Carl Budde: What's Ahead for NEHES and the Healthcare Profession

Carl Budde, Fall Seminar's honored guest and keynote speaker, completes his term as ASHE president this month.

His replacement will be Joe Howard, from the Barnes Jewish Christian Organization in St. Louis.

In healthcare maintenance and engineering for more than 33 years and now vice president of Facility Services at Waukesha (WI) Hospital, Carl has seen healthcare change dramatically. Under his leadership, ASHE has worked closely with regulatory agencies including JCAHO to revise some codes and standards which many engineers had found difficult to implement. Here he offers his insights on healthcare and his goals as president.

Q. What were your main goals when you became president?

Relationships - I wanted to keep the relationship with JCAHO moving forward. His is very important not only to our society and its members but to all hospital members of AHA.

Communication - I saw a real need to work hard and reinforce the communication between the president and his or her board of directors and the staff, to keep all of the issues in front of us and keep people informed.

Advocacy - AHA in 1995 eliminated the two advocacy positions they had been funding. We hurriedly revisited our goals to make sure ASHE was represented on various national committees of codes and standards. We retained Doug Erickson on a part-time basis as a consultant, and hired Brit Berek to work fulltime for ASHE in codes, standards and environmental issues.

Q. Why is advocacy important?

We need to pay a lot of attention to make sure we're not compromising our resources and our dollars. This is where the greatest impact will come from on our members in the changes in standards and codes. We have a good start, we're paying very close attention, but even when you pay attention, things get by. It's amazing in the reacuracy of the government how these new standards sometimes become law, while we're saying, where did that come from?

Q. Do engineers need to be generalists and administrators now?

Most of us started out in Plant Engineering and Plant Operations. I started as a boiler operator. The same people today are managing the construction process, Safety, Security, even Materials Management. More of our members are managing areas that weren't even thought of 20 years ago. ASHE members being promoted to higher levels says something about these members - quality people who are hardworking, willing to take on more responsibility, and very, very good managers. Our members have the commitment and dedication to our society and to the organizations they work for.

Q. When is outsourcing of functions appropriate?

There are isolated situations where outsourcing has not proven cost effective, but all of us have to look at it today. How many hospitals today still have their engineering staff shoveling snow or cutting grass? That is a totally inappropriate use of talent. These things should be bid and outsourced. Too many of us think of outsourcing as Marriott or Servicemaster coming in to take over our housekeeping. Outsourcing begins with the individual task you have, such as grounds care. We need to ask where can we use our people best, where can we outsource best.

Q. How does NEHES compare to the other chapters in terms of membership, projects, etc?

This is one of the stronger ASHE chapters. Everything comes down to leadership and is there a leadership base present to keep the chapter going. Quite obviously, NEHES has that, although I think it's becoming a matter of less and less people stepping forward. I've talked to a few members about this. There is such a strong tradition of leadership that they have to make sure they don't become complacent on that past strength. Things aren't the same in the 90s in NEHES or anywhere else.

New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

Engineers attending the NEHES annual meeting during Fall Seminar elected new officers and approved a bylaws change.

Taking office January 1 will be:

- Don Garrison, president, who is assistant chief of Engineering Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, in Togus, ME;
- Kurt Peterson, president-elect, who is manager of Maintenance Services, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Northampton, MA;
- Tom Whitaker, treasurer, is director of Facilities Planning and Management at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA; and
- Bob Loranger, secretary, director of Facilities at New England Medical Center, Boston, MA.

NEHES members voted to change the title of vice president to president-elect, according to President Mark Cappello. "Everyone thought this was better for the organization," he said of the bylaws change. "Before, it wasn't automatic that the vice president became president. There was no guarantee. This provides continuity for the organization."

IMPORTANT NEHES DATES

Spring Seminar 1997:
March 26
Boston, MA

Fall Seminar 1997:
October 7-10
Newport, RI
ASHE Rep Looks Forward to New Challenges...

Jack Gosselin, who most recently represented Connecticut engineers on the NEHES board, travels to Chicago this month for his orientation as ASHE Region I representative. Region I includes all New England states.

"I'm looking forward to this assignment," said Jack, who is vice president of Facilities at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, CT. "There is a lot that has to be discussed at this orientation."

In Chicago, he'll join representatives from eight other regions who meet to establish policy and set direction for the 6,000-member ASHE. Founded in 1956, ASHE provides healthcare professionals with information and education through publications and seminars. ASHE is a personal membership group within AHA.

"You have a two-year term because it takes at least a year before you understand the workings of a big national society," Jack said.

He will attend three ASHE board meetings, held on weekends, and one summer meeting in Texas, as well as NEHES board meetings. As a 17-year NEHES member and healthcare professional, he is very interested in ASHE's relationships with regulatory agencies. "In recent years, ASHE has been trying to align itself with these groups that the industry and facilities arena deal with, instead of being combative with them. The latest success story is the clarification or revision of 15 issues with the JCAHO standards that we all in the facilities industry have struggled with for years," Jack said.

Some ASHE members are even sitting on code development committees for the NFPA, he said.

...Outgoing ASHE Rep Got More Than He Gave

Like many NEHES members, Bob Loranger will no sooner finish one volunteer job than it will be time to start another one. On January 1, he takes office as NEHES' new secretary after a brief rest from his second two-year term as the ASHE Region I representative.

Bob became familiar with ASHE after attending several of its seminars, which he thought were "very productive and helpful to our industry and profession." Served NEHES as its ASHE Region I representative seemed like the logical next step.

"It appeared to be a way to help," said Bob, who is director of Facilities at New England Medical Center, Boston, MA. "I didn't really know a lot about the organization before I started. I hoped to learn and to contribute in some way."

After an educational training session for all new board members at the ASHE headquarters in Chicago, Bob sat on the board of directors with other regional representatives, was a member and chairman of several committees, and traveled around the country to board meetings.

He took his four years of service for granted - "that's what everyone does" - and enjoyed his work on ASHE bylaws and policies, an environmental task force, and on a regional realignment task force.

"I met people all over the country. I had a wonderful experience, and I got more out of it than I gave," said Bob, who joined NEHES 10 years ago.

He praised Carl Budde, outgoing ASHE president, for his leadership of the advocacy movement within ASHE.

"I have the highest respect for Carl," Bob said. "He got the car and the respect of the JCAHO."

Does he have any advice for Jack Gosselin, the new Region I representative? "I've been giving a lot of it to him," Bob admitted. "There are regional realignment and other political issues. He'll be right in the thick of it."
Fall Seminar Is For Learning and Networking

Engineers came to New London last month seeking learning and networking opportunities, and they found them, in seminars, speeches, and social activities.

Attended by 71 exhibitors and approximately 80 engineers, along with spouses and speakers, Fall Seminar was successful by anyone’s standards.

Valuable to Engineers

Dick Harris, director of Facilities at North Country Hospital, Newport, VT, especially enjoyed Carl Budde’s talk. “It was interesting to know that NEHES is on the leading edge of the processes within AHA, that AHA looks to us as one of the focal points to carry hospital engineering into the next millennium.”

A Worthwhile Day

Steve Cutter, director of Engineering Services at Cheshire Medical Center, Keene, NH, said, “The educational program on indoor air quality was well-presented and unbiased. The trade show was well-organized.”

Organizer and Attendee

Jack McCarthy, president of the Connecticut Hospital Engineers Society, is the director of Facilities Management at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain. Organizing Fall Seminar, he said, “helped rally the Connecticut organization together.”

The Seminar helps him “get together with other people and talk about what’s new, what are they trying. The educational topics are also good. You’ll always find at least two things you’re starting and trying to get information on, or things that you’re contemplating.”

Legionnaire’s Disease

George Silva of Bradley Hospital, East Providence, RI, is a 33-year NEHES member. The water treatment and Legionnaire’s disease presentation was most valuable to him. “I knew a lot about the disease but I actually learned more during the presentation.”

Carl Budde, said NEHES President Don Garrison, “really got to know a number of engineers quite well and he participated in all the activities.”

Technical programs and the vendors’ show were “educational and exceptional. The Connecticut engineers should take a lot of pride in the job they did.”

Education Needed

Tom O’Sullivan, maintenance at the Baystate Medical Center, Springfield, MA, said NEHES seminars help him keep up with his profession. “We need education. The only way to do that is to share information with other engineers.”

Common Problems

“I talk with people from different hospitals about common problems and solutions,” said Jeff Mylen, director of Engineering at Eastern Maine Medical Center, Bangor. “The program sessions are the most valuable. Number two was the Thursday night speaker, Dr. Steve Sobel.”

New NEHES President Believes in Community Service Projects Despite Heavy Workload

Don Garrison, a Missouri native, began his engineering career after graduating from the University of Massachusetts.

Hired as a trainee at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Togus, Maine, Don is now the department’s assistant chief of Engineering Services. He is responsible for 80 employees in construction, engineering, maintenance, and repair, and for projects ranging from $10,000 to several millions of dollars. He counts among his commendations a letter of appreciation from President Jimmy Carter, sent after Don moved his facility from 156 to number 1 in the U.S. in energy conservation among VA hospitals.

Don has written several management articles and trained many young engineers.

Despite the long days common in the healthcare industry, Don manages to work on many community service projects. He was one of the founding members of the

Knights of Columbus chapter at his church, and is involved in the Boy Scouts, Parish Council, and other activities. He is also learning to play the guitar.

He is a member of the Board of Examiners for the 1996 Margaret Chase Smith Maine State Quality Award. Don and the other examiners review applications from businesses seeking quality awards. “We go out to non-medical companies and, based on the Baldridge criteria, evaluate their company and look at ways of making them more efficient and improving their quality which in turn improves their bottom line,” he said.

Don has always been active in NEHES. He was president of the Maine chapter for two years, Maine’s representative to NEHES, treasurer, and NEHES vice president before being elected president this year.

More than 70 vendors exhibited.

Thanks to Seminar Planners

The NEHES board and membership thank the following Connecticut organizers of Fall Seminar:

Fred Leffingwell, from Lawrence and Memorial Hospital, New London; Ilona Leffingwell, Spaulding Program; Jack McCarthy and Marlene Geissler, Hospital for Special Care, New Britain; Bill Doherty, honorary member, Bloomfield; Jack Gosselin, Day Kimball Hospital, Putnam; Frank Provenzano, High Meadows Hospital, Hamden; Steve Carbery, Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich; Doug Hartley, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Stamford; Mike Kane, New Britain General Hospital, New Britain; Bill Zipadelli, Riverview Hospital, Middletown; Gerry Reich, S/L/A/M Collaborative, Glastonbury; Mark English, Hartford Hospital, Hartford; Bob Palumberi, Clinton.
Letter From the Editor

Almost a year ago this week I accepted the honor and challenge of NEHES newsletter editor and a committee was named to evaluate our current publication and make recommendations on how to improve the quality and content. This year I am proud to announce that we will be unveiling a new format and schedule with our next edition.

Starting in February, you will see a six-page edition printed quarterly in February, May, August, and November. The Newsletter will have reoccurring columns and features of interest. There will continue to be the state reports and information about upcoming seminars, but there will be other articles on your fellow engineers and more focused stories about what is happening in the nine chapters which make up the New England Healthcare Engineers Society.

We will also have a rotating corner for briefings from our liaisons to ASHE, NFPA, NEHA, and JCAHO. One feature I am personally looking forward to is Technology Update with specific information about who in our region is employing that new technology. There will also be a bulletin board for any miscellaneous information which is of interest to our members.

If you have any story ideas or information you would like to pass along, you can contact me at (802) 656-5903/fax: (802) 656-4850/e-mail: dan.ayres@vtnednet.org. I will also be interested in your comments about the publication. There are two primary benefits from membership in NEHES, educational seminars and our newsletter. I am committed to making it the best it can be for you, our members. So let me know what you think and send me whatever ideas you may have for articles.

Dan Ayres,
Newsletter Editor

Bradley Hospital Marks Engineering Week

In celebration of Healthcare Engineering Week, a luncheon was held at Bradley Hospital on Thursday, October 24, 1996, from noon to 2 p.m. The hospital's dietary department prepared an excellent buffet, starting with a shrimp cocktail appetizer.

The buffet consisted of chicken stuffed with rice and cranberries, marinated sliced steak, baked potato, baby carrots, garden salad, fruit salad, and an outstanding ice cream cake decorated with the words "Bradley Hospital Engineering, Working Together, Getting Things Done."

Posters proclaiming "National Healthcare Facilities and Engineering Week" were on display throughout the hospital prior to and during the week of October 20.

In addition to the luncheon, gifts of hats, t-shirts, mugs, and Swiss army-style pocket knives were passed out, depending on what was chosen by individuals from a list previously submitted to them. The gifts had the wording "Working Together" written on them.

Along with the Maintenance Department personnel, the luncheon was attended by the Maintenance worker at Bradley Hospital director of Purchasing, the Purchasing receiver, the director of Environmental Services, and our Telecommunications coordinator, representing Support Services to the department.

The hospital president and the director of Human Resources were invited guests and addressed the members of the department, conveying their appreciation for the work that has been accomplished during the past year.

Submitted by,
George M. Silva
Director of Maintenance Bradley Hospital

Learn About Commissioning at Spring Seminar Week

Come to the NEHES Spring Seminar Wednesday, March 26 at the Hynes Convention Center, Boston, to ask your questions about construction, building commissioning, and projects best suited to commissioning.

NEHES will again host Spring Seminar during the NEHA convention and continue to keep the registration fees low. This year's faculty member is Stephen P. Rizzo, manager of commissioning services for BR+A, Boston, who has completed many sizable projects throughout New England.

Watch for mailings from NEHES and NEHA and more information in future newsletters.

NEHES Newsletter
Dan Ayres, Editor
V.P. Facilities Services
Fletcher Allen Health Care
111 Colchester Ave.
Burlington, VT 05401

MARK C. ENGLISH
DIR. OF ENGINEERING
HARTFORD HOSPITAL
80 SEYMOUR ST., P.O. BOX 5037
HARTFORD, CT 06102