

# WISCONSIN HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Volume 17 • 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

*Carl Budde and Darwin Clausen will be co-chairing the newest standing committee for the state board — the Resource Committee!*



### President's Message *by Tom Laabs, CHFM • WHEA President*

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2007. There is a lot going on in the organization and the plate is full for the remainder of the year. First I would like to take the time to thank the sponsors for 2007, without their support we would not be able to offer the quality educational programs that are offered throughout the year. The sponsors for this year have again exceeded our expectations. As of the writing of this edition, there are a total of twenty-eight sponsors. Boldt Construction, for the third year running, is sponsoring WHEA at the Platinum level and, as such, will receive special recognition at the annual conference at Green Bay in September. There are twenty-two sponsors at the Gold level which supports the management level educational needs of the organization, and five silver Sponsors will be supporting mechanic training activities. These sponsors will allow WHEA to continue to expand our services to better meet the needs of our membership.

Also I would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers throughout the state for their tireless service to WHEA. The work at the Chapter level along with all the committees and board members at the state level work very hard to give our members timely, affordable information and training; delivering high quality educational opportunities necessary to keep up with the ever changing healthcare environment.

I am very happy to announce the formation of a new standing committee at the state level. The Committee will be known as the Resource Committee and will be co-chaired by Carl Budde and Darwin Clausen. Joe Plonka will also be serving on this committee and will be helping Carl and Darwin with the initial framework and organization of this newest addition to the WHEA Board. I'm sure that you will be hearing much more about this committee in the near future.

The State Board has also approved moving into the formal application phase for the formation of a separate entity that will be self-funded and managed, with the WHEA board positioned to influence the direction of this new organization. This will allow WHEA to pursue an array of opportunities for our membership that our current bylaws

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## President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

will not permit in the area of advocacy, scholarships, education and community service activities. Wayne Johnson has championed an ad-hoc Committee established by the Board that has explored this opportunity for nearly three years and the fruit of that labor is drawing near. Though there is a lot more work yet to be done the intention is to have a presentation at the Annual Conference in the fall to further explain the project in detail. Watch for news and information on this exciting new undertaking.

There are no words to describe the tireless work and contribution that Joe Plonka and Shirley Schutz have contributed to WHEA. No, they are not leaving the organization but merely taking on different roles within WHEA and will both be pursuing other opportunities within the organization. Plans are underway to dissolve the WHEA state office as it exists today. As WHEA has grown, the duties that were being handled by these two were daunting. The transition of duties is well underway with estimated completion being May 1st of this year. Through technological advancements, the hiring of an Administrative Assistant and the formation of the Resource Committee, we are redistributing the office functions to deliver services to our membership in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible.

Enjoy the rest of this newsletter and remember — it's never too early to start thinking about the conference in September in Green Bay.

Get involved and stay involved — the rewards are amazing!

Tom Laabs, CHFM  
2007 WHEA President

*"...Joe Plonka and Shirley Schutz ...[will be] ... taking on different roles within WHEA and will both be pursuing other opportunities within the organization."*

## Meeting News From Chapter II

*by Tom Stank, Chapter II President*



Chapter II held a regularly scheduled meeting on February 8, 2007 at Beloit Memorial Hospital in Beloit, WI. Eighteen members and two guests were present.

The business meeting was held.

- Chapter II is currently revising Bylaws to accept associate members into office.
- Clarence Day announced he is retiring 4/07. He will remain active in WHEA.
- Committee reports were presented
- Jon Cechvala identified the availability of fire rated fire hose cabinets.
- Robert Pavlik of Beloit Memorial Hospital was accepted as a new full member.
- Greg Pribek was voted in as a new associate member.
- Chapter II presently has 104 paid members.

Lunch was provided by NALCO Chemical Company.

The informational program consisted of Phil Larson presenting information regarding Joint Commission inspections. Phil also provided attendees with a Life Safety Code Documentation Check List packet, which surveyors utilize during inspections.

Current Chapter II officers are Tom Stank - President, Wayne Schroeder - Vice President, John Pohlmann - Treasurer, Dan Zank - Secretary, Kim Bauer - Past President.

### ***Future Chapter II meetings:***

April 12, 2007 meeting is at Eppstein Uhen Architects 222 W. Washington Ave., Madison, WI. Jon Cechvala is hosting. A business meeting will be conducted with a program to follow addressing revitalization of buildings and a code update.

May 17, 2007 Chapter II Banquet - Prime Quarter, Madison, WI

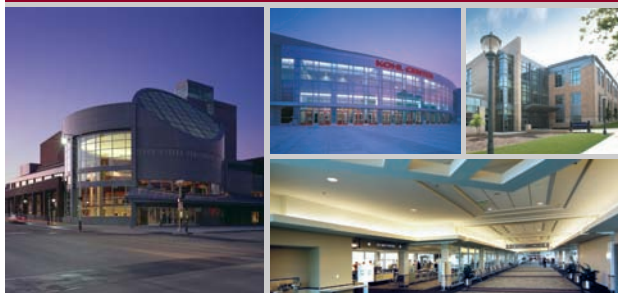
August 23, 2007 Chapter II Golf Outing - Reedsburg Country Club, Reedsburg, WI

September 20, 2007 Chapter II Meeting @ WHEA Annual Conference

October 11, 2007 - TBD

November 8, 2007 - TBD

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# Health Care Relationship Enhancement Team Update - Improving the Healthcare Construction Delivery System in Wisconsin

by Roger Elliott, with Tom Laabs

*"...several work groups from within the health care facility management field...and representatives of the state... [DHFS and DOC] have come together to collectively address some regulatory compliance issues and the speed at which plan approvals in the State of Wisconsin are processed."*

*"Presented at [the February] ...meeting was a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) and the Safety and Buildings Division (S&B.) In a true spirit of collaboration, the group has dedicated itself to exploring initiatives that might contribute to a more efficient and lower-cost healthcare construction delivery system."*

As reported in the 4th quarter newsletter of 2006, several work groups from within the health care facility management field, design/engineering professionals, contractors, consultants and representatives of the state Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) and the Department of Commerce (DOC) Safety and Buildings Division (S&B) have come together to collectively address some regulatory compliance issues and the speed at which plan approvals in the State of Wisconsin are processed. This group is interested in looking at ways to improve the process by which construction of healthcare facilities are initially designed, move through the plan approval process and ultimately are constructed and inspected. It has come to be known, for the time being, as the "Relationship Enhancement Team."

Joining this group as a representative of WHEA for the initial kickoff meeting in October was our 2007 President, Tom Laabs. Tom reported last quarter that the initial meeting went very well with a wealth of good information being shared between OQA representatives and the other stakeholder representatives. The last WHEA newsletter included a document in which potential action items were identified, and another document which included valuable information regarding common errors in submitting applications for plan review, recommendations to improve drawing submittals, common code violations found during plan review, and common code violations found during construction inspections.

Another meeting was held in February to address the current processes in place and a list of potential action items that have been identified. Presented at that meeting was a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) and the Safety and Buildings Division (S&B.) In a true spirit of collaboration, the group has dedicated itself to exploring initiatives that might contribute to a more efficient and lower-cost healthcare construction delivery system. The MOA became effective when signed in January and is intended to be in effect through June of 2009.

## **ISSUES & DISCUSSION SUMMARY FROM RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT MEETING of February 8, 2007:**

Assisted Living Projects Issue — Tunnel: An example was shared wherein an underground tunnel connected an assisted living project to a hospital — one engineer treated it as a separate or stand alone facility, but a new engineer said it was attached, so there is confusion on what is and is not an attachment. David Soens explained that there are 3 options in this type of scenario and that the new MOA helps with such issues by providing a better definition of "detached."

- It's detached if there is a 4 hour firewall, unpierced. DHFS has the health side and Commerce has the non-health side.
- It's detached if there is pedestrian access according to 3104 in the International Building Code (IBC). DHFS will review the structures to see if it meets our definition in the MOA and commerce is contacted for the non-health portion.
- Tunnel as defined in 3104 IBC.

Definition of a Hospital: For several years a facility had been evaluated as being "detached," but now is being designated as being attached because 3 or more patients on gurneys in corridors waiting for tests requires this are to meet hospital standards. David Soens explained that the concept of a 24 hour stay was the determining factor - ambulatory or business occupancies are designated if patients do not stay 24 hours. If 3 or more patients stay more than 24 hours this equals a hospital occupancy.

Courtesy Reviews: OQA indicated that there's no requirement to provide courtesy reviews but the agency is looking at providing that service as the work load of the engineers becomes more manageable.

Suggestions for Communicating Issues and Solutions:

- This group can be used as a clearing house for questions and formulate topics for education forums.
- OQA could provide a quarterly update on activities
- Web links could be developed
- Publicize the work of this group on the web

- Make sure that information provided is searchable
- (Health Services Section) HSS is already considering putting engineer decisions on the web

#### Suggestions for Improving the Registration Process:

- Explore more than one check in point for plan reviews.
- Provide a checklist for more accuracy of what's needed when plans are submitted.
- Offer electronic tracking of the process from receipt to completion.
- Assign one engineer to all small projects.
- Waive the requirement for complete sets of plans for all small projects.

#### Suggestions for Future Education Processes:

- Currently OQA engineers present annually at commercial building code conferences.
- Educate new engineers at workshops.
- Continue to repeat the message of code requirements so engineers and architects new to healthcare will get the message.
- Executive staff members need to attend sessions and know the process as well.

## Employment Opportunity!

### FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

Bay Area Medical Center is currently looking for a professional to join our team as our Facilities Management Director. The Director of Facilities Management plans, organizes, and directs the Facilities, Biomedical, EVS Departments and Security Services, and is responsible for all property management. Responsible for all aspects of project planning, budgeting, design, and construction management. The Director of Facilities Management is responsible for maintaining all corrective and preventative maintenance programs for all utility and engineering systems and equipment, including biomedical equipment.

The ideal candidate would possess: A BS in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering, or equivalent. New construction project management experience with magnitude of 5-10 million dollars required. Minimum of 5 years management experience in healthcare facilities operations required. Organizational safety program experience required. Strong business management and employee leadership skills required. Must be detail oriented and able to manage multiple priorities. Must have valid driver's license in the state of residency. Must possess and maintain a clean driving record as evidenced with no exclusions listed under insurance contract. Previous experience with managing construction projects from start to finish is a must.

BAMC offers a competitive wage and benefit package along with relocation and bonus opportunities.

Bay Area Medical Center is a 99-bed, non-profit medical center in Marinette, Wisconsin. A study of quality at the nation's 5,000 hospitals named BAMC in the top five percent and a recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence from HealthGrades. BAMC was also named one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation by Solucient. We're located one hour north of Green Bay on scenic Lake Michigan. Here you can escape the stress of city life while enjoying many outstanding recreational opportunities.

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Come grow with us at Bay Area Medical Center!



# WHEA Charity to be Established

by Wayne Johnson, Ad Hoc Committee Chair



I would like to thank all those who participated in the Special Board meeting on February 9th which concluded with unanimous approval to move forward with the formation of the "WHEA Charity". As I stated in my motion, it is my sincere belief that this effort is in keeping with the vision and outlook of our Founding Fathers and the long and progressive tradition of our organization and its members. As

requested I will keep the Board informed of our progress and submit regular reports at state board meetings.

I will be meeting with Mr. Roth (our consulting attorney) and his associate on Tuesday, March 6th at his office. At that time we will begin to put together

the necessary paper work to submit to the IRS. In addition we will prepare an agenda and task list for the committee. Our plan is to schedule a committee meeting with Mr. Roth within the next 4 weeks.

Items to be addressed will include,

1. Prepare a 3 year budget (draft has been distributed)
2. Prepare handout for Chapter Rep's
3. Prepare Newsletter article
4. Explore what to name the new Charity
5. Begin to pull together worksheet documents including
  - a. Articles of Incorporation
  - b. Bylaws
6. Start to develop a short list of potential board members and begin contacts.

## 42nd Annual Conference Planning News

by Mike Blackwood, Conference Committee Chair



The Conference Committee last met via conference call on Friday, February 16. Plans are coming together well for this years conference. Red Benschoep and Carl Budde have an educational schedule with presenters and topics including the WHEA Code Committee, Dave Soens, Ode Keil, Doug

Erickson and a closing program on leadership presented by Jim Lussier from Bend, Oregon. In addition, Thursday morning will again have dual track programs for options for attendees.

Special events for the 2007 conference have a slightly different look with Thursday's Annual Awards Banquet and entertainment taking us across town to the National Railroad Museum for dinner and special surprises.

In addition to planning for the 2007 program, site visits have been completed at three additional conference centers for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 conferences. The goal is to have a decision made and contracts signed by late June.

"...the Annual Awards Banquet ... [will be] taking us across town to the National Railroad Museum for dinner and special surprises."

## Chapter IV Goals Report

by Dick Lange, Chapter IV President



Chapter IV has four goals to pursue in 2007. Our progress to date is as follows:

Our first goal is to reach out to facilities without members in the chapter and send a letter to the CEO promoting the benefits of membership. This goal is on hold until we get a WHEA promotional letter from the Membership

Committee. If no official item is forthcoming by June, 2007, I will send company letterhead out.

Our second goal is to increase communication to Chapter members on issues pertinent to daily operations. JCAHO "Perspectives" newsletter has been forwarded to the Chapter IV Membership, as well as ASHE information on generator hazard assessment and HRSA information on emergency preparedness.

Goal number three is to increase membership from September 2006 levels by 10%. So far in 2007 we have exceeded that goal by adding 19 members to our chapter since December, 2006. We only needed four to meet our goal.

Our last goal was to work on increasing the attendance at chapter meetings. We have begun to offer door prizes at meetings in an effort to meet this goal. Hopefully as the year progresses our minutes will reflect increased attendance.

# ASHE Advocacy Committee News

*by Rajendra Shah, CHFM*

The 2007 ASHE Committees met jointly for the first time in January. Their next meetings will be in Minneapolis, September 7 - 9, 2007. Here are the highlights of the ASHE Advocacy Committee:

## **ASHE Advocacy Committee January 2007**

- Discussion of the "advocacy highway" to be built between ASHE in Chicago and regional groups and chapters, i.e. more emphasis on local chapters and making them more responsive.
- Improving feedback to members.
- Local issues can become national.
- How do state groups handle advocacy?
- Need a simple way to have two way communications in advocacy that can be utilized by other committees.
- Recognition of active advocacy participation by chapters.

## **Discussion of the "top ten" Advocacy items from last year and the present status of each one.**

- NFPA90A- done
- FDA Bed rails-Sue McLaughlin is following. Still in process.
- ASHRAE 170- Being presented, 2nd public review had 210 comments Raj will continue if there are further recommendations from Dale.
- JCAHO enforcement of USP 797- Not required unless a state adopts. USP has not come out with a revision. Will follow.
- NFPA 99 re-engineering-update and discussion. Still in progress. Update at the PDC. Dana Swenson is on that task force and can keep the committee informed of progress or issues.
- Proposal deadline is 11/7/2007.
- Katrina Lessons Learned-close
- Security vs. LSC requirements-report
- Hand Hygiene-update-close

## **Discussion of new issues:**

- ASHRAE 29 Guideline for Risk Management of Public Health and Safety in Buildings
- OSHA develop Federal Safe Patient Handling require the elimination of manual lifting of patients.
- A proposal before the NFPA entitled Electrical selectivity for emergency circuits
- ASHRAE 180P-Standard Practice
- Elevators- how many need to be on emergency power circuits
- ICC eliminate 90.1 Energy
- Difference between NFPA and ICC in smoke management
- Health Care laundry
- Legionella standards
- Washington Hospital in DC was cited for not having all tables and chairs ADA specific.
- Succession planning-sent to Communications committee

"...the 'Advocacy Highway' to be built between ASHE in Chicago and regional groups and chapters [will place] more emphasis on local chapters making them more responsive."



## ASHE Region 6 Report

*by Steve Vinopal, ASHE Region 6 Director/WHEA Liaison*

The items needing attention by WHEA for ASHE awards and member recognition are the Affiliated Chapter Awards criteria packet and the Regional Leader award application that have been submitted to ASHE. I have been following the emails between board members and feel that we are meeting the criteria being requested. I have not had a request to follow up with ASHE on this issue at this time.

The Region 6 conference scheduled for April 19-20 in Mankato, MN is all set and the mailings have been sent out. A workshop is scheduled for the Wednesday afternoon prior to the meeting starting on Thursday with Tom Laabs, Wade Rudolph, Roger Elliott and myself. We'll be presenting information on the WHEA Code Committee and Communications models with fellow Region 6 members from Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota. Thanks to WHEA for the support in this effort. ASHE will be sponsoring Tom as discussed at the last WHEA Board meeting. All WHEA members who are ASHE members should have received my Region 6 ASHE winter newsletter last week. I will be sending out another newsletter in April that will update everyone on the ASHE news from the current board actions.

# ASHE Facilities Management Committee Report

*by Rajendra Shah, CHFM*

The 2007 ASHE Committees met jointly for the first time in January. Their next meetings will be in Minneapolis, September 7 - 9, 2007. Here are the highlights of the ASHE Facilities Management Committee meetings:

- 1) Sub-committees were formed for the following topics:
  - a) E2C Commitment
  - b) 2007 Annual Conference
  - c) Benchmarking
  - d) HPMC Program
  - e) Building and Maintenance Operations Toolkit (HOMC)
- 2) E<sup>2</sup>C Commitment
  - The ultimate goal is for all ASHE member's hospitals to be using Energy Star
  - A recognition program has been developed and presented to hospitals that have achieved a greater than 10 point improvement in their rating
  - The number of hospitals using Energy Star has increased since the beginning of E2C
  - An overview of how Energy Star works was presented
  - Letters have been sent to individuals selected to serve on the ASHE E2C task force. This task force will stay together and carry over into 2008
  - The E2C task force will report progress to the Facilities Management Committee
  - Action Items
    - o Provide a portfolio manager training session for the FM Committee
    - o ASHE staff will provide a list of who is already using Energy Star
    - o Each committee member contact 10 facilities to encourage them to use Energy Star
- 3) 2007 Annual Conference
  - There will be service project at the Audubon Zoo
  - There will be more family oriented activities
  - Committee members are encouraged to promote the conference
- 4) Benchmarking
  - Develop a tool that can be used to help members determine minimum levels for staffing, energy and other factors
- 5) Healthcare Project Management Certification (HPMC) Program
  - Finish developing a comprehensive document containing information that can be used to develop the HPMC as well as be used in other ASHE products. The portion that will be used for HPMC e-learning will need to be developed by May 15
- 6) Healthcare Operations Management Certificate Program (HOMC) Report from task group
  - Develop a comprehensive document containing information that can be used to develop the HOMC as well as be used in other ASHE products

*"...The ultimate goal is for all ASHE members' hospitals to be using Energy Star."*

## Chapters to Determine Winners of FREE 2008 ASHE Memberships

*by Roger Elliott*

Every year the WHEA board of directors provides a FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP to each chapter. These free memberships are announced by the Member Services Committee during the annual meeting at the annual conference. Each chapter needs to determine who their individual FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP winner will be for the 2007 calendar year. Because many chapters suspend meeting activities for the summer, it's easy to forget when you start up again in the fall that we need the name of the FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP winner from each chapter prior to the Annual Conference. So, whatever method you choose to determine your recipient, please keep in mind that we need to hear from each chapter no later than the 2nd week of September! Please provide the name of your FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP winner to your Member Services Committee representative or directly to me at 715.726.3331, or [relliot@sjcf.hshs.org](mailto:relliot@sjcf.hshs.org).



# MECH Certification Program Report

by Jim Hildebrand, MECH Program Manager



In 2006 we sold 35 Study Guides and 28 test applications, and had a total sales of \$5,357.30.

So far in 2007 we've sold 6 (six) Preparation Manuals and 8 (eight) test applications for Mechanic Certification, grossing \$990.00.

To date we have 270 certified mechanics in Wisconsin, 79

Certified, 186 Senior Certified, and 5 mechanics passing both test.

Congratulations to the following Chapter II mechanics from the University of Wisconsin Hospitals & Clinics. They received Senior Mechanic Certification:

Joseph G. Brabender, William A. Lobre, David B. Reed, Jonathan P. Steva, Donald A. Dietz

Reminder — each chapter is able to set up their own test site and proctor for one or more mechanics. Please contact me if you have any mechanics wishing to be tested, need study guides, or if you have any questions on the Mechanic Certification Program. Thank you,

James L. Hildebrand, MECH Program Manager  
414.464.3880 ext 509  
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# Meeting News From Chapter I

by Gary Sankey, Chapter I President



**Chapter I goals** for this year are as follows:

Goal #1: Increase attendance at Chapter meetings. So far this year our attendance is averaging 19 members per meeting. Down from 25 last year and 21 in 2004/2005. (We are working on having more interesting topics)

Goal #2: Review the Members sections of the BYLAWS for possible changes to the Associate Membership. Updates have not been submitted.

Goal #3: Review responsibilities for the Chapter officers. My goal is for this to be completed by the end of this term.

## Meetings

The December 14th Meeting was held at Community Memorial Hospital. This was a normal business meeting - no presentation.

The January 11th Meeting was held at Eppstein Uhen Architects. The educational topic was a presentation on Building Information Modeling by Bret Tushaus and a Code update by Jon Cechvala.

The February 8th meeting was hosted by Johnson Controls at the Historical Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Milwaukee. This included a tour of the building with its unique architectural features along with an extensive art collection.

Chapter 1 currently rosters 54 Full members, 39 Associate Members, 17 Life Members, 12 Retired Members and 3 members maintained in the "In Memoriam" classification.

*"...Each chapter or facility is able to setup their own test site and proctor [a certification test]."*



# Button Designs for Healthcare Engineering Week 2007 are Due in June 1st!

by Kelly Roshell and Roger Elliott



In an effort to unify the WHEA Maintenance and Plant Operations Employee Recognition Day and the annual ASHE Healthcare Engineering celebration week, the Member Services Committee and Board of Directors agreed to begin celebrating these events jointly in 2006, during the last week of October. In 2007 our Recognition Week event will be celebrated the week of October 22-26th.

"...we...need to receive your button designs for Recognition Week 2007 by June 1st!"

"You can order buttons and/or banners ahead of time by email, fax, mail or by calling [Kelly Roshell] with your order."

Scheduling the WHEA recognition event to coincide with the ASHE celebration provides us with an opportunity to celebrate with our 7,000 ASHE peers for an entire week, helps to align our focus with that of our national organization, and provides some opportunities for WHEA members (who are also ASHE members) to purchase gifts and commemorative items through ASHE on-line that are not otherwise available for use in recognizing our healthcare engineering colleagues within Wisconsin.

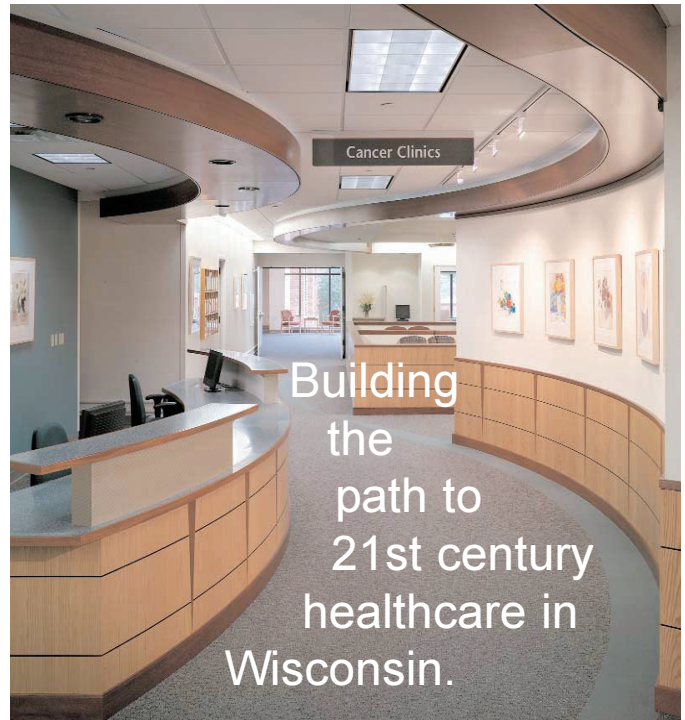
No WHEA recognition event would be complete without the commemorative buttons that are created and distributed each year! Even though the schedule of our event has shifted from January to October, we still need to receive your button designs for Recognition Week, 2007, by June 1st. This is an important deadline because the winning design will be chosen at the June board meeting! Just a reminder that banners helping to promote our recognition event are also available for \$110.00. There is no specific date on the banner so it can be used for many years. As usual, button and banner orders will be filled at the WHEA annual conference in September. You can order buttons and/or banners ahead of time by e-mail, fax, mail or by calling me with your order.

Please submit your design for the 2007 recognition week button to:

Kelly Roshell  
706 Lynn Street  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729-3427  
Phone: 715.726.0188  
Fax: 715.726.0188  
2designr2@msn.com



2006 Recognition Week Design  
by Don Feuling  
Waukesha Memorial Hospital



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## WHEA Resource Committee Established

by Tom Laabs and Roger Elliott

*The new Resource Committee will "...address a multitude of needs that could be championed by our retired members and ... promote volunteerism throughout the organization."*

With the recent passing of George Thomas, long-time WHEA Historian, a board-level decision was made to eliminate the History and Archives Committee, and to create a new committee that would encompass not only the functions of the historian and maintenance of the WHEA archives, but to address a multitude of needs that could be championed by our emerging cadre of retired members and to promote volunteerism throughout the organization.

Tom Laabs worked with Past President Carl Budde, to identify a purposeful direction for this committee and encouraged Carl to take a leadership role in that process. After careful deliberation Carl has agreed to co-chair the new WHEA Resource Committee with fellow retired WHEA Past President Darwin Clausen. Past President and long-time WHEA Office Coordinator, Joe Plonka has also agreed to serve on this committee. Additional committee members will be added as the mission of the new committee evolves.

Arrangements have already been made with Mary Louise Thomas to move the historical documents that George had archived in a storage facility in Oshkosh to the new storage site near Reedsburg. All of the existing archives will be inventoried and records will be maintained in the future for all those pieces and additional items as they are collected.

The committee will be meeting in April to further define its mission. It is anticipated that Carl, Darwin and Joe will continue to participate in various capacities on the several committees that they currently serve as part of the Resource Committee commitment to the organization. The board and the entire WHEA membership eagerly await further details regarding the focus and activities of this new standing committee, and sincerely thank Carl, Darwin and Joe for their dedication to development of the Resource Committee role.



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## "User Names" and "Passwords" for WHEA Members Only on [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) *by Roger Elliott*

*"If you are a WHEA member and have never requested a password from us, you'll need to contact our Administrative Assistant... to get you started."*

All WHEA members are eligible for access to the WHEA website "Members Only" pages. This is the area where the privileged information provided exclusively to our members is posted and maintained. Access to this area is restricted via use of unique user names and passwords that are set up for each member. If you are a WHEA member and have never requested a password from us, you'll need to contact our Administrative Assistant, Jane Bruvold at [bruvold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruvold@sbcglobal.net) and she'll be happy to get you started. Here's the general process that we follow for all members requesting access to the Members Only pages of [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com).....

- *User names are always the members' first initial of their first name and their last name, all in lower case — no exceptions (example: Smokey T. Bear becomes sbear.).*

- *Members get to pick their own password — we don't assign them. Our preference is that the passwords are setup to be 6-15 characters, any combination of letters or numbers, upper or lower case. We suggest that members use a favorite password that they typically use for other purposes on a regular basis (makes it less likely you'll forget it.) However,*

*some folks like to use a password unique to this application, so we'll accept pretty much anything they want to use. The only persons who will ever know what this password is (in addition to the member) are Tom Laabs, website coordinator; Jane Bruvold, Administrative Assistant; and Roger Elliott, Member Services Committee Chair. No one else will ever have access to the security system.*

- *All these requests will be handled by Jane. Tom and I will be available for this function if Jane is unavailable.*

- *Once the new member has submitted his/her choice of password to Jane, she will build it into the website security file, test it, and let the new member know that it's set up. Thereafter, if the password is not changed but is forgotten, the member can click onto the "Forgot Password" link on the login page and the system will automatically mail the password to the members' email address.*

If you haven't already taken advantage of this opportunity for access to the WHEA Members Only website, please contact Jane today!

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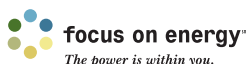
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# 2007 Sponsorship Program Report

by Tamarah Cox, Sponsorship Committee Chair



Our Sponsorship program continues to receive excellent response from our Associate Members and Technical Exhibitors. For 2007 we have 28 Sponsors!

WHEA cannot begin to express the sincere appreciation to these Associate Members and Technical Exhibitors who are new or have renewed their support to our Sponsorship program. We also thank all of our past Sponsors for their support. For 2007 our Sponsors are:

## **Platinum** - The Boldt Company

**Gold** — Ahern Fire Protection, C.D. Smith Construction, C.R. Meyer and Sons Company, Focus on Energy, HGA Architects and Engineers, J.H. Findorff and Son, Inc., J.P. Cullen & Sons, Inc., Johnson Controls, Inc., Kahler Slater Architects, Inc., Miron Construction, Ring & DuChateau, Inc., The Selmer Company, Town & Country Electric, Tremco, Inc., Watertech of America, Inc., and new to the sponsorship program this year: Balestrieri

Environmental, Fremont Industries, Inc., Hoffman, LLC, NAMI (North American Mechanical, Inc.), Plunkett Raysich Architects, LLP, and Zimmerman Architectural Studios, Inc.

**Silver** - Arnold & O'Sheridan, Inc., C G Schmidt, Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer & Associates, Inc., Techline, USA, and new sponsors this year; Durrant, and Trane - Wisconsin.

## The Sponsorship Committee goals for 2007 are:

- Work with the WHEA President, and an ad hoc Committee in providing Sponsorship policy review as a potential formation of the WHEA Foundation is pursued.
- Investigate the possible realignment of Sponsorship levels to assist in exploring extended opportunities for 2008. (Both of these issues will be addressed at a special Sponsorship Committee meeting on 3/23/07.)
- Assist WHEA in maintaining its financial stability by recruiting sponsors for calendar year 2007 to achieve an income of \$45,000. (Current projected income is at \$63,500.)

WHEA has 28 Sponsors for 2007! We'd like to express our "...sincere appreciation to [new or renewing Sponsors for their] ...support to our Sponsorship program."

## Chapter III Goals for 2007 Focus on Education and Expansion of Full Membership

by Helena Dukes, Chapter III President



A meeting of the WHEA Chapter III was held Thursday, January 25, 2007, at the offices of Tweet-Garot Mechanical. After the chapter business meeting an educational program was presented on "Compound Sterile Processing (Pharmacy) Ventilation (Usp 797) and Modern 3D Technologies For Mechanical System Design."

A Roundtable discussion was held following the meeting. Members shared experiences as it relates to Emergency Response officer roles. Most facilities have 2 representatives, one for activities within the facility, the other serves on the level of Regional Emergency Response (attends regional meetings and reports locally).

Chapter III currently rosters 46 Full Members, 39 Associate Members, 3 Retired Members, 2 Life Members and 2 members are maintained in the "In Memoriam" category.

## Goals Status Report

Goal 1: Provide valuable programs at meetings, for professional/educational and personal development. This goal is regularly achieved.

Goal 2: Continue to promote CHFM certification. The Chapter III membership voted to sponsor 2 members in preparation for the certification.

Goal 3: Continue to increase membership, focus on expanding full membership. Chapter III is developing a program directed at increasing full membership. A letter of invitation will be sent to healthcare facilities not represented by WHEA, followed by a phone call listing the advantages of being a member. The plan includes breaking the region into sub-regions, and designating a campaign manager for each sub-region. A letter of invitation was reviewed at the January meeting. Pending officers' approval the mailing will take place in the spring of 2007.



## Safety Training Program Provides CEU's

by Jim Teunas, Education Committee Chair & Jane Bruvold, WHEA Administrative Assistant

"One of the best safety training programs I have attended."

"Fall protection & confined space were very good."

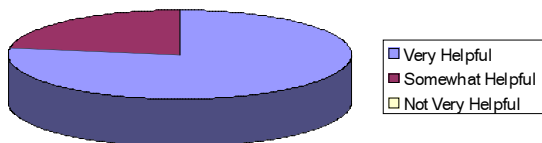
"It was helpful that individual presenters remained present to answer questions."

On Wednesday, February 28, 2007, the Education Committee held a Safety Training program at the Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. It was the first of many of our programs that will provide important CEU's. Presenting this program were Town & Country Electric, Salisbury Electrical Safety Company, Brady Corporation, Grainger and Miller Fall Protection. There were 65 people in attendance. Comments about the program were extremely positive.

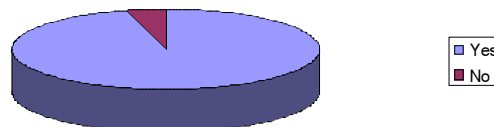
The next education program being offered is another highly requested "Healthcare Construction Certificate" program on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at The Plaza Conference Center in Eau Claire. Online registration is open now at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com). We just finished a "Building Green" web conference and are working on more of these online programs. We are also developing a medical gas seminar which will be held at the Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells on May 23, 2007. Keep checking at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) for information on all upcoming educational programs.

Here are some of the evaluation results:

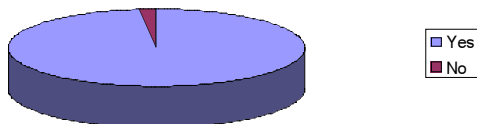
Was this program...?



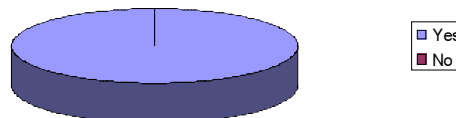
Did the program meet your expectations in terms of the information presented?



Do you feel that the program achieved its goal?



Do you feel that there were adequate opportunities for you to participate?



"...One of the best safety training programs I have attended."

"...Keep checking at [www.whea.com](http://www.whea.com) for information on all upcoming educational programs."

# Codes and Standards News

by Wade Rudolph and Jon Cechvala, Code Committee Co-Chairs



The Code Committee has not met since November of 2006, but the committee work continues. The meetings for the committee are scheduled for April, June, August, September (annual conference) and November of 2007.

James Fulkerson and Jeff Boldt continue to represent WHEA on the Department of Commerce Plumbing Advisory Committee. This committee is again active in Wisconsin.



Efforts continue for WHEA to have a representative on the Commerce Elevator Rules Development Committee. The application has been submitted to the governor's office for review. Greg Graunke has offered to fill this position if an appointment by the governor is made.

## **Code Refresher Provided to State**

**Regulatory Group** Jon Cechvala and Wade Rudolph developed and presented a healthcare code update at the Annual Code Refresher Training in a joint effort with the University of Wisconsin Engineering Department, State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce, and the State of Wisconsin Department of Office of Quality Assurance. The one-day session was presented on February 19 with topics including the 2006 AIA Guidelines highlights of new codes and changes, Generator Testing, NFPA 72 Fire Alarm Systems and changes, DHFS - OQA - Office of Quality Assurance updates, and Interim Life Safety Management.

**AIA Revision News** The AIA Healthcare Revisions Committee is now formed for the next revision cycle. This revision cycle has seen an expansion in representation from Wisconsin by 100%. Now Jon Cechvala, David Soens, Roger Lautz, and Wade Rudolph represent the state. All the representatives are members of the WHEA Codes and Standards Committee.

Work on the next AIA revision has started with Jon Cechvala heading up a subcommittee addressing birthing units LDR, and LDRP room interpretations. Wade Rudolph is active on the Patient Safety Subcommittee as part of Home Land Security. The first all-hands meeting will held in April in Baltimore, MD.

**NFPA 99** Roger Lautz has been assigned chair of the NFPA 99 Technical Committee. As the chair, this is a key position in the document as the entire work will be restructured as well as updated.

**ASHE Region 6 Workshop Scheduled** Steve Vinopal has made arrangements for the WHEA Codes & Standards Committee to provide a session at the ASHE Region 6 Conference regarding how to design, create, and implement a code committee in other chapters of ASHE. Wade Rudolph and Steve will be representing the Codes & Standards Committee during this discussion.

**ASHE Advocacy Committee** Mike Blackwood is the chair of the ASHE advocacy committee this year. Wade has been providing information to this committee through Mike. The rumor is that the WHEA model will be the template ASHE will promote nationwide for all chapters to follow in creating an effective advocacy program. Previous leaders such as Lew Cole and Jeff Eckstein need to be acknowledged for their pioneering efforts in the development of the current Codes & Standards Committee structure.

**Healthcare Construction Certificate Code Presentation** The WHEA Codes and Standards Committee is working with the Education Committee in developing a Wisconsin Code specific presentation for the Healthcare Construction Certification Program. This work will be undertaken with a partial presentation provided at the April 11 training.

**ASHRAE** The WHEA Codes and Standards Committee continues to remain active in providing input to several draft ASHRAE standards as well as the USP Chapter 797 standards.

*Wade Rudolph and Steve Vinopal will "...provide a [workshop] at the ASHE Region 6 Conference [in Mankato, MN] regarding how to design, create, and implement a code committee in other chapters of ASHE."*

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# In Memoriam - George Thomas

by Roger Elliott (with special thanks to the Oshkosh Northwestern)



George R. Thomas 75, of Oshkosh, died peacefully and with dignity at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI on January 8th, 2007. George was hospitalized due to complications from his year long battle with Myasthenia Gravis and resulting multiple surgeries.

He was born on a South Dakota farm on October 23, 1931, the son of William C. and Mary Francis (Adams) Thomas. George graduated as the valedictorian from Springfield High School in 1950. He earned his Mechanical Engineering degree from South Dakota State University (Brookings) in 1958. He took a two year break in his education to serve in the U.S. Army in the Panama Canal Zone during the time of the Korean War. During his time in the service he was transferred from the Army Band in which he was a tuba player to the Post engineering unit.

After his graduation from college he was employed by Allis Chalmers in West Allis, WI as an engineer. George married Mary Louise Brechler on August 14, 1965 in Mt. Horeb, WI. George was a private pilot and flew Mary to various National Parks around the USA on their honeymoon in his Mooney (brand) air-

plane. He loved flying and traveling throughout his lifetime. In 1972 he began a new career in Oshkosh, WI as a hospital engineer for Mercy Medical Center. He retired in 1994 as the Vice President of Plant and Facilities.

George is survived by his wife of 41 years, Mary Louise Thomas of Oshkosh, his two children, Rebecca (Eric) Daniels of Oshkosh, and Robert (Christine) Thomas of Appleton, and two granddaughters, Megan and Melissa Daniels.

George was actively involved on the councils of many organizations including: Fox Valley Aero Club-treasurer, various boards at the Zion Lutheran Church, and was active with the church's non-profit Jericho Road Ministries. And, of course, WHEA members will remember George as our state president in 1985, during which time the Plant Operations and Maintenance Employee Recognition Day was first proclaimed by Governor Anthony Earl. George participated in that event along with Paul Feldner, Neil Christensen and Paul Van de Sand. George was also an officer in Chapter III and served his chapter well. Many of us will remember him in retirement as a regular volunteer at annual conferences in the registration booth and in WHEA's "Bob's Bargain Basement" along with fellow retirees, Bob Botts and George Albrecht. He will be missed.

"...WHEA members will remember George as our state president in 1985, during which time the Plant Operations and Maintenance Employee Recognition Day was first proclaimed by Governor Anthony Earl."

## Chapter V News

by Pat DeLong, Chapter V President



Our most recent meeting was held on February 15th at the offices of Ayres Associates in Eau Claire. Committee reports were provided by all but the Education Committee representatives. The proposed WHEA Charity program was introduced by Pat DeLong and Roger Elliott and the concept was well received by those in attendance. The education program for the day was presented by

representatives of Ayres Associates and Arnold & O'Sheridan on the topic "Is It Easy Being Green?" which was an overview of sustainable design and how it relates to healthcare.

### 2007 Goals Status Report:

1. Accomplish a membership recruiting effort by utilizing associate members, vendors and brochures to reach potential new members.  
Goal - 3 new full members.  
Status - This goal has already been met.
2. Increase attendance at 3 of the 5 Chapter meetings by providing quality programs.

Goal - Minimum of 25 members in attendance.  
Status - The February meeting achieved this goal.

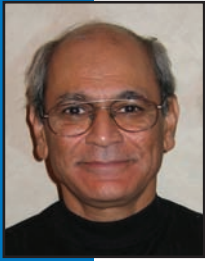
3. Be sure our Chapter is represented at all Committee Meetings.  
Goal - The President will contact our Chapter Representatives to ensure their commitment.  
Status - Chapter Representatives are demonstrating this commitment.

4. Work with the State Board and Education Committee to get the mechanic programs in the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls area.  
Goal - Provide free room/financial supplement by State or from Chapter funds to enable this goal.  
Status - Education Committee has committed to providing a contractors' certificate program in April in Eau Claire.

Chapter V Membership Roster consists of:  
40 Full Members  
22 Associate Members  
7 Retired Members  
4 Life Members

## Chapter VI Goals Status Report

by Bankim Dhanak, Chapter VI President



Chapter VI has three major goals for 2007. We want to provide informative and quality presentations at all chapter meetings, we want to increase the frequency of our meetings from quarterly to monthly, and we want to improve communication among chapter members.

So far this year we've been able to achieve the goal of meeting monthly (except for the holiday month of December) and have offered the following educational programs at those meetings:

October - Rajendra Shah on Ad Hoc Safety as related to the Franciscan Skemp/car incident in La Crosse.

November — Presentation by Eldon Boehmke, Director of Facility Services for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. A power point presentation of St. Rose Convent's energy management systems, district heating plant and combined heat and power project. A tour followed of the district heating plant, observing what was shown in the presentation.

January — Presentation by Gloria Royer and Rajendra Shah on "How to enter the electronic SOC ("eSOC") and "PFI" for the Joint Commission (JCAHO)".

February — Presentation by Peter Hahn on "Increasing Efficiency in Air Handling"

We've been making progress toward increasing effective communication among our members by regularly sending out notifications regarding chapter news, such as the "In Memoriam" message about the passing of retired member, Curtis Thienes in February.

## Calendar

### April 2007

- 5 Code Committee Meeting
- 6 Budget Draft to Board
- 11 Chapter VI Meeting, noon
- 11 Education Seminar - Contractor Certificate, Eau Claire"
- 12 Chapter II Meeting, noon
- 12 Chapter I Meeting, 4:30 pm
- 13 Conference Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
- 19 Chapter V Meeting, Bloomer, 9:00 am
- 19 Code Committee Presentation at Region 6 Conference
- 19-20 ASHE Region 6 Conference

### May 2007

- 4 State Board Finance Committee Teleconference
- 10 Chapter I Meeting, 4:30 pm
- 16 Chapter VI Meeting, noon
- 17 Chapter IV Meeting, noon, Wausau Trap & Skeet"
- 17 Chapter II, Banquet, 5:00 pm
- 23 Educational Seminar-Med Gas, Wis. Dells
- 24 Chapter III Meeting, noon (Tentative)
- 30 Webinar - HICS

### June 2007

- 1 Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- 1 Newsletter Article Deadline
- 7 Code Committee Meeting, 1:30 pm
- 8 Member Services Committee Meeting, 9:00 am
- 22 Chapter V Meeting, Outdoor Family Event
- 29 Newsletter Mailing Deadline
- TBD Chapter I Annual Dinner

### July 2007

- 8-11 ASHE Conference (New Orleans Marriott)
- 11 Chapter VI Meeting, noon
- 13 Education Committee Conf. Call, 9:00 am
- 20 Conference Committee Meeting, 9:00 am

## 2007 Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award Nominations are Due June 30th

by Roger Elliott

The WHEA Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award is presented annually by the state board in order to provide additional recognition to WHEA members who demonstrate significant levels of achievement in, or make significant contributions to the various disciplines within the field of health care facilities management. This award is presented to a candidate who has been nominated by one or more of his/her peers, evaluated by the elected stated board members by comparing all nominations received against a criteria-based scoring grid, and subsequently determining a recipient by a simple majority vote.

WHEA members who wish to nominate someone for this award should submit nomination papers prior to June 30th so the board can evaluate all the nominations at the August board meeting and be able to present the award at the Annual Banquet.

A more detailed description of the award concept, its purpose, the qualifications of candidates and an outline of the nomination and selection process is included as a separate document within this newsletter. Please consider placing the name of one of your peers in nomination for the Pioneer Award. There is no shortage of very worthy candidates within our ranks. Please address any questions about the award, the nomination process, or any other concerns you may have to WHEA President, Tom Laabs, 920.236.1919 or [tlaabs@affinityhealth.org](mailto:tlaabs@affinityhealth.org).

*"WHEA members who wish to nominate someone for [the Pioneer] award should submit nomination papers prior to June 30th so the board can evaluate all the nominations at the August board meeting."*



# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

## 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 is the premier organization providing quality education, advocacy and outreach within our healthcare community. WHEA is recognized by local and national regulatory organizations as an essential partner in the codes and standards development and compliance process. The key to our success is a commitment to our members and the development of professional relationships."

### **The AWARD:**

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

### **Qualifications:**

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

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

### **Achievements & Contributions:**

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

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

### **Selection Procedure:**

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

# Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association

## HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING PIONEER AWARD

### Nomination Form

I nominate the following individual for the \_\_\_\_\_ WHEA 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.