Meet Your New Officers!

President: Mark C. English is Director of Engineering at Hartford (CT) Hospital.

President-Elect: Robert A. Loranger is President of ASHE and Director of Facilities at New England Medical Center (Boston).

Secretary: Richard Malmstrom is Plant Engineer at Boston Medical Center (Boston).

Treasurer: Richard Harris is Director of Facilities Management at Redington-Fairview General Hospital (Skowhegan, ME).

Several Bylaws Changes Out of Healthcare Engineering and Out of NEHES? Members Say “Not Necessarily!”

Until recently, any NEHES member who left a position in the healthcare engineering field by choice, layoff, or termination had to leave Society membership as well. Now, thanks to a bylaw revised by NEHES members at their annual meeting in November, that member’s skills and talents won’t necessarily be lost to NEHES.

For annual dues of $25, a member who doesn’t meet the requirements for active membership may now become an associate member. The person cannot make motions, vote in any matter of business, serve in any of the Society’s elected offices, or serve as a chapter representative.

Other bylaws changes are:

- By April 15 of each year, the NEHES secretary will contact the Massachusetts Secretary of State and verify that NEHES’ articles of incorporation are both accurate and current. The NEHES secretary will also take care of any additional duties required by the Secretary of State.
- The NEHES treasurer will obtain liability (and other) insurance protection for the Society.
- At the discretion of the Board, corporate sponsorship of various NEHES publications is permitted, and recognition of this sponsorship will be limited to an acknowledgment of sponsorship. Advertising in NEHES publications will not be allowed.

Still Time to Sign Up for Spring Seminar!

Eugene A. Cable, PE, FPE, and Philip R. Jose, PE, CSP, both Regional Safety and Fire Protection Engineers for the Department of Veterans Affairs, will be the instructors at the NEHES Spring Seminar Tuesday, March 30 in Leominster, MA.

They will discuss Life Safety Code changes, the new performance-based option for the Code, lessons learned from recent healthcare fires, Sentinel Events, and new changes to the JCAHO Statement of Conditions.

Hours of the Seminar are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is one of NEHES’ two major educational Seminars planned each year for members.

For further information, contact Joe Wosczyna, Seminar Chair, at (860) 545-2661.

1999 Fall Seminar Comes to Vermont With Challenges of the Millennium Theme

“Seasons of Change: How Will We Meet the Challenges of the Millennium?” will be the theme of this year’s Fall Seminar in Vermont.

The Vermont Healthcare Engineers Society is planning the event, which will be held October 4-8 at the Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington.

Committee chair and phone numbers are:

Chair: Bob Cummings, Senior Project Manager, Fletcher Allen Health Care (Burlington), (802) 651-8431.

Education: Tobey Clark, Director of Technical Services, University of Vermont (Burlington), (802) 656-3255, and Mark Cappello, Director of Engineering, Southwestern Vermont Medical Center (Bennington), (802) 447-5121.

Events/Location: Peter Irving, Equipment Maintenance Leader, FAHC, (802) 656-3691.

Member Registration: Bud Myers, 32 White Birch Lane, Williston, VT 05495, (802) 658-0081, vtbudman@aol.com, or Michael Mariott, Fanny Allen Hospital (Colchester), (802) 654-1293, mike.mariott@vtmednet.com.

Spouse Program: Theron Manning, Director of Plant Operations, Gifford continued on page 5
President’s Comments

Join Your President in “This Mutually Beneficial Activity Called NEHES”

In his final report as President to the NEHES Board of Directors at the annual planning retreat in December, Immediate Past President Kurt Peterson wrote, “I’m sure that under the leadership of Mark English, NEHES will end the century with a bang.”

What is the Society’s Mission?

Assuming the thought is subject to broad interpretation, I will endeavor to conduct the business of our Society in a manner consistent with its mission: to promote better patient care by taking advantage of the latest developments in management, design, operation, and maintenance techniques; to promote the mutual exchange of technical assistance, ideas, and experiences; and to promote the professional development of healthcare engineers through continuous education.

The primary tool used by the Board to chart the course for the Society is the annual planning retreat, a two-day affair that occurs in December. For 1999, the retreat was held in Northampton, MA, and was attended by 13 of the 22 board members. The agenda was aggressive and the effort was substantial. Since the foundation for our 1999 strategy was essentially laid down at this time, it is only fitting that you, the membership, have an understanding of where we are going in 1999:

Committee and Chair Appointments

Most, if not all, of Society business is conducted through the efforts of the Board of Directors, a group of dedicated individuals who give of their time, effort, and expertise to bring to the membership value-added benefits. Board members are listed on the last page of this newsletter; please take advantage of this information by contacting these individuals with your thoughts on what you would like to derive from your membership. Better yet, offer to help by participating in any of the committees that you may be interested or have expertise in.

Education Initiatives

NEHES has long maintained the admirable tradition of sponsoring one-day Spring and three-day Fall Seminars. This year, the Spring Seminar will be held in Leominster, MA Tuesday, March 30, and the Fall Seminar in Burlington, Vermont the week of October 4. These seminars are timely, economical, and informative. If at all possible, take advantage of these opportunities.

Additionally, the Board is discussing the possibility of sponsoring teleconferences, with sites at strategic locations in New England. Our greatest challenge is to find a “teleconferencing guru” who would be willing to shepherd the efforts necessary for this to be a successful endeavor. Any volunteers out there?

“I do know that as we are asked to ‘do more with less,’ the opportunity to participate diminishes. But, the benefits and satisfaction can be substantial.”

Communications Initiatives

The newsletter is the mainstay of Society communications. The quality of the newsletter is substantially dependent on the articles submitted by Society members. Granted, board members have a lot of information to disseminate, but we know there is a wealth of information out there among the general membership, and we are asking you to share it by submitting articles. The NEHES web page (http://www.nehes.org) contains more and more information relating to state and chapter activities. Browse it; contribute to it.

Recognition Initiatives

Nominations for the NEHES Engineer-of-the-Year award will be solicited beginning around the time of the Spring Seminar. We all know that such recognition is a rare event indeed. Please participate in this program by taking the time to submit nominations.

A deserving engineering student from Vermont will be receiving a NEHES scholarship at the Fall Seminar in Burlington in October. This is our chance to contribute, in a small way, to the legacy of our profession.

Outside of NEHES, ASHE has the APEX program; take a crack at it. If you are the recipient of other forms of recognition, let us know and we’ll publicize it.

Membership Initiatives

The Membership Committee will focus on soliciting new members from longterm healthcare facilities, safety, and security professionals, as well as engineers from currently unrepresented institutions in New England.

Furthermore, it is a specific objective of the Board to mail a copy of the most up-to-date Society bylaws to every member.

Budget

The Board voted to adopt a break-even spending plan for 1999. There has been a great deal of discussion subsequently about the fact that the Society’s operating reserve is a little on the low side, equivalent to approximately one year of operating expenses. Several opportunities were identified to increase reserves, but the plan does not assume significant increases in revenues. If we are able to achieve increased revenue, then we will be ahead of the game. However, our objective of providing affordable services to the membership remains paramount.

NEHES Is Worth the Effort

Although I am a relative newcomer to NEHES (member since 1995), I have been in the healthcare engineering profession for my entire professional career spanning 27 years. Before being seduced by the dark side of the Force (according to my former colleagues) four years ago, I had been heavily involved in clinical engineering society activities and therefore have a pretty good handle on how hard it can be to actively participate in professional organizations such as NEHES.

Long ago I came to the conclusion that it was worth the effort, both in terms of the benefits derived as well as the personal sense of satisfaction in contributing to our profession. I know that as we are asked to “do more with less,” the opportunity to participate diminishes. But, the benefits and satisfaction can be substantial. The New England Healthcare Engineers’ Society is your Society. As they say, what you get out of it depends, in part, on what you put into it.

Please join me in participating in this mutually beneficial activity called NEHES!

Mark English is Director of Engineering at Hartford (CT) Hospital.
Member in the Spotlight

NEHES Board Member and Manager Is Always Learning and Contributing

Dawn LeBaron has come along “a very crooked path” to Facilities. She didn’t study for a business degree nor did she start off in one of the trades. But she made one critical decision early in her career — she would work hard for management positions although that meant trading the rural life she loved for the “big city” and more career growth.

Her strategy has paid off. From her first job as a pharmacy technician, she has advanced to the Director of Facilities Services at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Newton, MA, a 600,000-square-foot, 230-bed teaching hospital she describes as “a beautiful campus in very good condition in a nice community.” She supervises 85 employees in Engineering, Maintenance, Biomedical, Grounds, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Security, Parking, Safety Management, and Property Management for onsite and offsite medical offices.

In her 16 years at Newton-Wellesley, Dawn has also managed Pharmacy, Transportation, Patient Information, Telecommunications, and Mail Services.

“My emphasis has been on getting the management skills I need,” she said. “In June, I’ll receive a certificate in Facilities Management from Northeastern University’s Building Design and Management Program. At some point in a healthcare management career, you’ve got to get on the management training track.”

In addition to formal education and on-the-job training, Dawn has also become an active member of several professional societies. A member of NEHES since 1996, she didn’t hesitate when Joe Mona, Director of Facilities Systems at Lawrence (MA) General Hospital, asked her to head the Society’s Public Relations Committee. “I said, sure, if I can add value to the group,” said Dawn, who belongs to the Middlemac chapter and is now the first female NEHES board member. “The best possible thing for facilities managers is to join professional organizations like NEHES and ASHE to get the continuing education and networking we need.”

Dawn was chosen as Middlemac’s Member in the Spotlight, Joe said, because of her extensive experience and efforts to help revitalize the Middlemac chapter.

She has also served as the Boston Chapter chairperson of the International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety and on the New England Healthcare Assembly’s Safety and Risk Management Certificate Boards. She was a faculty member for the Safety Certificate program.

She has a black belt in karate and has been involved in martial arts and self defense for almost 15 years. “The skills you learn and develop from martial arts are the power of positive thinking, concentration, control, and focus,” Dawn said. “These skills are extremely useful on the job.”

Like many managers, Dawn tries not to let the job consume all of her life, but she doesn’t always succeed. “After a 10- to 12-hour day, you start to lose your edge. You have to be prepared for emergency responses and do some good, calm decision-making. If you are burned out, those decisions can come back to bite you. My employees look to me for calm reassurance and I try to provide that for them.”

While recognizing the challenges of her profession, she also has this to say about working in health care: “It’s a very interesting time to be in health care. It’s challenging, but full of opportunity for people who are interested in moving forward.”

At some point, Dawn wants to return to her native Vermont because she loves to ski, bike, hike, run, and just be outdoors.

In the meantime, she says, “I am having a great time at what I’m doing. I’m a Facility Director in an excellent healthcare institution.”

ASHE Update

Roundup of ASHE Activities Includes Conferences, Codes/Standards

By Jack Gosselin
ASHE Region 1 Director

• ASHE membership stands at approximately 6,000. There are six ASHE chapters active in Region 1.

• The annual ASHE strategic planning session was held in early January. A three-year strategic plan, containing five goals with 33 supporting objectives, was finalized. The 130 strategies that have been developed to implement the strategic plan were assigned to various committees, task forces, and board chairs. To obtain a copy of the strategic plan, contact me by phone, (860) 963-6313, ext. 2353, or by email, jgosselin@hne.org.

• ASHE is working with AHA on the feasibility of the development and implementation of a certification program for healthcare facilities engineers. The AHA is moving ahead with the design of such a program in conjunction with other societies also looking for a similar credential. I would welcome comments regarding this concept.

• The 1999 Codes and Standards Program has been scheduled in six U.S. cities this year. The interactive seminar addresses practical strategies for compliance with JCAHO, OSHA, EPA, NFPA, FCC, FDA, and HCFA. Contact ASHE or me for more information.

• Health Tech ’99 will be held in Baltimore April 25-28. This event focuses on biomedical technology and is held in conjunction with a number of national clinical support associations.

• ASHE’s 36th annual conference and exhibition comes to Philadelphia June 21-25. The educational program is multi-track and the sessions contain just about every conceivable topic related to our industry and discipline. The trade show will have more than 300 displays.

• Chapters should begin to compile summaries of 1998 activities for submittal to the ASHE Level of Affiliation program.
Chapter in the Spotlight

Western Mass Chapter Is On the Way Back Up After Losing Members

The Western Mass Chapter may be temporarily down, but it’s not out by any means. Despite the loss of several members and officers, President Don Spear, NEHES Representative Pierre Richard, Treasurer Tom O’Sullivan, and the remaining 25 members are working hard to revive the group and increase membership and educational opportunities.

Members meet bimonthly at each other’s facilities, and have job duties ranging from Maintenance Supervisor to Director of Facilities. Larger facilities, such as Cooley Dickinson Hospital and Baystate Medical Center, send more than one member.

Don joined Western Mass and NEHES to meet and share information with other health care professionals. He has worked at Cooley Dickinson Hospital (Northampton) for 10 years, and is its Supervisor/Plant Operations. He previously was a Fireman/Engineer at a power plant, and has served Western Mass as secretary and vice president.

Pierre joined Western Mass in 1988 when he worked for Northampton State Hospital, “to find out what was going on in the various institutions in my area and to learn and share experiences in JCAHO, OSHA, the energy markets, and safety.”

He has found NEHES membership just as valuable as state chapter membership. “I have met many other members who have similar roles in their institutions as I have in mine. It is extremely helpful to talk to the other engineers about similar problems and experiences,” he said. “This has helped me in that I can listen to other ideas and experiences to problems that we all encounter.”

Pierre has worked at Baystate Medical Center (Springfield) for 10 years and is the Western Mass representative to NEHES. Duties include attending monthly board meetings, letting the board know about events in Western Mass, updating Western Mass on NEHES news, and encouraging membership in NEHES.

Tom O’Sullivan, the 1998 NEHES Engineer of the Year, retired from Baystate last year and is self-employed.

NEHES Welcomes 20 New Members From Four States

Clifford Ashton is the Director of Engineering at Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 344-6570.

Stephen Carbery is Director of Facilities Management at Greenwich Hospital, 5 Perryridge Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 (203) 863-3133.

James Clark is Director of Engineering at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, 540 Litchfield St. Torrington, CT 06790 (860) 496-6499.

Edward Cummings is Director of Engineering and Maintenance at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, 330 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215 (617) 667-4453.

Robert Cummings is Senior Project Manager at Fletcher Allen Health Care, 150 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT (802) 651-8431.

Jeffrey T. Curtis, Sr. is Preventive Maintenance Supervisor at The Stamford Hospital, 190 W. Broad St., Stamford, CT 06902 (203) 325-7700.

Dennis Desmarais is the Director of Engineering at Baystate Medical Center, 759 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA 01199 (413) 784-5793.

John Fisher is the Construction Manager at Boston Medical Center, 750 Albany St., Boston, MA 02118 (617) 414-5450.

Timothy Kavanaugh is the Engineering Manager at Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 (860) 344-6570.

Dave Keelty is the Director of Facilities Management and Environmental Services at Fletcher Allen Health Care, 111 Colchester Ave., Burlington, VT 05401 (802) 656-2756.

Donald Loos is Director of Engineering at Elmcrest Behavioral Health Network, 25 Marlborough St., Portland, CT 06480 (860) 342-6312.

Sean Petone is Assistant Facilities Manager at Vencor Hospital, 1515 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02135 (617) 254-1100 X-8095.

Edward Pitts is the Project Coordinator at New England Medical Center, 750 Washington St., Box 834, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 636-4691.

Marcello Ranalli is Supervisor of Physical Plant Operations at New England Medical Center, 750 Washington St., Box 834, Boston, MA 02111 (508) 845-3425.

William Robertson, Jr. is Director of Engineering Services at University Hospital, 141 Highland Ave., Winchester, MA 01890 (781) 756-2511.

Ron Silverio is Director of Facilities at Healthsouth New England Rehabilitation Hospital, 2 Rehabilitation Hospital Way, Woonsocket, RI 02891 (781) 935-5050.

Louis S. Simon is Director of Maintenance at Bannister Nursing Care Center, 135 Dodge St., Providence, RI 02907 (401) 521-9600.

Bill Sullivan is Project Engineer at the Veterans Administration, 940 Belmont, Brockton, MA 02401 (508) 583-4500.

William Sullivan is Facilities Manager at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, 214 Washington St., Newton, MA 02462 (617) 243-6562.

Gary A. Valcourt is Director of Facilities at Hale Hospital, 140 Lincoln Ave., Haverhill, MA 01830 (978) 374-2000.

AFE To Co-Sponsor Maintenance Management Conference in Worcester, MA

By Mark English

NEHES President

The Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE) is bringing together top experts in the field of plant and facilities management and maintenance to share knowledge that will help you improve your facilities and plant maintenance operations. You won’t want to miss this one-of-a-kind conference focusing on all aspects of maintenance operations, exploring the latest trends and technologies, and investigating hot issues that will keep you on the cutting edge into the year 2000 and beyond.

“Maintenance Management ‘99” will be held April 12-14 at the Worcester (MA) Centrum Centre. Join colleagues from industrial facilities, universities, hospitals, commercial, government, warehouse, and retail operations in an educational forum continued on page 5
JCAHO Update

The Latest JCAHO News – Y2K and SOC Forms to Deficiencies, Surveys

By Robert J. Thompson, PE
NEHES/JCAHO Liaison
Fire Protection and Safety Engineer
Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Bedford, MA

Are You Missing Opportunities?
You can satisfy one of your emergency drill requirements with one real emergency event per year. To do so, you need to accomplish three elements:
• Your second required event must be a drill, and these two events per year must be spaced between four and eight months apart.
• The event must be documented, including the scenario describing the incident, highlights of the experience, special measures taken to minimize impact, the timing, and the problems or lessons learned during the event.
• There must be followup on the problems encountered and other lessons learned, including plans for improvement, changes in the plan, and progress in achieving improvements.

Are You Ready for Y2K?
Who can be sure? The Joint Commission is particularly concerned about whether or not healthcare facilities are preparing for possible Year 2000 computer failures and their impacts. Those facilities doing nothing simply risk a Type I deficiency.
You may wish to conduct an emergency preparedness drill with a worst-case scenario that attempts to give thought (leading to planning) for universal loss of computer-driven processes and data processing. No one really knows how severe the impacts will be, but it certainly seems reasonable to role play your processes and define priorities to assure minimal impact on your patients.
It is best to assume that, if you cannot determine Y2K compatibility, then there isn’t any.
Finally, share the load of determining compatibility; divide the facility among other department heads, and have them report back to facilities management on the status of their equipment.

Expecting a Random, Unannounced Survey in 1999?
The topics for 1999 are expected to include EC.1, Design-Life Safety Code. That means be sure your Statement of Conditions, particularly the Plan for Improvement and Interim Life Safety Measures, are complete, up to date, and in place.

New SOC Forms Available
JCAHO released the new Statement of Conditions (SOC) forms mid-December. The new SOC dated 1/99 in the lower left corner was effective January 1, 1999, and should be used by all healthcare facilities. To obtain a copy, call JCAHO’s Pre-Survey Quality Control coordinator at (630) 792-5519. Or, it appeared in the first 1999 quarterly update of the Comprehensive Hospital Accreditation Manual due out in February.

Relief for Minor Deficiencies!
The 1999 SOC recognizes an on-going

1999 Fall Semester
continued from page 1

Medical Center (Randolph), (802) 728-4441, assisted by spouses of NEHES members.
– Vendors: Dave Keelty, Director of Facilities Management and Environmental Services, FAHC, (802) 656-2756; Brian Sallisky, Project Coordinator, SVMC, (802) 447-5121; Norm Welch, Director of Engineering, Springfield Hospital (Springfield), (802) 885-2151; and Don Harvey, Assistant Director of Engineering, SVMC, (802) 447-5121.

Watch future newsletters for more details.

AFE To Co-Sponsor
continued from page 4

promoting the learning and exchanging of knowledge with other industry professionals through an array of seminars, workshops, and industry trade shows.

Also offered at the Conference are four-day review programs for the Certified Plant Engineer (CPE), and Certified Plant Maintenance Manager (CPMM) designations, followed by the exams, and NAPE courses and exams for NIULPE licenses and EPA CFC certification. For further information, contact AFE at (888) 222-0155, ext. 20, or (513) 489-2473.

Visit www.nehes.org
If you haven’t visited the NEHES web page recently, maybe it’s time to take another look.
Webmaster Steve Cutter (also Education Chair) has been hard at work. He’s added photos taken during Fall Conference in Bermuda, an Education section with links to many informative sites, and a Board meeting minutes and reports section that he will update continually.
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NEHES Notes...
Watch future newsletters for the date of a special program, “Mercury Reduction in Your Waste Stream,” hopefully to be video teleconferenced.
NEHES will have a booth at a vendor show in Worcester, MA, April 13 to attract potential new members.

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