



NEWSLETTER

August 2007

Volume 17 • 3rd Quarter

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

I hope that all of you have had a great summer, I know I have. There are only a couple of weeks left until the annual conference in Green Bay (to be held from September 18th through the 21st.) If you have not already registered you can do so on the WHEA website. Don't miss this opportunity to network with your peers and take advantage of the wide array of educational topics that will be discussed.

The final edits are being made on the WHEA Foundation application for submittal. Wayne Johnson will be unveiling a lot of the specifics at the Annual Meeting held on Thursday September 20th. Preparations are being made for the 1st Annual Leadership Rally that will take the place of the New Board Orientation breakfast. The Board is allowing funding to assist all Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents to attend this 3 hour session. During the session, duties will be outlined for all Board and Chapter leadership positions so everyone has a better idea of how they fit into the organization, and learn more about their role as a member of the 2008 Board. In addition, there will be round table discussion time to talk and share thoughts about common issues and goals that chapters struggle with on an annual basis. There are also exciting new changes and opportunities coming next

year with our Sponsorship program. Those topics will be revealed at a Sponsorship Appreciation breakfast to be held at the Annual Conference on Wednesday morning, just prior to the Technical Exhibition.

I want to personally thank all the committee chairs for their hard work. These individuals volunteer countless hours for the advancement of WHEA and its membership. Without these key individuals we would not be what we are today. Thank them any time you can and as often as you can. Seeing first hand the commitment that these people make is amazing!!! Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Remember, it is never too late to get involved at the Chapter or State level. Do a little or do a lot, as long as you do something. Talk to one of your chapter officers about the opportunities that exist throughout the organization or bring forth your own idea to champion.

Hope to see you all at the Annual Conference in a couple of weeks.

Inside This Issue...

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Annual Conference
- 2 WHEA Calendar
- 3 Board Meeting
- 4 Education Committee
- 5 Chapter III
- 5 Chapter I
- 6 Chapter II
- 6 Chapter V
- 7 Codes & Standards
- 9 Chapter IV
- 10 Mech Certification
- 12 Free ASHE Membership
- 12 Chapter VI
- 13 "Members Only" Access
- 14 ASHE Region 6
- 15 Enhancement Team Update
- 17 Employment Opportunities

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42nd Annual Conference Planning Update

By Mike Blackwood, Conference Committee Chair



Our WHEA Annual Conference is quickly approaching.

The 2007 conference will again be held at the Regency Suites and the KI Convention Center in Green Bay on September 18 - 21. The conference committee is making final

arrangements and all should be complete in the near future. All educational programs are confirmed with a wide variety of topics including a state health care and nursing home code update, NFPA-Current Issues in Health Care, Emergency Preparedness, Computerized Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS) and more. Jim Lussier, a former hospital CEO from Bend, Oregon, will present Friday's closing session. Jim's program, The Power of Transformational Leadership, is definitely a program you will want to attend.

There are already in excess of 150 at-

tendees registered and the Technical Exhibition on Wednesday is already full with 151 booths and a number of vendors on the waiting list. Reviews from last year's program were very positive with 2007 shaping up to be even better.

The spouse program will begin Tuesday afternoon with a relaxing boat cruise on the Foxy Lady, Wednesday to participate in the technical exhibits and Thursday to travel to Door County for shopping, lunch and sight-seeing, and then return for the annual banquet and entertainment.

This year we break from tradition with our awards banquet and dinner taking us across town to the National Railroad Museum. In addition to the banquet, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the museum and take a train ride around the grounds. This year's railroad theme will continue with a murder mystery to be solved during the evening activity.

Hope to see you in Green Bay in September for another great conference.

"Register on-line at www.whea.com for the 42nd Annual Conference, Sep 18-21, 2007."

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

AUGUST

- 2 Code Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
- 3 Newsletter Article Deadline
- 3 Board Meeting / Boat Trip
- 10 Member Services Committee Meeting, 9:00
- 16 Chapter IV Meeting, 11:30 Marshfield Clinic
- 16 Chapter V Meeting (Golf Outing)
- 23 Chapter II Golf Outing
- 24 Education Committee Conference Call, 9-11 am
- 31 Newsletter Mailing Deadline

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Chapter II Meeting, Noon
- 13 Chapter I Meeting, 4:30 pm
- 18 - 21 WHEA Conference, Green Bay
- 18 Conference Committee (at Conference)
- 18 Leadership Rally (at Conference)
- 19 Sponsor Appreciation Breakfast (at Conference)
- 19 Chapter VI Meeting, Noon

SEPTEMBER (continued)

- 20 Chapter II Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 am
- 20 Chapter III Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 am
- 20 Chapter IV Breakfast Meeting, 7:30 am

OCTOBER

- 11 Chapter I Meeting, 4:30 pm
- 11 Chapter II Meeting, Noon
- 12 Education Committee, 9:00 am
- 17 Chapter VI Meeting, Noon
- 18 Chapter V Meeting, 9:00
- 19 Conference Committee Meeting, 9:00 am

NOVEMBER

- 1 Code Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
- 8 Chapter III Meeting, Noon (Tentative)
- 8 Chapter II Meeting, noon
- 8 Chapter I Meeting, 4:30 pm
- 9 Board Goals Planning Meeting, 9:00 am (tent.)
- 27 Boiler Operations Seminar -Wintergreen



Board Meeting Aboard the “Chicagoan”



After 42 years of WHEA quarterly board meetings – the last 25 yrs or so held in Wisconsin Dells hotels – the board approved President Laabs suggestion to hold the August, 2007 board meeting on board an Upper Dells excursion boat. All board members agreed to forego their usual mileage reimbursement checks in order to finance the charter. Pictured here on the upper deck of the “Chicagoan” just before returning to port are, front row from left: Tamarah Cox, Treasurer; Jim Teunas, Education Committee Chair; Bill Best, By-laws Chair; Helena Dukes, Chapter III President; Barb Laabs; and Bankim Dhanak, Chapter VI President. Back row from left: Mike Blackwood, Conference Committee Chair; Lois Elliott; Jon Cechvala, Code Committee Co-Chair; Roger Elliott, Member Services Committee Chair; Tom Stank, Chapter II President; Al Neitzel, Chapter VI President-elect; Gary Sankey, Chapter I President; Dennis Havlik, WHEA Vice President; Tom Laabs, WHEA President; and Kim Bauer, WHEA Secretary.

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Education Committee

By Jim Teunas, Education Committee Chair



The Education Committee is dedicated to our Association's mission of healthcare engineering development through education, professional growth, and advocacy in codes and standards. We strive to

develop technical and managerial program offerings that provide value to our members.

Upcoming Site-based Programs

Boiler Maintenance & Operations Program
11/27/2007 – Wisconsin Dells

This program will contain pertinent information for managers and operators of boiler plants. The program is designed to cover the fundamentals of proper boiler maintenance and the codes and standards governing design, fabrication, installation, maintenance and repair. The course will take an in-depth look at areas that are vital for any effective boiler maintenance program.

The program will also include a presentation on water testing, steam line treatment, boiler wet lay-up, problems encountered, and why this impacts the entire boiler plant maintenance program.

In addition there will also be a session on steam traps; this will cover types of traps, selection, maintenance, testing and replacement.

Attendance at this seminar will help owners, managers and operators to operate and maintain their boiler plants to maximize the life of the plant, safety, efficiency and costs while still being in compliance with boiler codes.



Healthcare Construction Certificate Program 12/5/2007 – Madison

The HCC program is a one-day seminar aimed for contractors and hospital construction supervisors to provide knowledge of safety issues, infection control, air quality issues and many other unique topics pertaining to construction in a healthcare environment. The attendee will

receive a certificate of attendance, hard-hat decal and a reference book.

Please inform your contractors and staff. I am pleased to announce that this program will be presented by the WHEA Code Committee!

Webinars "on-deck"

The Education Committee is developing a number of web-based programs. Watch your e-mail for program dates and more information.

- Joint Commission/Statement of Condition by Plunkett Raysich Architects
- DHFS Plan Review Process by David Soens
- International Building Codes by WHEA Code Committee

NEW Webinar Subscription Offering!

In an effort to reduce administrative and approval time for our members, the Education Committee is developing an annual webinar subscription offering!

For one annual fee, you will automatically be enrolled in all WHEA webinars (minimum of 4) for the year. This service will be calendar year based. Details and sign-up form will be available at the annual conference.

"A new WHEA Webinar Subscription service will be unveiled at the 42nd Annual Conference."



Chapter III

By Helena Dukes, Chapter President



No business meetings were held since June's report, but here's a status report on our 2007 goals:

Goal: Provide valuable programs at meetings, for professional/educational and personal development.

Status: Meetings for the year have successfully met both criteria. Marti Isaakson, the Chapter III Vice President, designed and distributed a questionnaire in the beginning of the year. As a result we were able to determine the most sought after educational topics, such as Pharmaceutical Waste Management, CMMS, 3D Design for Mechanical Systems, Compound Sterile Processing, etc., which were pursued and presented in 2007 or are currently scheduled for future meetings. Additionally, as a result of a poll taken as it relates to entertainment

activities, a boat cruise took place at the May meeting.

Goal: Continue to promote CHFM certification.

Status: Two members submitted applications for the CHFM scholarships. Membership voted to fund the test preparation for both candidates.

Goal: Continue to increase membership, focus on expanding full membership.

Status: Year to date, ten (10) full members and (7) associate members were added to the Chapter III membership. The mailing campaign is in development mode, and is expected to be finalized and introduced before 2008.

Our 2007/2008 slate of officers are: President - Helena Dukes, Vice-President - Marti Isaakson, Secretary/Treasurer - Daniel Loest and Officer at Large - Jay Jens

Chapter I

By Gary Sankey, Chapter President



There has not been a business meeting since June's report.

The annual dinner for Chapter I was held on June 22nd at the Potawatami Bingo and Casino "Woodland Dreams Conference Center." State Vice-President Dennis Havlik joined us for an evening of great food and entertainment.

The Chapter will have its annual golf outing this year on Friday, September 7th at Western Lakes Golf Club. If anyone is interested in joining us contact Jenny Schaefer at jschaefer@ringdu.com for information.

The 2007 / 2008 slate of officers:

President - Greg Nissen (Synergy Health St. Joseph's Hospital)

Vice President - Gary Karnitz (Cedar Community)

Secretary - Neil Jensen (Froedtert & Community Health)

Treasurer - Ron Heimann (Community Memorial)

Officer at Large - Jeff Eckstein (Children's Hospital)

Chapter I Membership

Full 56

Associate 45

Life 17

Retired 12

In Memoriam 3



Chapter II Report

By Tom Stank, Chapter President



Chapter II has not had a meeting since May 17th. This was our annual banquet meeting, held at the Prime Quarter in Madison. We conducted a brief business meeting during which several members were recognized for their years of service; not the least of which was Lew Cole (recently retired) for 30 years of membership. At that meeting, the

membership voted unanimously to accept the following slate of officers for 2007/2008:

Wayne Schroeder – President
Dan Zank – Vice President

Doug Dunlap – Secretary
John Pohlmann – Treasurer
Thomas Stank – Past President

Our annual golf outing was scheduled for August 23rd at the Reedsburg Country Club, Reedsburg, WI. The remainder of our meeting schedule for 2007 is as follows:

September 20, meeting @
WHEA Conference

October 11, (new officers take office) –
Program TBD

November 8, Program TBD.

We are still making progress toward achieving our goals for 2007.

Chapter V News

By Pat DeLong



Chapter V held it's regularly scheduled meeting on August 16th at the Rolling Oaks Golf and Country Club in Barron. Twenty Two (22) members were present. A presentation was made by Ed Stevenson from Power Process Equipment on new burner technology. These burners are suppose to be the most efficient burner on the market today. Luther Hospital recently updated their power plant with new boilers and these new burners.

After the meeting we ate lunch and enjoyed a beautiful day on the golf course. Our next meeting will be held October 18th and I believe it will be at Luther Hospital to check out their new power plant.



After a morning business meeting and education session on August 16th, Chapter V members enjoy an afternoon of golf at the Rolling Oaks Golf and Country Club in Barron. Pictured, from left: Robb Paulson, Ray Kirchoff and Brad Ward.



Codes & Standards News

By Wade Rudolph and Jon Cechvala, Codes & Standards Committee Co-Chairs



The WHEA Codes and Standards Committee members met on May 31 and August 2, 2007.

ASHRAE 170 has now completed its second public hearing process and now ASHRAE's response to the public comments will be open for public comments one more time.

ASHRAE 180 *Note: In April and May the code committee provided correspondence and clarification to ASHRAE regarding both draft standards 170 and 180.*

The 180-committee chair has been in discussions with Wade Rudolph to clarify comments. Several comments were accepted while others were modified based on the WHEA input.

ASHRAE 29P As directed by the Codes & Standards committee, Wade Rudolph contacted ASHE regarding this matter. The decision was made to not file an appeal. The WHEA Codes & Standards committee chair has been in contact with the 29P committee chair on several occasions and a mutual agreement is pending committee input. This item was discussed at the August 2 Codes & Standards committee meeting and brought before the WHEA board at the August 3rd meeting. The board asked the committee to revisit the issues with Dale Woodin of ASHE to determine if these issues should be continued to be pursued and be prepared to report back to the board during a conference call to be scheduled before the end of August.

CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATE TRAINING The contractor's training program is currently under development at this time.

The outline has been finalized, and several portions of the presentation have been completed and are under committee review. The committee looks forward to being able to serve WHEA and its members with this new program starting in November.

PENDING DHFS ASBESTOS RULE

CHANGES do not appear to have moved forward as it is currently under legal review at the state. The committee will continue to monitor the progress of these changes.

CODE ALERTS are under review for updates needed. When the State of Wisconsin Commerce Department adopts the 2006 IBC many of the code alerts will need to update. The adoption is anticipated end of year or early 2008. The committee will monitor the progress of this effort.

PLAN REVIEW ENHANCEMENT TEAM

David Soens reported that the Healthcare enhancement team is working to improve the turn around time for plan review. The leading cause of delays in the review is incomplete, unsigned forms submitted.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT ELECTRICAL PERMITTING PROCESS

David Soens provided an update on the State Commerce Department initiative to more actively follow up on the electrical permitting process for new construction. There is a staff meeting scheduled for June, with some implementation to start in July 2007. More information will be provided when available.

NURSING HOMES TO BE FULLY SPRINKLERED

David Soens also reported that CMS is moving forward on the requirement for all nursing homes to be fully sprinkler protected. Wade Rudolph reported that the VA is already requiring a time line for unsprinklered facilities to be completed in next several years.

(continued on page 8)

"...the Healthcare enhancement team is working to improve the turn around time for plan review."



Codes & Standards News *(continued from page 7)*

"The Joint Commission has announced expanded requirements concerning the emergency preparedness requirements that will be surveyed starting on January 1, 2008"

"Commerce is starting to enforce provisions in the NEC requiring electrical sequencing and short circuit coordination."

AIA GUIDELINES REVISION CYCLE TO ADDRESS ZERO LIFT

Jon Cechvala reported that the next revision cycle for the AIA Guidelines for Healthcare Construction has begun with the first all-hands meeting held in Washington DC, April 17-20. Committees have been assigned. Wisconsin has good representation on the committees. The document is now open for public input from anyone.

THE JOINT COMMISSION has announced expanded requirements concerning the emergency preparedness requirements that will be surveyed starting on January 1, 2008 (The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is now THE JOINT COMMISSION with a recent name change.) Also in 2008, they will be sending engineering surveyors on all surveys with an expansion of time in larger facilities. Also the computerized PFI requirement has been delayed to September of 2007. (The BBI component was required on January 1 of this year.)

NFPA 99 Roger Lautz, chairman of the NFPA 99 Technical Correlating Committee, reported that the document revision is moving forward. The committee looks forward to working with Roger in this major undertaking.

ELEVATOR CODE COMMITTEE Wade Rudolph reported the Commerce rules committee for Wisconsin Act 456 regarding elevator code changes has now published emergency rules that have been influenced by the input of the WHEA Codes & Standards Committee. The final rules have to be developed, but the Commerce Committee has not met as of yet to develop any changes to the emergency rules.

OSHA ELECTRICAL SAFETY A new final rule was published in February, 2007

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE Commerce is starting to enforce provisions in the NEC requiring electrical sequencing and short circuit coordination. Gordy Pierret provided a brief overview and indicated that technology is not currently available to meet the code, as this is a case where code requirements exceed the technology. This topic will be included in the annual conference agenda.

HFS 132 changes are still going forward. The proposed changes reduce duplication of federal rules and are seen as positive changes by the WHEA Codes and Standards committee members who have reviewed these changes.

HFS 83 is being rewritten and will be available for public comment. The committee will monitor this development and comment if appropriate.

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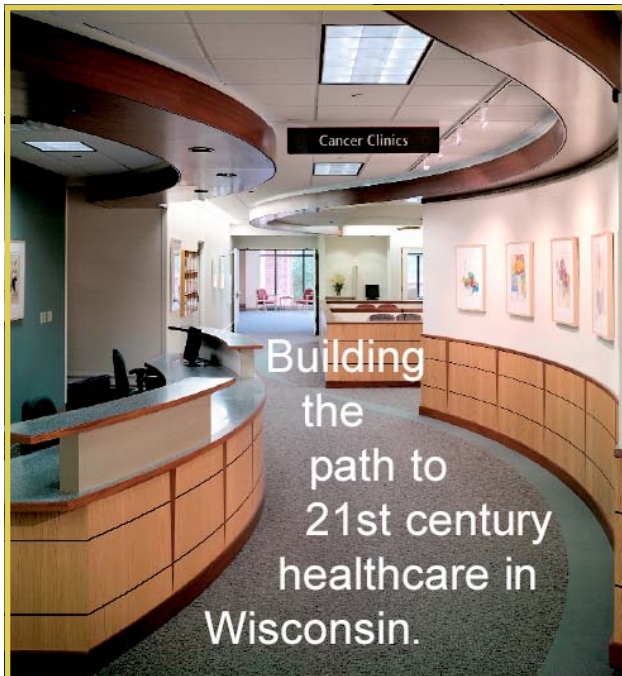
Chapter IV

By Dick Lange, Chapter President



Our August meeting was held at the Marshfield Clinic with an in-service provided by Robert Alm, General Manager of Hill-Rom. Twenty three members attended. Special thanks to Roy Kelling for his sponsorship of 7 mechanics. Just another example of dedication to

purpose to our chapter. The August meeting also had the election of new officers to lead our chapter in 2008. Elected President was Jason Kohlbeck from Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Vice-President is Mike Hansen, Culligan Water Treatment, and Officer-At-Large will be Randy Wegner, Director of Facilities at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Marshfield. Randy is a Senior Member of ASHE and a fine example of leadership for our group. The ASHE Membership was won by Jim Roth from River-view Hospital in Wisconsin Rapids. The conference fee for the annual conference in September was won by Mike Wolfgram from the Marshfield Clinic.



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MECH Certification Program Report

By Jim Hildebrand, MECH Program Manager



2007 (YTD) we have sold forty (40) Preparation Manual's and thirty-five (35) test applications for Mechanic Certification, grossing \$4,595.00. In 2006 we sold 35 Study Guides and 28 test applications, and had a total sales of \$4,958.25.

To date we have 274 certified mechanics in Wisconsin, 80 Certified, 189 Senior Certified, and 5 mechanics passing both test.

MECH Re-Certification is Here!!

I've received the following information from MECH (see below.) The Re-certification process has begun. If you check out the MECH Certification web site, under Re-Certification, all your questions should be answered. The cost to re-certify is \$60.00, once every five years. I don't think that is high with MECH maintaining a tracking system. I'm sure they would welcome any idea's to improve on the system.

To: All MECH Certificate Holders
From: MECH
Date: July 2007
Re: Re-Certification Announcement

MECH is embarking on a new era of accountability for the Mechanic Evaluation and Certification for Healthcare (MECH) program. This is being accomplished through the recent revision of the certification test to reflect changes in technology and responsibilities of healthcare mechanics. MECH is also requiring that all Certified and Senior Certified mechanics renew their certification through education and training.

Background

In September of 2006, the new certification test was published. All mechanics that have taken the new Certified and Senior Certified Mechanic test are being required to re-certify 5 years from their certificate anniversary date.

Certified mechanics should remember that once they can demonstrate 4 years of service as a healthcare mechanic, they are eligible to take the Senior Certified mechanic test.

Re-Certification

Re-certification can be accomplished in one of two ways:

- Prior to your expiration date, take the certification test again (pay the appropriate fee at that time) and meet the cut-score requirement, or
- **Document** a minimum of 6 hours of training per year for a total of 30 hours over 5 years, verified by the Facilities Manager in writing and include the certification fee.

The object of Re-Certification is to enhance and document professional growth. MECH felt that it was important to have a Re-Certification program in order to have a formalized system of continual recognition for Healthcare Mechanics. Re-Certification requirements of other certification programs are more stringent and require such things as CEU's (Continuing Education Units), specific training courses offered by the certifying organization and more. MECH has instead, developed a Re-Certification process that is easy to attain.

Action Required

All current certificate holders are required to re-certify. As a way to establish the Re-Certification program for all former certificate holders, MECH is offering an

(continued on page 11)

"MECH is ... requiring ... all Certified and Senior Certified mechanics renew their certification through education and training."

"All current (MECH) certificate holders are required to re-certify."



MECH Certification Program Report *(continued from page 10)*

"... if a certified mechanic registers early, their registration for Re-Certification will be taken in order (by time stamp) to fill the limited number of mechanics who will be able to delay Re-Certification."

Early Re-Certification Registration. There is to be a staggered schedule for Re-Certification for those MECH Certified and Senior Certified mechanics that have been certified prior to September 2006. Staggered Re-Certification means that if a certified mechanic registers early, their registration for Re-Certification will be taken in order (by time stamp) to fill the limited number of mechanics who will be able to delay Re-Certification. Staggered Re-Certification process will work in the following way:

The first 200 certificate holders who respond to MECH, based on this announcement, will be allowed 6 years, to re-certify. The first 200 who respond will re-certify during the year 2013.

The second, or next 300 certificate holders who respond, will have the standard 5 years and will re-certify in 2012.

The third group, or second group of 300 certificate holders who respond, will have 4 years to re-certify, during 2011.

The remainder of MECH Certified mechanics who respond will have 3 years to re-certify and will re-certify during the year 2010.

TO RESPOND and be counted, you must do one of the following:

The first and easiest way to time-stamp your registration is to go online. Use the MECH Re-Certification Registration Form that can be found at www.mech-certification.org.

Use the following only if you are having difficulty with the online Re-Certification Form. Send an email to MECH providing your full name, last 4 digits of your Social Security Number, residential mailing address, healthcare institution name, mailing address, and institution phone number. Email to: mech@netonecom.net (please note that you cannot call to re-certify).

Closing Comments

Please keep in mind that you can re-certify at any time before your certification anniversary date. However, you will not be required to enter the Re-Certification program until your designated year. Your Re-Certification is based also on the month of the year. Re-Certification during a given year means that you are required to re-certify during that year and before the anniversary month of your certificate that year.

Details of the simple, low cost, MECH Re-Certification process will be shared with you in subsequent communications. We will also share other MECH news and update you on interesting information about the MECH program.

If you have any questions, please contact us at this email address: mech@netonecom.net. You can also include a question in a postal note to us, or you may contact us by phone at 616-662-1315.

We look forward to your continued participation in the MECH program and your continued recognition as a Certified or Senior Certified Healthcare Mechanic.

Sincerely,
Dr. John E. Hohman, Director, MECH
Pam LeForge, National Coordinator, MECH

REMINDER:

Each chapter is able to setup their own test site and proctor for one or more mechanics. Please contact me if you have any mechanics wishing to be tested, need preparation manuals, or if you have any questions on the Mechanic Certification Program.

Jim Hildebrand, 414.464.3880 x509, or jhildebrand@luthermanor.org



Chapters to Determine Winners of Free 2008 ASHE Membership *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 chapters begin meeting again in the fall that we need the name of the FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP winner from each chapter prior to the Annual Conference. Chapters need to keep in mind that regardless of the method used to determine the ASHE Membership recipient, we need to hear from each chapter no later than the 2nd week of September! Each Chapter should submit the name of the FREE ASHE MEMBERSHIP winner to their Member Services Committee representative or directly to Roger Elliott at 715.726.3331, or reliot@sjcf.hshs.org.

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Chapter VI Goals Status

By Roger Elliott, from meetings minutes provided by Al Neitzel

Chapter VI held its last meeting on August 15th at Xcel Energy's French Island Power Plant. Normal chapter business, including committee reports were provided and approved.

The election of officers was concluded. Our outgoing board consisted of:

- President – Bankim Dhanak
- Vice-President – Rajendra Shah (resigned)
- Secretary – Al Neitzel
- Treasurer - Bing Zillmer
- Officer-At-Larger - Paul Harris

The new board includes:

- President – Al Neitzel
- Vice-President – Robert Gunderson
- Secretary – Paul Harris
- Treasurer - Donella Sarauer
- Officer-At-Larger – Steve Mahlke

The member selected to receive the Free ASHE membership for 2008 will be Gary Spohn.

The next meeting of Chapter VI will be held in October at a date and time to be determined. Dave Hardt of Town and Country Electric will sponsor that meeting.



Get “User Names” and “Passwords” for Access to WHEA Members Only *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 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.....

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 PASSWORDS! 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 – just another reason why you need to keep all your demographic information current with your chapter Member Services representative. If you don't, you miss a lot of important WHEA communications and will lose access to the Members Only site!

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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ASHE Region 6 Report

By Steve Vinopal, ASHE Region 6 Director/WHEA Liaison



The PDC 2008 conference group met on August 3rd in Chicago. The committee set the agenda for the program being held in Orlando March 10th through the 13th. The agenda will include plenary and general sessions. The six education tracks will be: Constructor, Healing Environment, Industry Drivers, Planning Design and Construction, Research/Think Tank and Sustainability. This year's theme for the 2008 PDC is "Building and Sustaining a Better Tomorrow." Mark your calendars and join us in Orlando.

The ASHE 44th annual conference and technical exhibition was held July 8th through the 11th of 2007. At Sunday's region leadership forum the ASHE "Road Way to Success" was presented to the leaders of ASHE's ten regions. Wisconsin Code Committee and Communications System was featured as a model of a successful program. WHEA President Tom Laabs along with Regional Director Jeff Arthurs (Region 5) and Steve Vinopal (Region 6) teamed for the program. WHEA was presented with the 2006 Platinum Award plaque while WHEA's Wade Rudolph received his Regional Leader Award. It was a great conference.

The ASHE Region 6 Annual Conference Meeting Committee comprised of region leaders from Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa met to plan the 2008 conference. The dates to save are April 17th and 18th, 2008 in Mankato, Minnesota.

ASHE Board met in New Orleans July 6th and 7th prior to the annual conference. Below is a brief summary of the meeting.

The board approved funding to update the *This Old Hospital* video. The video is

expected to be completed by the end of 2007. The final product is to be presented as an AHA product – powered by ASHE. This will increase the exposure to healthcare facility executives and senior management.

This video links to another ASHE initiative: *One ASHE Product in Every Hospital*. ASHE is seeking to bring products such as ASK ASHE, the ListServe, ASHE news e-newsletter, and upcoming Environment of Care e-learning modules to all healthcare facilities. These products would provide another entry to increase exposure and increase awareness of ASHE, its mission and its members.

The board reaffirmed its commitment to ensure continued improvement in chapter operations and the relationship between ASHE and the chapters. The society is dedicated to creating opportunities and tools for chapters to increase their effectiveness. A first step towards this is the creation of a Chapter Needs Assessment Survey which will be distributed at the Chapter Leadership Forum and the Regional Breakfasts at the Annual Conference.

The board approved changes to the Crystal Eagle Award program as submitted by the Personal Recognition Task Force. Major changes include the creation of a separate task force to identify potential candidates for the award and chapters will no longer be required to submit a candidate in order to be eligible for Levels of Affiliation awards.

The board approved ASHE's first student chapter at Purdue University. Dedication by ASHE and the school are required for the student chapter to remain viable after the current leadership graduates. The student chapter/ASHE relationship will be monitored and reviewed before seeking additional student chapters.

"The (ASHE) board reaffirmed its commitment to ensure continued improvement in chapter operations and the relationship between ASHE and the chapters. The society is dedicated to creating opportunities and tools for chapters to increase their effectiveness."



Health Care Relationship Enhancement Team Update

By Roger Elliott, with Tom Laabs



Improving the Healthcare Construction Delivery System in Wisconsin.

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 been working collectively since late 2006 to 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." WHEA is officially represented within this group by WHEA President, Tom Laabs.

ISSUES & DISCUSSION SUMMARY FROM RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT MEETING of August 9th, 2007:

Old Business:

- The DQA has received approval for an Operations Program Associate position for the Milwaukee Area.
- The DQA inquiries indicate that Commerce is open to the concept of local municipalities handling DQA responsibilities. The DQA staff will start looking for clearer definitions of minor project responsibilities that cities can assume. They will look at a 5-6 step process and consider pilot implementation.

The following issues need to be addressed:

- Guidelines are needed – it's hard to find efficiencies without consistency.
- Guidelines are difficult to define – projects can become multi-faceted.
- Business Occupancies may be a good place to start.
- Electronic Tracking: DQA staff is working on developing reports that will capture each step of the plan intake process.
 - The DQA is discussing how to centralize the differently sourced data that would be included.
 - David Soens responded to an inquiry regarding the possible use of Commerce program Regulated Objects. The DQA found significant differences between the DQA connection and the federal process that made compatibility cost-prohibitive.
 - Only 4-6 pieces of information may be needed by the users; i.e., arrival date, log-in date, etc. It may be possible to brainstorm a process that could be implemented within six (6) months.
- Preliminary Reviews:
 - The DQA is not sure of the actual percentage of plans currently reviewed.
 - Suggestions have been made to pursue educational opportunities for the encouragement of plan review – both initial and continuing—so that we don't fall back into the sort of poor communication that we've experienced previously.
 - If efforts to encourage review are successful, it could produce a significantly unwieldy increase in DQA workload and costs.

New Business:

- Process Improvement: A lot of positive feedback has been received from consumers.

(continued on page 16)

"Several work groups from within the health care facility management field... have been working collectively since late 2006 to address some regulatory compliance issues and the speed at which plan approvals in the State of Wisconsin are processed."



Health Care Relationship Enhancement Team Update

(continued from page 15)

"Check the end of this article on this page for important web links that have been established for your use!"

- DHFS Interpretation of the new International Electrical building Code (IEBC)
 - DHFS will follow the Commerce rules regarding code interpretation.
 - Although Commerce is typically lenient in regard to code issues with older buildings there are issues that must be addressed regarding the actual life of such buildings.
 - DQA will attend refresher courses offered by DHFS.
 - The code is scheduled for adoption in Fall 2007.
Mike Scherbel intends to continue to be proactive stopping the code changes or, if adopted, impacting their interpretation.
- Miscellaneous:
 - HS124
 - DHFS works under federal authority so proposed changes are an attempt to remove duplicative codes.
 - DHFS is planning to establish a stakeholder workgroup.
 - Expect this to be a long, complicated process.
 - Electrical Inspections
 - DQA is working with Commerce regarding electrical inspections for Group I2 major projects. DQA has minimal electrical expertise.
 - Website
 - Discussions are taking place regarding website content, accessibility, dates, interpretations, and surveyor communications.
 - Information would be located on the Construction page.
 - Stakeholders could provide educational workshops or webinars for the healthcare construction community.
 - Web Links

- A link to the DQA Construction/Planning Review page will be established.
- The DQA organizational chart and contact information to committee members for handling concerns, disagreements, interpretations, etc. will be provided – disseminated by members.
- A link to the DQA Quarterly Update will be established.

The following Web Links have been established for your use:

Construction / Remodeling Plan Review web site link: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/PlanReview/index.htm

Hospital Conference Link: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_dsl/Training/index.htm

DQA Quarterly Information Updates: http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/rl_DSL/Publications/BQAupdates.htm

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