaders and business partners who worked together to help these programs succeed! **HFM**

Landon Hegedus is assistant editor of *Health Facilities Management* magazine.

## *Unlocking Opportunities: WHEA Foundation \$500 Education Grants for Healthcare Facilities*



Gordon Howie  
WHEA Foundation

In a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, staying updated with the latest knowledge and certifications is crucial for professionals and institutions alike. To support the pursuit of excellence in healthcare, we are thrilled to announce the availability of \$500 education grants tailored for healthcare facilities. This initiative aims to empower professionals to enhance their expertise through education, certifications, and research endeavors.

### **Investing in Excellence**

At the heart of any thriving healthcare facility lies a team of dedicated professionals committed to providing the highest quality of care. Our \$500 education grants are designed to facilitate access to cutting-edge education, certifications, and research opportunities, ensuring that healthcare professionals are equipped with the latest advancements in their field.

### **Benefits of the Grant**

**Enhancing Expertise:** The grants open doors to a wide array of educational avenues, from specialized courses and certifications to advanced research opportunities. By investing in your team's knowledge, you're investing in the quality of care provided.

**Promoting Innovation:** Healthcare is a dynamic field, with new discoveries and technologies emerging constantly. These grants foster an environment of innovation, allowing professionals to explore new methods and technologies that can revolutionize patient care.

**Fostering Professional Growth:** Continuing education and certifications are essential for career advancement. Our grants offer professionals the chance to expand their skill sets, making them more competitive in the healthcare industry.

**Elevating Patient Care:** A knowledgeable and skilled healthcare team directly translates to improved patient outcomes. By availing of these grants, healthcare facilities are taking a proactive step towards enhancing the overall well-being of their patients.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for the \$500 education grants, healthcare facilities must:

- Have a clear plan outlining how the grant will be utilized to enhance the knowledge and expertise of the individual or their team.
- Provide evidence of the intended education, certification, or research program.

**Application Process -** Submit an application to the WHEA Foundation:

[howie.gordon@mayo.edu](mailto:howie.gordon@mayo.edu)

A funding request form can be found at the bottom of this page.

**Evaluation and Selection:** The WHEA Foundation Board will review the applications based on the eligibility criteria and the potential impact of the proposed program. Successful applicants will be notified promptly.

**Grant Utilization:** Once awarded, the grant can be used to cover tuition fees, research expenses, or any other costs associated with the chosen education, certification, or research endeavor.

The WHEA Foundation \$500 education grants for healthcare facilities represent a commitment to excellence in patient care. By investing in the knowledge and expertise of your team, you're not only elevating the standard of care but also future-proofing your facility in a rapidly advancing healthcare landscape. Apply today and take the first step towards a brighter, more innovative future in healthcare.

**Link to webpage and form:** <https://www.whea.com/about/whea-foundation/>





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# Employment Opportunities

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

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**St. Croix Health is seeking a full-time, exempt Director of Facilities.**

## **JOB SUMMARY:**

The Director plans, develops, and oversees administration of the SCH plant facilities, grounds, biomedical equipment, construction/renovation activities, environmental services, and safety programs to help increase operational efficiency and maximize all available resources while maintaining compliance with regulatory agencies.

## **ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **1. Strategic Operational Accountability**

- Responsible for overall plant operations, equipment needs, and building maintenance services including oversight for strategic facilities management program development and implementation.
- Drive and steer leadership teams supporting building maintenance and environmental services functions across all facilities and sites.

### **2. Facility/Maintenance Operational Accountability**

- Responsible for Facility Master Plan and holds accountability for all construction and development of physical facilities including the review, evaluation, and recommendation for approval of plans for construction in coordination with Infection Prevention/Quality team.
- Holds accountability for facility-related projects and takes necessary action to remain within budget and schedules, while ensuring compliance with all applicable rules and regulations through planning phase, design development, construction documents, and construction administration in conformance to standards and specifications.
- Monitors and drives the timely addressment and completion of work orders and preventative maintenance for designated plant operations equipment utilizing data-driven analysis and solution development.
- Establishes standards, implements and oversees the maintenance policies and procedures that guide building maintenance programs which includes preventive maintenance, repairs, shutdowns, and replacement.

### **3. Environmental Services Operational Accountability**

- Directs staff in establishing work schedules and priorities to ensure that workflow is controlled and the highest standards of sanitation and cleanliness are maintained. Ensures adherence to documented infection control policies and procedures.
- Monitors and drives the timely addressment and completion of work orders and preventative maintenance for environment services to ensure facilities are safely maintained in a sanitary, attractive, and orderly condition.
- Plans and oversees compliant management and disposal of hazardous waste.
- Conducts and manages outcomes resulting from environmental rounds. Active driver of quality and performance improvement activities.

### **4. Emergency Preparedness, Safety, & Security**

- Works in coordination with Emergency Department Manager, CNO, and other key stakeholders in the development, periodic testing, and ongoing improvement of a disaster response/crisis management plan.
- Develop and implement a preventive maintenance plan for emergency equipment.
- Coordinates with key stakeholders in the development of a system of emergency response training and supervises periodic emergency drills.
- Ensures safe and secure facilities and systems through active and comprehensive surveillance and security access controls and procedures.
- Acts as the organization's designated Safety Officer and serves as Chair of the Safety Committee.

### **5. Regulatory Compliance**

- Maintains up to date knowledge of current and changing regulatory compliance standards and industry best practices in facility-related functions; monitors and implements program modifications as appropriate.

(continued on page 24)

## *Employment Opportunities (continued)*

- Ensures all functional areas are in full compliance with internal and external legal and regulatory standards. Ensures the highest state of compliance for all standards related to the Environment of Care and Life Safety governed by CMS, TDH, OSHA, and other regulatory bodies; regularly assesses and monitors to ensure effective controls are in place and desired outcomes are achieved.
- Serves as the Safety Officer and provides consultative services to departments within the organization to help achieve and maintain regulatory compliance by collaborating with clinicians and other staff to develop and implement processes that ensure all standards related to the Environment of Care and Life Safety Code are met and that organizational-wide program training requirements are satisfied.

### **6. Staff Management and Development**

- Develops, monitors, and evaluates professional standards and assesses skills to ensure competence of staff needed to accomplish organizational and departmental goals. Works effectively with other leaders for consistency in philosophy, purpose, process, protocol, and outcome.
- Ensures staff are appropriately trained and competent in performance of assigned duties; assesses competencies of staff on regular basis.
- Coaches, mentors, and develops staff to promote skill development and leadership capacity.

### **7. Budget and Fiscal Administration**

- Determines financial resources necessary to achieve established strategic performance objectives consistent with guiding principles and strategic framework.
- Oversees the preparation of complete and accurate financial, budget, activity, and productivity information, including variance reports, financial projections, and other statistical data-informed reports for facility, maintenance, and environmental services programs.
- Education & Licensure:
- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university in engineering (electrical or mechanical), healthcare administration, construction management, or other degree with a major in a safety-related field; Master's degree preferred.
- ASHE Certified Healthcare Engineer (CHE) OR Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager (CHFM) preferred.
- IBCSM Certified Healthcare Safety Professional (CHSP) preferred.

### **Experience:**

- Seven (7) years of progressive leadership experience in a relevant healthcare facility setting required.
- Three (3) years of experience in safety management, risk management, facilities management, quality improvement, or infection control in a health care facility required.
- Previous experience as Hospital Life Safety Officer preferred.
- Previous experience developing policies and procedures preferred.
- Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:
- Broad knowledge of federal, state, and local regulatory agency standards and others requirements applicable to the healthcare industry for organizations doing business in Wisconsin and Minnesota (including TJC, CMS, EPA, NFPA, OSHA, CDC, ADA).
- Extensive knowledge of the principles of electricity, electronics, plumbing, carpentry, boiler operation, HVAC and general building maintenance in addition to knowledge of autoclaving, bio-waste, life safety codes, and construction phasing.
- Broad knowledge of the principles of infection prevention, cleaning, sterilization, and waste management to ensure a clean and safe healthcare environment.
- Strong interest in sustainability and innovation.
- Ability to provide experienced, professional leadership and communicate effectively with leadership, management, vendors, and maintenance/environmental services personnel in an effective way with the ultimate goal of providing a safe environment to each and every patient and staff member.

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