



Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

Newsletter

December 2020

Volume 30

4th Quarter

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President's Message



Kevin Feyen
WHEA President

2020 was a year that changed the way we went about our day to day operations. Most of our daily routines at home and work were turned upside down and forced to rethink those tasks. As we look back at 2020 and take some positives away from the challenging year, this adversity shows that we can conquer anything.

For WHEA this year we paused, adapted and moved forward. The organization continues to thrive and is solid and healthy. We may not have accomplished as much as we wanted to this past year, but we banded together and found new and different ways to serve our members. We will continue to build off this in 2021.

As we get going here in 2021, Chapters will work on getting meetings back in-person, as restrictions are lifted, and work to keep the virtual meeting option intact for those unable to join in person. We will continue to provide education and training for members with the goal of having our annual conference in person in La Crosse.

I would like to thank all our members, volunteers and sponsors for keeping this organization healthy and thriving. Continue to support your organizations in any manner necessary for every patient, family member and staff. Thank you and remember, every patient is your patient.

Happy Holidays and a welcome to 2021,

A final thank you to our 2020 Sponsors!

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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

14 Jan, Thu | 11:30am – 1pm
Lunch ☉ Learn Series Webinar

28 Jan, Thu
Chapter III Virtual Meeting

4 Feb, Thu
Chapter II Zoom Meeting

11 Feb, Thu | 11:30am – 1pm
Lunch ☉ Learn Series Webinar

11 Feb, Thu
Chapter I Zoom Meeting

18 Feb, Thu
Chapter V Meeting

4 March Thu
Chapter II Zoom Meeting

9 Mar, Tue
Code Committee Meeting - Wild Rock Golf Club, WI Dells

11 Mar, Thu
Chapter I Zoom Meeting

11 Mar, Thu | 11:30am – 1pm
Lunch ☉ Learn Series Webinar

12 Mar, Fri
Board Meeting - Glacier Canyon Conference Center, WI Dells

25 Mar, Thu
Chapter III Virtual Meeting

1 Apr, Thu
Chapter II Zoom Meeting

8 Apr, Thu
Chapter I Zoom Meeting

8 Apr, Thu | 11:30am – 1pm
Lunch ☉ Learn Series Webinar



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IN MEMORIAM - Paul Feldner

Paul D. Feldner, 74, passed away on "All Saints Day" November 1, 2020 at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac. He was born on March 11, 1946 in Fond du Lac to Herman and Georgine (Abler) Feldner.

He attended St. Mary's Grade School and graduated from St. Mary's Springs High School, class of 1964.

After High School, he volunteered and proudly served in the US Navy on the Aircraft Carrier USS Intrepid during the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1967. The USS Intrepid is now a Navy Museum in New York City. After his active duty in the service, he began working at St. Agnes Hospital in 1967, working his way to the position of Director of Facilities Management. He was a third-generation hospital engineer, retiring from the hospital after 35 years. He then went on to work as a project manager for CD Smith Construction for 5 years until his retirement.

Paul married Beth Hammang on February 3, 1968 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fond du Lac. They shared a birthday and a birthplace, St. Agnes Hospital.

He was a lifetime member of the WHEA, (WI Healthcare Engineers Association,) receiving an award for 50 years of membership and service, only the second to receive this award in the WHEA history.

In retirement, his hobbies included woodworking, wood making, fishing, cooking, hunting, golfing, card playing and sporting clay shooting.

He would help anyone who would ask but was reluctant to ask for anything in return.

Although he didn't have grandchildren, he loved having his nieces and nephews visit and sharing his many hobbies and skills with them.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Beth; two sons, Philip and David; two sisters, Linda O'Neill and Joan (Bill) Weber; a brother, Steve Feldner; sisters-in-law, Cathy (Dan) Bittner, Sara (Dick) Diener and Paula (Bill) Hilbert; brothers-in-law, Dr. Joseph (Susan) Hammang, Bill Halama and Mike Davies. He is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Georgine Feldner; parents-in-law, Paul and Elizabeth Hammang Twohig (Dr. David); sisters-in-law, Louise Townes and Ann Halama; brothers-in-law, Joe O'Neill, Bob Halama, Bill Townes.

Due to current circumstances, a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Cremation has taken place.

His family wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the professional staff at Agnesian and UW Madison who helped him give the Gift of Life through the donation of his liver.

Memorials in Paul's name may be given to the Disabled American Veterans or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



WHEA Annual Directory Advertising Opportunities Available!

All 2021 directory ad copy space must be reserved and paid for using our online order form found on www.whea.com by January 31st. Go to www.whea.com and follow the dropdowns under "Publications" to "Directory".

If you are a WHEA sponsor this year, do not use the online order form, please email Jane at info@whea.com for instructions on how to order your complimentary advertisement.

QUARTER PAGE

COLOR RATES & SIZES

1/8 Page (3½" x 2½") \$275

1/4 Page (3½" x 5") \$385

1/2 Page (7½" x 5") \$605

Full Page (7½" x 10") \$825

*For full page ad, include a .125" bleed
(Ad sizes are approximate)*

EIGHTH PAGE

BLACK AND WHITE RATES & SIZES

1/8 Page (3½" x 2½") \$195

1/4 Page (3½" x 5") \$275

1/2 Page (7½" x 5") \$395

Full Page (7½" x 10") \$555

(Ad sizes are approximate)

HALF PAGE

**Ads must be emailed to
info@whea.com
by February 28th.**

Advertising Copy Requirements

For reproduction of your ad copy in any of our publications, we can accept high quality jpeg files, pdf files, and tiff files. We can develop entirely new ad copy for you or rework your existing ad, if needed. Please contact Jane Bruvold at info@whea.com with any questions or for additional information on advertisement development.

2021 Sponsorship Opportunities Are Still Available



Dennis Havlik
Committee Chair

The Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association (WHEA) is in the process of acquiring requests for sponsorship for 2021. The Platinum sponsorships are no longer available but your organization may still choose between the Gold and Silver sponsorship levels. Depending on which level of sponsorship you choose, there may be opportunities for free advertisements in the directory and newsletters, technical booth registrations and other ways to promote your company within the WHEA membership. You'll find the specifics for each sponsorship level on www.whea.com under the Sponsorship tab.

Once you apply for sponsorship using the online registration form, your sponsorship request will be processed. You will be informed by email within a week if your sponsorship request has been accepted and will be contacted regarding your sponsorship level opportunities. Please go to www.whea.com and click on the Sponsorship tab for complete information on each level of sponsorship and the link to the sponsorship application.

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2021 WHEA Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition



Ed Cosner
Committee Chair

With the disappointing but necessary cancellation of the 2020 Annual Conference this past year, the conference committee is feeling hopeful that there will be a 2021 Annual Conference and planning for it will begin in earnest at their Conference Committee meeting in mid-January. We were able to re-sign the speakers we had planned for last year's conference so in many ways we are way ahead of the planning curve this year. Registration should open up in late March to early April on the Conference webpage at www.whea.com. We are all going to do our best to make this year's conference memorable for both the attendees and the technical exhibitors.

This year's conference will be held at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse on September 21 - 24 with the Technical Exhibition occurring on Wednesday, September 22 and the Tuesday Evening Open House on the night of the 21st. Please watch the WHEA website for additional information postings and we hope you will join us in making this year's conference extra special.

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.

2020 Technical Exhibition Booth Registration Fee

\$700 Early Bird (register before March 31st)

\$750 Regular Registration

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. Further 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!**

Education and Professional Development Committee (EPDC) / 2020 What a Year



Darrell Courtney
Committee Co-Chair



Terry Phillips
Committee Co-Chair

2020 has been a crazy year for you in the healthcare field, WHEA and the EPDC. The EPDC strives to offer the best education for our members at the best prices available. The programs are offered to you in your buildings with our web based services. As the COVID pandemic starts to subside with the vaccine and good health practices, we will plan to work toward site based programs in the 2021 year.

In the past, our Lunch and Learn Webinar Series allowed education for as many as you can fit in a room for a \$300 fee a year. In 2021, WHEA will continue to forego the one connection rule. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy. The annual offering also allows you to go back and review any and all programs from the past year or that last one that you may have missed. You can always assign your team members to review any topic that you feel necessary. For the 2021 year, we have a great list of programs directed to everyone in your facility.

In 2021, we will again be working with the Codes & Standards Committee to offer three Healthcare Construction Certificate programs (HCC) around the state. We will also be attempting to offer our Spring Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Our Advanced HCC has been a great success and we look forward to continue the program for the future. Once again, we will be working to hold an early HCC for our members. Thank you to the Codes & Standards Committee for their continued efforts to keep our quality programs at a reasonable cost for our association.

We look forward to continuing to provide great educational opportunities in 2021 to all of our WHEA members. The education session calendar should be finalized by the end of January. Check back at the Education page on the WHEA website for updated information and registration openings.

Now is the time to 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. 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.

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WHEA's 2021 Monthly "Lunch & Learn" Webinars

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

Available by yearly subscription only.

I learned about the different kinds of sprinkler heads. I never knew there were so many kinds.

Love the new webinar app!

The presenters had a very good presentation of NFPA 25 that was interesting and informative.

I enjoy these, I learn something new from every one I attend. Thanks.

Keep up with the great information.

WHEA's Educational and Professional Development Committee is offering 12 webinars for the 2021 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 2020 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 for this 2021 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.

**WHEA is foregoing the one connection rule for the 2021 webinar year. To do what we can to promote healthy distancing, you do not need to sit in one room to watch our webinars. As long as your facility location has purchased a webinar subscription, feel free to login in separately and have your personnel login separately from their personal computers or smart phones.*

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

TENTATIVE 2021 WEBINAR MONTHLY TOPICS

January HVAC Filtration

July: Life Safety (Rated Walls & Systems)

February: Spotting Construction Deficiencies

August: OSHA Safety for Workers (Confined Space)

March: Med Gas

September: High Voltage Switchgear

April: Joint Commission Updates

October: Fire Door/Fire Compartment Training

May: Maintaining Exhaust Fans

November: Infection Prevention and What Facilities Can Do To Assist.

June: Maintenance of AHUs (Belts, Alignments, Damper Operation) / Pumps (Coupling, Alignments, Gauges)

December: Water Quality Issues Around Chlorine Dioxide Additives and Legionella.

Chapter I News



Heather Slotke
Chapter I President

Chapter 1 has continued to meet monthly via Zoom. Even though we miss being together “in person” at least we still get to see our Members faces and share these times together. The good news is that we actually start meetings on time when we are virtual versus trying to quiet down our lively Chapter to get down to business.

We have also continued to partner with our Associate Members to provide a great education after the meetings via Zoom as well.

September – Property Condition Assessments
Presented by ECS Midwest

October – DHS Update Presented by Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

November – Water Management; What is Relevant
Now. Presented by Phigenics

December – Recovery & Restoration Presented
Collectively by Kelman Restoration; Service
Master Recovery Services and A&J Property
Restoration.

We did have a successful golf outing and were able to raise \$3,500 for the WHEA Foundation!



Notably, we voted Full Member Neil Jensen as a Life Time Member.

Neil has been a Full Member of Chapter 1 since 2000 and served for 13 years as both Treasurer and Members Services Representative.

We also voted Harley Herold, former WHEA Chapter 1 and State President in as a retired member.

We look forward to their continued contributions to WHEA as they both enjoy retirement.

We are taking a break this January and look forward to our February 11, 2021 Zoom Meeting and Presentation on Alternative Care Facilities Presented by HGA and their trade partners. We will also continue to assess if we can meet in person come March or how we will finish off the year.

Stay Safe Everyone!

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WHEA State Treasurer Position Transition



John Pohlmann
Past Treasurer



Dan Loest
Incoming Treasurer

After six years as WHEA Treasurer, John Pohlmann decided to step down. In addition, John officially retired from his facilities management role at Reedsburg Area Medical Center. This all occurred September 1, 2020. I would like to thank John for his commitment, first to his leadership role at Reedsburg Area Medical Center, and second his volunteer role as Treasurer of WHEA! John's leadership as treasurer has been nothing but stellar! He instituted several initiatives to best manage WHEA's finances with regards to our investments, credit card process, payroll, taxes, and insurance.

I heard the call for a member to take on this role from John. After several weeks of contemplating and some soul searching, I agreed to accept the challenge and serve WHEA as the new treasurer. I knew I wanted to do more in WHEA, an organization that has given so much to me. This role felt like a good fit and made sense. Over a couple of phone calls, and a face-to-face hand-off the transition was complete on September 1, 2020. I can only now hope to continue where John left off. It has been a learning curve and will be for a while, but John had everything laid out for the transition to ensure his predecessor would be successful - So far so good!

Thank you, John Pohlmann, for your years of service and enjoy your well-deserved retirement! WHEA, thank you for supporting me in this new leadership role in the greatest healthcare engineering association in the country!

Dan Loest
WHEA Treasurer

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Code Critical

Codes & Standards Committee



Jeff Eckstein
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David Soens
Co-Chair

A New Water Management Program Standard Proposed by The Joint Commission for 2021

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

In the fall of 2020, The Joint Commission (TJC) proposed a new water management program standard for hospitals, critical access hospitals and long-term care facilities. The purpose is to better align TJC water management standard with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) requirements and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). The proposed implementation date of the new

standard is July 2021.

The proposed standard will replace EC.02.05.01 EP 14 (for hospitals and critical access hospitals) and EP 6 (for long term care). While the comment period is closed, it is important that facility managers and their water management teams continue to follow all of the monitoring, testing, inspection, and correction protocols outlined in their current Water Management Plan (WMP) to maintain patient safety. This is especially important in areas that may have been closed or modified due to the pandemic.

(continued on page 13)

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Code Critical (continued)

The proposed standard will include four new elements of performance (EP) to cover the WMP oversight and implementation team, diagrams and building evaluations for the development of the water risk management plan, results and corrective actions and updating the plan when changes have been made to the water system or equipment. Evaluation of the WMP and outcomes will now be scored under EC.04.01.01, EP 1, for the process of monitoring, reporting and investigated utility system issues.

TJC does not require culturing for *Legionella* or other waterborne pathogens. It states that testing protocols are at the discretion of the facility unless required by law or regulation. Culturing for *Legionella*, however, is required by CMS and CDC if there is one confirmed or two probable cases of facility-acquired Legionellosis.

On a related topic, TJC published a FAQ in August 2020, about the maintenance required for hemodialysis water sources (boxes) in patient rooms. The discussion was about plumbing fixtures, such as the recessed box, that combines the water supply and drain in patient rooms for use with hemodialysis equipment. These fixtures are often connected to the regular water supply and then connected to the dialysis machine through a portable reverse osmosis (RO) system. This fixture is essentially a faucet with a dead leg. The risk of not periodically flushing this fixture could result in stagnant water, a potential source of increased pathogenic waterborn pathogens.

Wall boxes need to be cleaned, disinfected, and properly maintained according to installation and maintenance requirements to decrease risk of patient infections. They can become easily contaminated with microorganisms, which can subsequently be transferred to dialysis patients, a vulnerable group at high risk of infection.

TJC stated that “these water box fixtures are utility components and as such should be included in your utilities maintenance program and maintained in accordance with manufacturer requirements; see EC 02.05.05 EP 6 and are included in the water management plan required by EC.02.05.01 EP 14.”

Timely review of the entire WMP will ensure that when inspections resume, the required 12 months of data will be readily available, reviewed and patient safety maintained.



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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 become official this year at the October State Board Meeting. We started off by establishing a WHEA LinkedIn Page. We made our first post on 3/6/20 but the page was dormant until 8/24/20 due to COVID and prepping content plans. We have been posting roughly once a week since then. We now have 304 followers!

Due to current events and looking towards the future, Technology will continue to play a great part in WHEA. We are hoping that the continued outreach will help us with our goal to “grow the next generation of Wisconsin Healthcare Engineers!”

We look forward to continuing to grow as a committee and keep everyone up to date.

Please reach out to us for posting inquiries.

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