FOURTH QUARTER 1990

Equally as beneficial was the Spring Seminar which highlighted Hospital Engineering survival in the nineties.

My sincere thanks to Bob Obey and Terry Ringer for their efforts in organizing and successfully orchestrating their respective seminars.

A timely bylaw change was passed at our annual meeting revising the slate of officers serving on the Board. With the combining of the Vice President and President-elect posts, the time involved working through the chairs will be less and hopefully more attainable for members wishing to serve.

This year also brought about various proposals for upgrading this publication. The Newsletter should remain the most tenable vehicle for dissemination of noteworthy information to the membership. To this end, efforts are being made to upgrade the content and frequency of its publication.

Fiscally, the year has been strong as both seminars supported themselves and the treasury remains with solid reserves.

The Film Library has grown to an impressive level, but I feel it is still under utilized by the membership. The films, focusing on most areas of safety and health care facility issues, are available at no charge to the membership from the Education Committee Chairperson.

In summary, I appreciate the support of the membership given the past year and wish the best to the 1991 president and board.

-Jack Gosselin, President N.E.H.E.S. North Country (VT) Hospital

FALL MEETING OF THE NFPA: Changes in NFPA 101

The outcome of this meeting was less than desirable for the health care community. About 3 years ago, AHA successfully rallied the health care industry and defeated a proposal to NFPA 101 that would have required smoke detectors in patient rooms. In an effort to appease the fire service message for greater protection in the health care setting, the Health Care Section has been working very closely with the Life Safety Code 101 committee in this cycle to develop a reasonable approach to protecting health care patients intimate with the fire. With the number of health care fires very low, very few statistics available to study, and the code already providing protection for persons not intimate with the fire, heated debate of what is a reasonable, added fire protection system for health care, persisted throughout the four day meeting.

The Codes and Standards Review Committee for the Health Care Section discussed the following codes NFPA 1, 13, 45, 170, 424m, and 1581. Of these 101 chapter 12 and 13 and the combining of 171, 172, 174, 175 to form document 170 Fire Symbols, consumed the most discussion. Don Belles of the sub committee of 101 who worked on the changes for chapters 12 & 13 presented an overview of the proposed changes which were 100% sprinkled building with quick response sprinklers in all patient sleeping quarters in all new health care facilities. In exchange for this increased sprinkling the requirement for smoke and fire dampers was relaxed and the travel distance to an exit was increased from 150 feet to 200 feet. Great concern was expressed by the Health Care Section Codes & Standards Review Committee. (cont. pg 3)
New England Hospital Engineering Society Board Meeting December 7, 1990 Nashua, NH

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT ELECT

Dear Members:

First I would like to thank Jack Gosselin for serving as President for the past year and to a job well done. I will also be looking forward to this coming year as being the new President. Recently at the Center we have been very busy. We are in the middle of renovating our Main Lobby and our Boiler Room. The Boiler Room has been running into a very time consuming project due to the cost of renovations and the Department of Environmental Protection.

I have also made up the schedule for regular Board Meetings for the upcoming year. Please make an effort to attend the first meeting which will be held on January 4, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

George Hawley, President Elect Hebrew Rehabilitation (MA) Center

MASSACHUSETTS REPORT

Boston Hospital Plant Engineers Club reports the following:

Jack Brown, Director Engineering/Maintenance, at Childrens Hospital (Boston) was unanimously elected to Club.

Three new members being considered for membership: Bruce McCoy, Dick Congdon, and Julius Fredie

The South Shore Club reports the following:

Sponsors were Atlantic Switchboard Engineering. Mr. Pinkos and Mr. Gerlin presented an interesting and informative lecture on switch gear.

Mr. Bruce Twiss, Manager of Engineering and Maintenance at Deaconess Hospital (Boston) has been laid-off. The Marriott Corp. has taken over maintenance. Mr. Twiss is actively looking for a job.

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy has recently started a Facilities and Plant Engineering Program and is actively looking to place students into a co-op program at any hospital facility. Students would work at a hospital engineering department for one semester - pay is optional. (This does not seem to be an important issue.) If the facility can pay the student, that would be nice. However, it is not required. The students would be looking for the co-op work experience. Anyone interested in a student please contact;

Mr. Brad Lima
Eng. Dept. Chair
Mass. Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, MA 02532
(802) 759-5761

The Western Mass Society of Hospital Engineers October meeting was hosted by Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, MA. Ms. Elizabeth Wiesbeck, VP of General Services spoke on the future plans at Cooley Dick. The Groups Christmas party was held at the Sheraton Northampton and a good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigham & Womens Hospital

NEW HAMPSHIRE REPORT

The New Hampshire Society held a meeting on November 18, 1990. The meeting was held at The Birds Eye Learning Center, Concord, NH. The following items made up the business meeting.

It was decided that members would be polled to establish a list of nominees for officers. Elections will be held at the next regular meeting.

The members decided that Sales representatives would no longer be invited to speak at the monthly meetings. This decision would be forwarded to the program director for implementation.

The program for this meeting consisted of a presentation by the Associated Builders & Contractors Association NH/VT chapter. It was an informative session, a panel of Architects and Builders discussed the varies pros and cons of the varies types of contracting methods used today.

The next meeting will be held on December 20th at the New Hampshire Hospital Association Concord NH

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Shaw, NH Representative Nashua Memorial Hospital

RHODE ISLAND REPORT

The last meeting of the Rhode Island Hospital Engineers was held at Womans & Infants Hospital, 101 Dudley Street, Providence, Rhode Island on Friday, November 30, 1990.

My sincere thanks to outgoing President, Jack Gosselin, for providing an educational year that was truly helpful to me. I would also like to congratulate the new slate of Board Officers and State Representatives.

As Rhode Island Representative, I will update you at each meeting on the progress of the 1991 Fall Seminar. The following items have been resolved:

Dates: October 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1991

Location: The Newport Marriott Hotel, 25 Americas Cup Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island 02840. Telephone
Number: 401-849-1000. Fax Number: 401-849-3422. Our contact person is Susan H. Ellis.

Scholarship: In the hands of Ed Fazzi and George Silva of Bradley Hospital.

Vendors & Booths: We can have as many as 55 booths in Borden of Women & Infants Hospitals handling this and the cost will be $600.00.

Theme Night: Sailors..... American Sailor or Foreign Sailor, Modern Day or Colonial Navy, Seaman, Swab, Officer to Admiral. Prizes will be awarded.

I am seeking additional input on many items such as the meals, the Ladies Program, etc.

I will be making contact with the representatives of Maine and Connecticut to review what they did for the flyer, badges, certificates of attendance, plaques, etc.

I will keep the Board informed of my progress.
Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Boyer, RI Representative Women & Infants Hospital

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HOSPITAL ENGINEERING

Full Board Meeting
The ASHE Board of Directors met on October 18-21, 1990 in Mystic, CT for its fall board meeting.

New England Hospital Engineers Society
The board meeting was held at the same site as the New England Hospital Engineers Society (NEHES) Fall Conference. Many of the board of directors were able to attend the NEHES banquet on October 18th. ASHE President, Ted Holland, (USC-L.A. County Medical Center) spoke on the changing role of todays facility manager with about 100 people were in attendance.

CEO Survey
According to a recent survey, engineers are the most ethical of professionals. According to a poll out of Menlo Park, CA, engineers were cited by 34% of executives as being the most ethical type of professional. CPAs came in second at 24% while investment bankers received only 1% of the vote. (Wall Street Journal, May 31, 1990)

Committee on Personal Membership
John Crowley, Region 1 Representative (Lowell, MA) was appointed ASHE representative to the American Hospital Associations (AHA) Committee on Personal Membership (CPM). This committee acts as a liaison between the Personal Membership Groups (PMGs) and the AHA Board of Trustees.

Health Policy Fellow--Air Force
The Executive Director reported that ASHE is working with AHAs Health Policy Fellow from the Air Force, Lt. Col. Ron Evans, on developing the ASHE security task force and disaster preparedness capabilities.

ASHE Annual 1991
Mr. Rudy Nudo, Region 4 representative, (Jacksonville, Fl), reported that the Florida Hospital Engineers Association and the 1991 Annual Conference Committee are looking forward to helping ASHE host the 91 ASHE Annual. (The Annual will be held July 8-12, 1991 at the Walt Disney World Dolphin.) He added that the committee was hard at work at helping ASHE produce a good show.

National Engineers Week
February 18-23, 1991
ASHE is a participating member in the February 18-23 National Engineers Week (see article in this issue of the newsletter).

Peer Consulting Guide
ASHE will begin to collect data for a peer consulting guide for inclusion in the 1992 ASHE yearbook.

Summitted by:
John Crowley, ASHE Rep. Region 1
St. John’s (MA) Hospital

FALL MEETING OF THE NFPA - NOV 10-14, 1990 (cont. from pg. 1) that the proposed revisions in Chap. 12 would be altered by action from the floor, directed by the Fire Service Sections. The inclusion of smoke detectors in all patient rooms, annunciator at the nurses station with smoke and fire damper requirements unchanged, were the expected changes.

A seminar, sponsored by Simplex Time Recorder was presented to the Health Care Section. Its purpose? To provide convincing evidence, that todays highly sophisticated, extremely reliable, smoke detectors would pose virtually no additional man hours of work for the nursing or maintenance staff. But it would provide valuable time in the most critical development stages of a fire, thus effecting a saved life for the patient intimate with the fire. As you might imagine, there were several questions about unwanted alarms, maintenance, JCAHO’s requirements for testing, justification for this added cost to Health Care building projects, added cost to the product of health care, and added stress on already stretched nursing staff. Speaking to the issue of unwanted alarms the signal companies admitted that in the 70’s some devices were less than perfect. But now with the new Simplex SMART system, unwanted alarms are virtually eliminated by the ability of the smoke detector and system to sense when its about to alarm due to dirt, and annunciate a trouble at the nursing station. In the opinion of Simplex, this self check function would eliminate the need for a routine smoke detector preventive maintenance plan for as long as the life of the detector (about five years). Maintenance would need only to correct trouble problems as they occurred. When pressed about unwanted alarms, the refusal of fire companies to accept direct connect automatic alarms from hospitals, and costs to the health care industry for answering unwanted alarms, the response was No institution should suffer from unwanted alarms. In todays market dirty conditions and misplaced heads were the prime reasons why smoke detector are getting a bum reputation. There was no discussion of retrofit cost.
All this buswa, lobbying precedes the approval process, by a majority rules vote of each code and section by the general assembly. As predicted, the submitter of the comment 101-422 of the TCR, proposed to amend chapter 12 to include smoke detectors in patient sleeping rooms. After an hour, the question was called. The Vote: 253 FOR, 245 AGAINST. Those for the amendment included the fire service groups and every major manufacturer of smoke detectors. Those against the amendment were AHA, JCAH0, Hospital Administrators, numerous Fire Protection Engineers, and the Safety To Life Committee Chairman. As it stands the newest 101 document will require in section 12-3.4.5.2 smoke detectors annunciated at the nurses station, in addition to, quick response sprinklers in patient sleeping rooms for new construction.

An other topics of interest was a movement represented by the AIA to incorporate a building code within NFPA that would have jurisdiction over all the building codes. A BOCA speaker gave back round in the development of the model building codes and points of view that supported a maintained distinction between the existing building codes. The specific codes in existence today were developed around the needs of the geographic areas they serve. Is a fourth overruling code necessary? In general, all persons speaking on this topic felt the creation of yet another standard would serve to confuse, not consolidate the differences that already exist. Although the inconsistencies between existing codes were discussed there was very little support for a new branch of NFPA in the model building codes.

Many other issues were discussed at the general assembly with other chapters in 101 and other documents that effect the health care community, however, none so dramatic as chapters 12 and 13.

It has been my pleasure to take part in this meeting of NFPA. The next NFPA meeting will be held in May, in Boston. For those of you with interest in this code making process that are not members and wish to take part in the May meeting. I would be glad to provide you with information on how to become a member.

Submitted by:
Norm Welch, NFPA Representative Springfield (VT) Hospital

NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

During the month of November, I have been in contact with NEHA with regard to the upcoming Spring Seminar. NEHA has been responsive to the request from NEHES to ensure that no conflicting program is offered on Tuesday morning, and it appears that no scheduling conflict will exist this coming year. Recognizing the importance of a good facility management program, NEHA will offer a program on Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 pm entitled How to Assess Your Mechanical and Electrical Systems. The program is offered the same day as NEHES seminar partly because the intended audience consists of Plant Engineers, Operations Managers, Planners, and Safety Officers. I have personally spoken with one member of the Committee which planned this session, and it promises to be very timely and informative. I suggest that we inform our members of this program through word-of-mouth so they can plan accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
Ovid G. Borieianu, NEHA Rep Newport (RI) Hospital

TAKING HUMOR SERIOUSLY

Humor can be a stress reducer. I think its time that we take a more serious look at the role of joy, absurdity, laughter, and a sense of humor in the workplace.

Everyone at some point or another is a critic. Ask any supervisor, manager, or worker what is wrong, and the response is usually a detailed, analytical and thorough company-bashing monologue. But ask that same person for a solution to the problem, and most likely one gets silence.

We do not need more critics. We need creators, not destroyers. Everybody has the capacity for both creativity and destruction. How do we release our creativity?

Stop taking ourselves so seriously. Get serious about finding solutions to the problems that are real problems.

When we laugh at a situation, we see the possibility for change. When we see the possibility for change, we can come up with alternate solutions. When we come up with alternate solutions, we can put them into ACTIONS. When we take action, we can change the situation.

We can not take the work as a joke, but we can see the lighter side of things. Lets look at us. Laugh. Adjust the reality - scope. And MOVE ON!

Submitted by:
M.W. Foley, Director Engr. Brigham & Womens Hospital, Boston, MA

(Submitted source was used as background for this article: Service Savvy, Miranda Potter)
TECH HIRING

There comes a time when an organization needs the services of a person in such short supply that the scale of salaries is out of portion with the rest of the staff.

If you hire that specialist, how do you handle the pay schedule. I am running into that problem currently with a certain Biomedical sub specialty. The apparent going rate for that type of person is higher than the individual who will be supervising him! Does that mean that the staff scales all must be adjusted to fit the demand of the specialist? I have thought of having the individual fill a special staff assistance position with coordination control by the biomedical supervisor.

Several years ago, another department was seeking to employ their own biomedical technician, but then there would be no coordination, nor perhaps cooperation between the departments involved. The point of bringing these people under one group for cost effectiveness and providing a means for the several levels of Biomedical Engineers for career growth, would be lost.

If you have suggestions which have worked for you I certainly would appreciate hearing from you.

Submitted by:
David Hathaway, Mt. Auburn Hospital (617) 499-5558

WESTINGHOUSE'S PAUL LEDO WILL CHAIR NATIONAL ENGINEER'S WEEK

NATIONAL ENGINEER'S WEEK NEWS RELEASE, ALEXANDRIA, VA., SEPTEMBER 21, 1990 -- Paul Lego, an electrical engineer and the chief executive officer of Westinghouse Electric Corporation, has been named honorary chairman of National Engineers Week 1991, an annual event designed to promote interest in engineering as a profession. Sponsored by 15 professional engineering organizations and observed by universities and corporations across the nation, the 1991 National Engineers Week will focus attention on engineering and the environment, organizers said.

During the week-long observation Feb. 17-23, as many as 10,000 professional engineers are expected to visit 7th and 8th grade classrooms to encourage students to begin taking the mathematics and science courses they need to prepare them for careers as engineers.

Mr. Lego, an engineering graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, who became the chief executive officer of Westinghouse on July 1, said recent comparisons showing American 13 year olds scoring lowest among industrialized nations in math and science skills point to an national concern as serious as any of the economic and environmental challenges we will face in the future.

Mr. Lego commented:
"The combination of lower birth rates plus a sharp decline in the number of students pursuing mathematics and science is beginning to create a shortage in engineers at the very time demand for technical solutions to environmental and other challenges is growing."

Young Americans interested in helping preserve our national competitive edge and cleaning up and protecting the environment should consider careers in engineering. No other profession will make a greater contribution to these and other challenges we face in the 1990's.

A member of the executive committee of the Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation and the board of governors of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Mr. Lego serves on the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie-Mellon University and the board of overseers of the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

He is also chairman of the board of visitors of the University of Pittsburgh School of Engineering, serves as vice chairman of the U.S. Korea Business Council, is a member of the directorate for Science and Engineering Education of the National Science Foundation, and is active in Boy Scouts, job programs for the handicapped and United Way.

Submitted by:
John Crowley, St. Johns (MA) Hospital
SUCCESSFUL FALL 1990 FALL SEMINAR

Mystic Hilton Hotel
Mystic, Connecticut

A recap by Robert H. Obey, Lawrence & Memorial (CT) Hospital, Fall Seminar Chairman

The 1990 Fall Seminar in Mystic, CT was a great success. The Educational Program provided attendees with a review of various construction processes as well as some insight into project accounting methods. The Seminar was not without its social events; most memorable being the Theme Night at the Mystic Aquarium. This event was attended by 140 people, i.e., engineers, their guests and vendors. The private seal & sea lion show, and a stand-up comic provided a finishing touch to the great food and surroundings. Our Annual Banquet was well attended, and we were fortunate to have the president of ASHE, Mr. Ted Holland, the Executive Director of ASHE, Nancy Montenegro, as well as several regional ASHE Board Members. Ted and Nancy both delivered inspirational messages, and our members welcomed the opportunity to share their ideas with the entire ASHE group.

Statistically, fifty members attended the Fall Seminar, forty guests signed up and sixty vendors participated in our exhibit program. Financially our program was a success, but the attendance was well short of the eighty members who attended the Mystic Show in 1984. This year the Vendors outnumbered the attendees, and I would hope the membership would plan now for their attendance at our 1991 Seminar in Newport, R.I.

My thanks and appreciation to all those who helped me in this endeavor. I am glad to be back at my work full time. See you in Newport.

Henry Garbelman, ASHE
Region 3 (mid-Atlantic) Board member, John Crowley, ASHE
Region 1 (New England) Board member, Eric Muehlbauer, Associate Director, ASHE pose for the camera with Tom Skipper, 1991 ASHE President in the background.
George Hawley, President-Elect of NEHES and others await the being of the Educational Seminar on Construction Management.

Seminar attendees sample the continental breakfast served prior to the Educational Seminar. Excellent catering was a hallmark of the Fall Seminar.

The Exhibit Hall was a hotbed of activity with 36 vendors displaying their products for the NEHES membership.
NEW ENGLAND HOSPITAL ENGINEER'S SOCIETY
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