NEW ENGLAND
HOSPITAL ENGINEERS SOCIETY
Newsletter

FIRST QUARTER MARCH 1988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems like only a few days ago when we held the Annual Meeting at The Equinox in Manchester, VT. I always look forward to seeing old friends again. Being elected as President to the New England Hospital Engineers' Society means a lot to me. However, along with the honor of being President comes a lot of hard work. I would like to take just a minute to reflect on some of the issues that I discussed at the Annual Banquet.

There seems to be a consensus that the Constitution and By-Laws need a few changes and additions. Those of you that have participated in the daily operations of the Society can well appreciate the need to continually upgrade the overall policy that we are bound by. To begin dealing with some of these issues I have appointed a special committee of past Presidents to review the entire By-Laws. Those members include Chairman Paul Taylor, Dick Popham, David Hathaway, John Crowley, Percy Hanscom and Ralph Henry. If you have any suggestions please feel free to contact someone on this committee or your state representative.

Some feel that the By-Laws are too restrictive and in other areas only clarification is needed. Over the last two years we have looked more closely at Career Development. This is an area that needs to be addressed in conjunction with Education.

For more than a year now we have contracted with Mary Lou Crowley as an Executive Secretary to the Board. In the past our elected Secretary has maintained the Society records, along with the never ending task of collecting dues, maintaining an accurate membership list and many other tasks. This is another area where we need to clearly identify the role of both the Elected and Executive Secretary.

We will also be working closely with the CHES to assist wherever possible in the development of the Certification program. I have appointed David Elliott to represent the New England Hospital Engineers' Society and to work with the Connecticut Hospital Engineers' Society in the on-going efforts to identify and help solve some of the issues that will affect the outcome of the program. In a recent survey, conducted by Jack Berger, Career Development, it was clear that members of NEHES were highly supportive of the Certification program as it was presented to the Society in the fall of 1985. We will continue to work with Jim Loughery, president of the CHES in our support for the program.

As in previous years, the President of NEHES relies entirely on the support and participation of its members. The success of the President in accomplishing the goals established at the Annual Meeting is directly reflective of the support of the immediate Board and overall membership. Please feel free to contact me for any and all matters concerning NEHES or Hospital Engineering in general. I certainly don't pretend to have all the answers but I do know a lot of Hospital Engineers that are always willing to offer their assistance.

Theron Manning
1988 President, NEHES
(Gifford Memorial Hospital, VT)

SPRING SEMINAR REMINDER
MARCH 29, 1988
JOHN B. HYNES VETERANS MEMORIAL CONVENTION CENTER, BOSTON
ROOM 102

ASHE NOMINEE FOR NEW ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE
ASHE is starting the nomination process for the election at the end of the year for the Region One representative. Gerry Gardner is the current ASHE representative, as you know. The Nominating Committee is composed of Theron Manning, Ed Boyer and Tom Shubback. The Committee invites those interested in the position to communicate that interest to anyone on the Committee or any Board member.

David Hathaway
Steering Committee Chairman, NEHES
(Lawrence Memorial Hospital, MA)

MASS. HEALTH CARE MAGAZINE
I received my January, 1988 copy of the Massachusetts Health Care Magazine. I hope each of you did also. If not, please let me know and I will try to resolve any problems. Once again, I remind you that this is a monthly magazine and announcements such as our Spring and Fall Seminars would be an ideal subject to get in as soon as possible. Chairman should take advantage of this.

Ed Boyer
President-Elect, NEHES
(Charlton Memorial Hospital, MA)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NEHES
While attending the New England Hospital Assembly in Boston during March of 1958, approximately sixty (60) New England hospital engineers met in the Parker House. The meeting was called to discuss establishing a regional society of hospital engineers, affiliated with the American Hospital Association. A Regional Hospital Engineering Society, it was felt, would be beneficial to the individual engineers and their local institutions. Frequent meetings could be held where travel would not be a major expense and time away from their institutions would be minimal.

The proposal was overwhelmingly accepted and the first formal meeting of the New England Hospital Engineers' Society was held at the Ether Dome, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA.

Officers were elected at the first meeting, and dues were set at $3.00 per year. The hospital engineers who attended that meeting and paid their dues are Charter Members of the Society.

The 59 Charter Members came from the following states:

- Connecticut 7
- Maine 1
- Massachusetts 35
- New Hampshire 3
- Rhode Island 11
- Vermont 2

Happy 30th Birthday NEHES

Tom Shubback
Vice-President, NEHES
(The Institute of Living, CT)

HOSPITAL FIRE TRACED TO FRAYED ELECTRIC BED CORD
(Reprinted from BIOMEDICAL SAFETY & STANDARDS)

A short caused by a frayed cord on an electric bed has been blamed for an intense blaze in a New York hospital room where temperatures reportedly approached 1,000°F, melting the television, telephone and light fixtures. The patient, who had left the room just before the fire erupted, was not injured.

Initial published reports cited the cause of the blaze as "an electrical malfunction of an unidentified piece of equipment." Deputy Fire Chief Thomas R. Gorbett of the White Plains (NY) Fire Department told BMEDICAL SAFETY & STANDARDS, however, that the shorted cord was recently established as the source of ignition. In addition to the cord, which had apparently become frayed from considerable movement,
NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF ASHE CLINICAL ENGINEERING SECTION

In the past several years, ASHE has sought to spawn a group which focuses on the clinical engineering discipline. This has resulted in the development of the ASHE Clinical Engineering Section. Up to this point in time, no organization has provided a forum for clinical engineers and clinical engineering managers. Organizations such as AAMI and AECMB have significant industry, academic and physician membership, and more importantly, there is no link to hospital administration, thus providing clinical engineering personnel with little visibility in the environment they work. New England is national organization with the proper attributes has been chartered, it is important to consider the need for a regional organization to promote clinical engineering in New England. If you or your clinical engineering personnel are interested in a New England chapter of the ASHE Clinical Engineering Section, please contact Tobey Clark, Univ. of Vermont (802) 656-3255, or Paul Monahan, TIM (617) 478-7515.

Tobey Clark
Technical Services Program
University of Vermont

WELCOME ABOARD

Martin E. Somers
Director of Maintenance
Taylo Hospitals
268 Stillwater Avenue
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 942-5286

Robert Graham
Director of Plant Services
Memorial Hospital
111 Brewster Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 762-6000, X2140

Stephen James Roy
Assistant Director of Engineering
Waternelle Orthopedic Hospital
Kennedy Memorial Drive
Wasserolle, ME 04901
(207) 873-0731

Alan Chapin
Vice President, Engineering
Danbury Hospital
24 Hospital Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 797-7554

SAMOSET RESORT CHOSEN FOR NEHES 1989 FALL SEMINAR

The Samoset is a year-round luxury resort situated on 230 oceanfront acres overlooking Penobscot Bay in the mid-coast of Maine, where the area is known as the Lobster Capital of the World. Here you’ll experience spectacular vistas of the rugged coast ... of the Bay and offshore islands, fishing boats and windjammers, and forested hills that sweep to the sparkling Atlantic. Once host to such notables as the Rockefeller’s, Coolidges, Harry Truman and Justices of the Supreme Court, Samoset’s unique ambiance is the true spirit of the “Grand Hotels” of yesteryear. Today, the Samoset—a contemporary architectural masterpiece—offers 150 spacious guest rooms and suites with private balconies overlooking the Bay. Each room offers cable TV, walk-in closets, individual air conditioning and heating controls. In addition, there are 72 luxury condominium units for interval ownership. The Rockport, Rockland, Camden area has many quaint boutiques and galleries just perfect for shopping and browsing. You’ll also find an abundance of local sightseeing opportunities including many historic homes, lighthouses, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the

Owls Head Transportation Museum, Shore Village Museum, the Bay Chamber Concerts, the Camden Shakespearean Theatre and cruises to the offshore islands and coves aboard the many schooners and windjammers in the area. The resort is located near Camden and Rockport Harbors.

NEW VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Listed below are some new 1/2" videotapes that the Society has purchased:

1. Clinical Laboratory Safety
2. Defibrillators
3. Electrocautery
4. Intracardiac Ventricular Pacemakers
5. Hazardous Materials Safety
6. Laser Safety
7. Needle Stick
8. Nursing Electrical Safety
9. O.R. Electrical Safety
10. Shock-Proof

John Crowley
Education Committee Chairman, NEHES
(St. John’s Hospital, MA)

AIR LOCK AVAILABLE

The Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford will soon have a surplus “air bag” used as an air lock for sealing the gap around a 12 foot by 12 foot opening serving a mobile CAT SCAN vehicle. This will become available when a fixed CAT SCAN unit is installed this spring. The air inflatable bag seals the four foot opening between the building and the mobile unit. The bag is constructed of a short hood which rides over the roof of the mobile van. We would only ask that the recipient remove the bag so they would know it is in good condition. The bag is only about a year old. Those interested should call David Hathaway, (617) 396-9250 x1482.

David Hathaway
Steering Committee Chairman, NEHEL
(Lawrence Memorial Hospital, MA)

NFPA FIRE ALARM SYSTEM SEMINAR

This two day seminar is designed for enforcers, installers, inspectors and designers, and covers plans to review acceptance testing of fire alarm systems.

Location: Nashua, NH
Date: April 14-15, 1988

For complete details, please contact NFPA at 1-800-344-3555.

HOSPITAL ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM USED IN OVER 200 HOSPITALS

In 1982 a grant from the Kellogg Foundation to the Technical Services Program at the University of Vermont enabled the development of a computerized engineering management system. Key to this project were input from an advisory committee including NEHES members Jim Lawson — Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, Theron Manning — Gifford Memorial Hospital, Ken Johnson — Holyoke Hospital and Jim DuCharme — formerly of Rutland Reg. Medical Center.

The grant phase ended with the development of the Hospital Engineering Management System (HEMS), a work management system. Many other work management systems have appeared since the introduction of HEMS in 1984, making the current product developed by James Bernard c. Technical Services Program no longer unique. However, it evolved into a system that is used in over 200 hospitals and as well as the People’s Republic of China at a Project Hope station. Currently it has approximately three times as many hospital users than any other system in the 20 systems in New England. Much of the success of HEMS is due to the representation from

Vincent F. Gardner
ASHES Liaison, NEHES
(Massachusetts General Hospital, MA)
shared engineering services such as Technology in Medicine in Milford, MA which is the New England Representative. They provide both hospital engineering and computer expertise on a local basis, and have the philosophy of professionalism and quality.

"With the grant phase ended, HEMS relies upon..." for continued development and support activities. Although the basic structure of HEMS remains the same, over ten enhancements or revisions have been made in the past three years. Most of these are a result of user feedback which is derived at user meetings, via surveys or through personal communications, including an electronic bulletin board. HEMS continues to respond to ASHE input as it is currently licensed to use maintenance procedures in ASHE Facilities and Equipment Management publications for plant and clinical engineering systems.

A major focus has been on the support of present users. In addition to HEMS problem resolution, which utilizes a remote modem connection to the users' computer, much practical information on computer topics and minor customizations of the HEMS program to suit specific needs has been provided by the HEMS staff.

Goals for 1988 include developing a multi-user system, productivity reporting and quality assurance modules. If you are interested, please contact the Technical Services program/UVMAV Center (802) 655-3255, or TIm (617) 478-7515.

Toby Clark Technical Services Program University of Vermont

NEWS FROM VERMONT

The Vermont Hospital Engineering Society held its first meeting of 1988, on February 19, 1988 at Springfield Hospital in Springfield, Vermont.

Bill Frank, a medical gas specialist conducted a discussion on "A Sensible Approach to the Maintenance and Testing of Medical Gas Systems." Bill presented this program in New Hampshire last month and it was described as both informative and successful.

Norm Welch, who is the Hospital Engineer at Springfield Hospital (and the alternate representative to this board), took us on a plant tour and discussed the upcoming 7 million dollar renovation/construction program.

Joe Kaczmarek Vermont State Representative, NEHES (Central Vermont Medical Center, VT)

NEWS FROM MAINE

The Maine Hospital Engineers met on February 16, 1988 at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor, Maine with 17 members present.

Guest Speakers:
Michael Biotzer, U.S. Department of Labor — OSHA, reviewed OSHA's role in the Health Care Industry.
Larry Alquist, Radiation Physicist, Eastern Maine Medical Center gave an in-depth presentation on the use, handling, and disposal of radiation materials. He reviewed the types of equipment used in exams and nuclear medicine.

Robert Lord Maine State Representative, NEHES (Parkview Memorial Hospital, ME)

WARREN MARBLE RECEIVES RECOGNITION UPON RETIREMENT

On February 1, 1988 Warren Marble officially retired from his position as Vice President at the Danbury Hospital, and the NEHES Board of Directors invited Warren to its February 5 meeting to acknowledge the longstanding effort Warren has devoted to help the growth of the New England Engineers' Society. Warren Marble was a charter member of the Society, the eighth President and for many years was the chairman of the By-Laws Committee.

He has been a very active member and has set an outstanding example for his fellow hospital engineers. He has been truly interested in his work, cares for other people and has been very helpful to his fellow engineers. Warren has really the best of life. His hospital has given him an office and hired him as a consultant and he works his own hours. He says it's great but wow! wait till you have to pay your own health insurance. (That's where the rest of us have a good thing going!)

David Hathaway Steering Committee Chairman, NEHES (Lawrence Memorial Hospital, MA)

NO AIDS RISK REPORTED

No evidence exists to suggest that plumbers are at risk of contracting acquired immune deficiency syndrome through their work with sewage systems and hospital laboratory systems, according to a report by the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors' Education Foundation.

More of a risk is exposure to hepatitis, according to the report. The best way to prevent highly communicable diseases such as hepatitis, as well as less communicable diseases such as AIDS, the study said, is use of good hygiene.

The study suggested the following practices to "greatly reduce" any theoretical risk of infection:

Wearing gloves that are not water absorbent and are resistant to punctures from sharp objects or sewer cleaning equipment (particularly if hands are cut or have open sores).

Wearing protective clothing, including goggles if there is any chance of sewage spraying into the air.

Changing out of contaminated clothing as soon as a job is finished.

Washing hands frequently.

Disinfecting contaminated gloves, clothing, and tools with a fresh solution of household bleach and water.

National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors.

NEHES HISTORICAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

If you, or someone you know, has any details regarding the history of NEHES, please contact me as I would greatly appreciate some help with our archives.

Thank you.

Tom Shubbuck Vice President, NEHES (The Institute of Living, CT)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our newsletter should assist each of us by passing on lessons learned—both good and bad. If it's really bad, your article could be anonymous; but if you learned something it's probable that someone else will have the same problem sooner or later, so why don't you pass these things along so your peers can benefit from them. After all, it may be you that is learning from somebody else's good or bad luck, or maybe from their careful planning and outstanding engineering work.

We would appreciate you sending information to your newsletter editor on: problems with certain products or services; items you may have as surplus material; ways you have learned to do a job better; or alerting the rest of us to an interpretation by some of our "inspectors" that will cause us to change our way of doing things. Ask yourself if you wouldn't rather read about a problem in the newsletter and be forewarned than have it fall on you by surprise. . . .

David Hathaway Steering Committee Chairman, NEHES (Lawrence Memorial Hospital, MA)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Should you have questions regarding handling, removal or disposal of asbestos, you can contact:

ASBESTOS INFORMATION CENTER
Center for Environmental Management
Curran Hall
Tufts University
Medford, MA 02155
Tel: (617) 381-3531

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Several positions are currently available. If you would like further information, please call Theron Manning, Gilford Memorial Hospital, VT, (802) 729-4441.
NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL ENGINEERS' SOCIETY, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 1988

OFFICERS

President
THOMAS A. MANNING
Plant Superintendent
Gifford Memorial Hospital
44 South Main Street
P.O. Box 2000
Ralph, VT 05060
(802) 728-4441

President Elect
EDWARD BOYER
Director of Engineering
Chariton Memorial Hospital
Highland Ave. @ New Boston Road
Fall River, MA 02720
(617) 679-3131

Vice President
THOMAS J. SHUBBuck
Director of Plant
The Institute of Living
400 Washington Street
Hampton, CT 06116
(203) 241-6666

Treasurer
JACK GOSSELIN
Director of Engineering
North County Hospital
Ponrou Drive
Newport, VT 05856
(802) 334-7331

Secretary
GEORGE H. HAWLEY
Director of Engineering
Hebrew Rehab Center
1200 Center Street
Boston, MA 02131
(617) 325-8000

Newsletter Editor
BERNARD BOLTON
Director of Plant Operations
New England Memorial Hospital
5 Woodland Road
Stoneham, MA 02180
(617) 665-1740

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Connecticut
PETER FOVARQUE
Director of Engineering
Danbury Hospital
24 Hospital Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 796-7075

Maine
Robert Lord
Director, Maintenance
Parkview Memorial Hospital
Upper Main Street
Brunswick, ME 04011
(207) 729-1641

Massachusetts
JOSEPH C. MONA
Chief of Maintenance
Anna Jaques Hospital
25 Highland Avenue
Newburyport, MA 01950
(617) 465-6600

New Hampshire
JULIEN BELAVANCE
Asst. Director, Engineering
Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital
2 Maynard Street
Hanover, NH 03755
(603) 646-7150

Rhode Island
OVID BORDEIANU
Bio-Medical Engineer
Newport Hospital
Friendship Street
Newport, RI 02840
(401) 846-6400

Vermont
JOSEPH KACZMAREK
Director, Plant Facility
Central VT Medical Center
Box 547
Barre, VT 05647
(802) 229-9121

SEMINAR CHAIRPERSONS

Spring Seminar
JOSEPH C. MONA
Chief of Maintenance
Anna Jaques Hospital
25 Highland Avenue
Newburyport, MA 01950
(617) 465-6600

Fall Seminar
GEORGE H. HAWLEY
Director of Engineering
Hebrew Rehab Center
1200 Center Street
Boston, MA 02131
(617) 325-8000

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership
ROBERT F. CAMPBELL
Director, Facilities Services
Faulkner Hospital
153 Centre Street
Boston, MA 02130
(617) 522-5800

Education
JOHN CROWLEY
Administrative Engineer
St. John’s Hospital
1 Hospital Drive
Lowell, MA 01852
(617) 458-1411

Steering
DAVID B. HAT-AYAW
Plant Engineer
Lawrence Memorial Hospital
170 Governors Avenue
Medford, MA 02155
(617) 396-9050

RICHARD E. POPHAM
Director of Facilities Mgr.
Univ. CT Health Center
Farmington, CT 06032
(203) 672-2125

Scholarship
LOUIS A. ROSSI
Director of Engineering
Mercy Hospital
321 Carew Street
Springfield, MA 01104
(413) 781-9100

Consultation and By-Laws
PAUL TAYLOR
Manager Plant Maintenance
Brookline Hospital
180 Center Street
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 586-3600

Research
ROD LaBLANC
Director of Engineering
Rutland Reg. Med. Center
160 Allen Street
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-7111

Prof. Career Development
JACK BERGER
Director of Plant Operations
J.B. Thomas Hospital
15 King Street
Peabody, MA 01960
(617) 531-2900

LIAISON PERSONS

ASHE
VINCENT F. GARDNER
Resident Engineer
Planning Office, WISH-2
Massachusetts General Hospital
Crout Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 726-2442

NFPA
PETER FOVARQUE
Director of Engineering
Danbury Hospital
24 Hospital Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 797-7075

NEHA
JOSEPH C. MONA
Chief of Maintenance
Anna Jaques Hospital
25 Highland Avenue
Newburyport, MA 01950
(617) 465-6600

Certification
DAVID ELLIOTT
Director of Facilities
Dept. Mental Retardation
93 Pitkin Street
East Hartford, CT 06108
(203) 528-7141