One-Day Spring Seminar with George Mills

Get Valuable Information March 29 – JCAHO Updates, Infection Control Risk Assessment, Clinical Equipment, SOC, Utilities Inventory, Emergency Preparedness, Building Maintenance, Evaluations and Performance Monitoring

George Mills, FASHE, CEM, a nationally-known speaker and authority on Codes and Standards, will lead a one-day educational program at the NEHES Spring Seminar Friday, March 29 at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Leominster, MA. Spring Seminar, along with Fall Conference, is one of the two major educational events NEHES sponsors each year. It attracts more than 100 engineers and guests.

Spring Seminar Chair Dawn LeBaron explained why the event’s organizers, members of the Vermont Healthcare Engineers’ Society, selected Mills as the speaker. “Many facilities in New England are due for their JCAHO survey this year. We chose George as a result of his extensive experience and knowledge in JCAHO Environment of Care Standards. His broad consulting experience since his work with JCAHO has exposed him to a variety of facilities and their individual approach to complying with the standards. He is in tune with the activities of the current task force review of all the standards, and hopefully he can give us a read on where this process is and what it will mean to us facility managers.”

The day’s schedule and Mills’ topics are:
7:15 a.m. - Registration; NEHES Board of Directors meeting for officers, committee chairpersons, and chapter representatives;
8:30-10:15 a.m. - JCAHO update, infection control risk assessment, clinical equipment, utilities inventory, emergency preparedness assessment, building maintenance programs;
10:45-noon - Risk assessment, annual evaluations and performance monitoring;
Noon-1 p.m. - Lunch (Lent considered);
1-2 p.m. - 12 issues related to the Statement of Conditions;
2:15-3:15 p.m. - Current events ((CDC; CMS LSC Update), questions and answers;
3:15 p.m. - NEHES Board of Directors update;
3:30 p.m. - Adjournment.

The seminar fee, including lunch, is $125 for members and $150 for non-members. The non-member fee includes a one-year NEHES membership for two membership categories: qualified active and associate members.

(to Page 2)

It’s Time to Nominate 2001 Engineer-of-the-Year Candidates

By Joe Mona

Director of Facility Systems
Lawrence General Hospital
Lawrence, MA, 2000 Engineer of the Year, Chair, EOY Committee

The selection of the 2001 NEHES Engineer of the Year begins now with the nomination process and will wrap up in late summer with an election by the full NEHES membership. Included in this newsletter is a “fax-back” nomination form as well as a list of suggested criteria for selecting candidates. Nominations can either be made by fellow engineers or by state chapters. All identified candidates will receive questionnaires seeking more in-depth information.

If there are more than three nominees, the NEHES board will narrow the field to three candidates, and then all candidates, including the three finalists, will receive recognition in the next NEHES Newsletter. A fax-back ballot listing the three finalists will also be included in that newsletter. The winner of the 2001 Engineer of the Year Award will be announced and recognized at the 2002 Fall Conference in Uncasville, CT. That individual also receives a complimentary registration to the Fall Conference and a $500 cash prize.

Use This Issue’s Insert to Invite Supporting Members to Join NEHES

Supporting members, individuals who are not employed by a healthcare provider organization but who are in businesses which interact with our other (active, associate, honorary) members, can now join NEHES. Annual dues are $100. Supporting members have the same privileges and benefits as other members except the right to vote or serve on the Board of Directors. Several businesses have already submitted their supporting member applications. Current members, why not copy the enclosed Membership Application and encourage your suppliers to apply for membership? If you prefer, you may forward names of potential supporting members and their contact information to Margaret Yip, New England Medical Center, 750 Washington St. NEMC Box # 834, Boston, MA 02111, or email names to myip@lifespan.org. Steve Cutter, NEHES webmaster, is also working on putting the membership form on the NEHES website, www.nehes.org.

Associate with Winners and Work Toward Chapter Growth!

By Ron Vachon

Director of Facilities Management
St. Andrews Hospital
Boothbay Harbor, ME, NEHES Public Relations Chair

Growth of the NEHES organization is important in that it broadens and deepens our pool of knowledge and experience as we work to keep up with the ever-changing demands of the present. As members, we should all be proud of the enthusiastic acceptance that ASHE and NEHES receive when prospective members learn of our organization. Your sharing of your Health-care Engineer Society experience with peers, new and prospective members, clients, bosses, etc., benefits all of us. Your NEHES board leadership and the ASHE staff can perform the “mechanics” of marketing, but we the members are by far the best sales force for NEHES through our daily activities and contacts. When I worked on the national ASHE membership committee, I learned that a friend or colleague referred about 41% of people inquiring about membership.

What can you do on an individual level? Glad you asked! Attend our educational programs — Spring Seminar and Fall Conference — and state meeting. Present (to page 2)
George Mills is a Former Director of ASHE and Assistant Director at JCAHO

(from page 1)

George Mills, a Fellow member of ASHE, and a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) by the Association of Energy Engineers, is the founder and president of MM EC Ltd, Naperville, IL. The company provides facility managers with education and consulting services, and serves many of the areas in healthcare delivery, including acute, ambulatory, and long-term care. Programs offered by the company include Environment of Care® Preparation and Guidance.

George is a former JCAHO Associate Director, Department of Standards, Interpretation Unit, where he interpreted OEC standards and Life Safety Code issues to healthcare organizations, regulatory agencies, consultants, vendors and other customers to assist in compliance. He also participated in the development and review of standards and survey procedures, and trained new surveyors. He served as a faculty member for education programs, and reviewed LSC equivalency requests.

His next position was Director, Engineering and Compliance, for the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE), where he supported the society's membership in the areas of technical and code support, advocacy functions, and education. He also served as a resource to the membership concerning standards promulgated by a variety of public and private organizations.

He participated in the development of publications to assist in compliance, provided educational programs, and served as an advocate for the ASHE membership to the standards-setting bodies. He has developed and presented training programs on regulatory compliance to national audiences (including JCAHO surveyors), reviews books and articles relating to plant and technology management, is frequently interviewed by reporters on issues of standards interpretation, and is currently writing for EC NEWS. He is the author of many articles related to the healthcare facility manager.

If you don't receive a Spring Seminar registration brochure by mail, contact Dawn LeBaron, Director of Facilities Management, Fletcher Allen Health Care (Burlington, VT), (802)384-7582, dawn.lebaron@vtmednet.org, or Bob Cummings, Manager, Construction Services, Renaissance Project, Fletcher Allen Health Care, (802)384-7582, bob.cummings@vtmednet.org.

Engineers may pay for the registration fee at the door with a personal credit card or cash if checks aren’t available yet from their facilities.

NEHES Membership Benefits Include Better Job Performance, More Skills, and Personal Credibility

(from page 1)

papers or articles for publication in the newsletter. Let fellow engineers and facility managers know how your membership in your society addresses your information needs and professional growth. Now that we’ve asked you to be the sales force, let me outline some thoughts from Susan MiHalo, ASHE’s Director of Membership, and what I think are some of the most important values of membership:

Membership helps you work more efficiently.

Consistently rated a top benefit of the society, many members have found that the ASHE publications and NEHES educational seminars focus on up-to-date information, proven ideas, models, and procedures, and can many times be easily and quickly adapted to your facility's needs. For instance, Doug Erickson’s presentation on AIA Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities or Michael Gurevich’s masonry building envelope construction (Fall Conference 2001) provided members with valuable tools for evaluating design specs and building construction problems.

NEHES advocates in the area of Codes and Standards.

No other organization compares when it comes to giving you a voice on national issues such as revising the NFPA standards, or petitioning or working to get HCFA to use the same edition of the Life Safety Code currently used by JCAHO. ASHE and NEHES members are at the forefront of standards changes and new developments -- giving members access to new information as it happens through alerts via fax, email, and direct contact to our local fire protection advocates Gene Cable and Bob Thompson.

Membership connects you with answers.

Have you called someone who is a member for information or an opinion? The network of peers alone is an incredible source of honest information. Benchmarking studies by NEHES have helped validate your spending and staffing levels and can be a powerful tool when asking your superiors for resources.

Membership builds your knowledge and skills.

Considering how diverse your role has become, keeping skills current and enriching your knowledge base can be a challenge. The membership meets this challenge by providing educational programs, learning tools, and documents that are practical and timely, such as Codes and Standards Programs. Not just hard skills training, we also offer people skills, too, such as Fortune 500 company legend Norm Bossio’s motivational presentation at the last Fall Conference. Realizing that different people have different needs, we work to stage education symposiums in a way that allows you to attend all or just a portion of these programs, depending on your needs.

Membership helps you gain credibility and recognition in the healthcare field.

Professional recognition programs such as the Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM) Designation and ASHE’s Actions for Professional Excellence (APEX) Program help demonstrate that you are a valuable contributor to effective and quality healthcare delivery within the healthcare profession. Publications and training opportunities give you the information necessary to help your facility keep in compliance -- and your CEO out of hot water.

These are just a few ways that a NEHES membership provides value for your dues many times over the cost of joining. I hope you agree and choose to continue your membership. Your membership makes it possible for us to accomplish what none of us could do on our own. Only with your ongoing support can we continue to grow and achieve important goals. Keep active, you are the most important tool in spreading the word about this vital organization. Thanks to you, we are truly an "Association of Winners."

The NEHES Newsletter is mailed quarterly to members of the New England Healthcare Engineers' Society.

NEHES Newsletter Editor:
Steven D. Cutter, CHFM
Director of Engineering Services
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
One Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, NH 03756-0001
Telephone: (603) 650-7148
Fax: (603) 650-8978
E-mail: Steven.D.Cutter@Hitchcock.org

Hospitals in the News

Two Maine health systems have constructed the first new hospitals in the state in about 25 years. Mid Coast Health Services began receiving patients December 11 at its new 104-bed Mid Coast Hospital on 155 acres in Brunswick. The $36.5 million hospital consolidates services from the health system's existing hospital in Brunswick, which will become a senior health center with assisted living and nursing home services, and its hospital in Bath, which will be given to the city for use as a community college. NEHES members who work at Mid Coast are Mike Pinkham, Director of Facilities Management, and Jeffrey Clark, Engineering Supervisor. On January 15, Central Maine Medical Center began receiving patients at its new 21-bed Brigham (ME) Hospital. The $12.5 million hospital replaces a 40-bed facility, which will become physician offices.

Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT has been named for the third consecutive year to Fortune magazine's 2002 list of "100 Best Companies to Work For." The winners were chosen from 279 candidates, up from 234 last year. Griffin Hospital placed 43rd on the list, up from 70th last year.

Fortune scores the applicants based on responses to an anonymous employee survey, nomination letters, and an audit of the organization's culture and employee programs and services. NEHES member Paul Toburen is the hospital's Assistant Vice President, Facilities. (Reprinted from AIA News Now)
Bob Okerholm, New NEHES President, is Steering the NEHES Course for 2002

It is with great pleasure that I have my first opportunity to converse with you as president of the New England Healthcare Engineers’ Society.

As is the case with all of you, I am a member of an organization of healthcare engineering professionals in the most wonderful region of the most wonderful country in the world. To be honest, the reason why I am your president is that I have been willing to participate in the process of developing and disseminating information about the issues that impact our daily working lives.

So let me tell you about my vision for NEHES in the year 2002. I have to admit that this vision was influenced by your Board of Directors at the NEHES Annual Planning Retreat in November.

The Annual Planning Retreat produced a list of “action items” that we as a board are obligated to pursue to the best of our abilities. Remember, you voted us in! Here they are:

- Concentrate: On strengthening chapter representation and participation. NEHES is an “umbrella” organization – the real substance of our society is the membership of our chapters – the state chapters.
- Revise: The Board of Directors Guidelines: Our society and our industry are extremely dynamic and we need to keep pace with the changes.
- Educate: The “hot topics” for our members are a moving target and we need to keep abreast of the best opportunities for providing the most appropriate educational opportunities to our members at the most affordable prices.
- Appreciate: The Maine Healthcare Engineers’ Society put a tremendous amount of energy and dedication into the value of last year’s NEHES Fall Conference in South Portland, and everyone in the society owes the MHECS conference planning committee an expression of gratitude.
- Develop: Fall Conference facility contract negotiations well in advance. The Wisconsin Healthcare Engineers’ Society model suggests that long-term hotel contract negotiations for society conferences result in better pricing. The NEHES model of a six-state rotating responsibility does not adapt well to that model. However, there is merit to making conference facility reservations very far in advance. As an example, the New Hampshire Society of Healthcare Engineers has already booked the 2004 NEHES Fall Conference for the Mount Washington Hotel.
- Resolve: That from now on all seminar and conference attendees receive a certificate of attendance and a receipt.
- Research: The concept of “swapping” the one-day seminar in the spring with the three-day conference in the fall because the length of these events may best suit our members.
- Publish: A “Calendar of Events” in the NEHES Newsletter and website of all appropriate chapter, NEHES, and ASHE activities. The NEHES webmaster needs to solicit data, and the Chapter Representatives and ASHE Liaison need to submit data.
- Advertise and Process: The nomination of members for the “NEHES Engineer-of-the-Year” award as a significant form of recognition for members of our society and profession.
- Submit: The NEHES Engineer-of-the-Year award winner as a candidate for the ASHE Crystal Eagle Award.
- Establish: A NEHES Scholarship Endowment Fund – at the January, 2002 NEHES Board of Directors meeting it was unanimously voted to establish such a fund in the amount of $40,000 (thanks in part to the success of the 2001 Fall Conference and the efforts of the Maine Healthcare Engineers’ Society). The ultimate goal is for the endowment fund to underwrite yearly scholarship awards from interest income alone.
- Recognize: Any and all NEHES members who have reached a special level of achievement through extraordinary effort: Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM), APEX Senior or Fellow, or any other nationally recognized certification pertaining to healthcare engineering or facilities management by publication in the NEHES Newsletter or website.

Say: “Thank You” or “This Is What We Learned” to our CEOs for letting us attend NEHES-sponsored educational events.

Solicit: From the nine NEHES Chapter Representatives a list of all institutions within their jurisdiction, identifying who would be most representative of facility management, so that we may solicit their participation in NEHES membership.

Notify: All current (dues-paid, -unpaid, and potential) members about the opportunity to renew/begin their membership status.

Advocate: Issues that have significant impact on our membership, such as the CMS adoption of the 2000 Life Safety Code consistent with the JCAHO adaptation of the same code.

Insure: Event cancellation and liability insurance consistent with current requirements.

Invest: Society assets in the most appropriate financial vehicles.

Investigate: Sales and Use Tax exemptions as an IRS §501(c)(6) income tax-exempt organization for, initially, the State of Connecticut but ultimately all six New England States?

Who will be: The Spring Seminar and Fall Conference Chairs for 2003 and 2004?

Needless to say, this is an aggressive agenda. We can prevail, but only with your help. Let me know if you want to participate: President Bob Okerholm, Director of Maintenance and Security, St. Elizabeth Home, 1 St. Elizabeth Way, East Greenwich, RI 02818, bokerholm@stelizabethcommunity.com, (401) 471-5060. Give me a call or an email shout so we can chat. I would be most gratified to hear from you.
Planning Continues Apace for 2002 NEHES Fall Conference in Connecticut Sept. 29-Oct. 2

By Mark English
Director of Engineering
Hartford Hospital
Hartford, CT,
2002 Fall Conference Chair,
NEHES President-Elect,
Education & Development Committee Chair

At the February 7 meeting of the Connecticut Healthcare Engineers’ Society Planning Committee for the 2002 NEHES Fall Conference, members made a great deal of progress in nailing down conference details, and we were treated to a tour of the (almost completed) exhibit hall, education session, meal area, breakout and reception rooms, and hotel room facilities. Some rooms have a panoramic view of the Thames River. We were all very pleased, awed, and excited.

The Fall Conference Organizers

The committee structure consists of the following individuals and assignments:

Steve Jalowiec, St. Mary’s Hospital (Waterbury): Partner solicitations (we are using the more appropriate phrase “Partner” to reflect our relationship with what we used to call “Vendors” or “Exhibitors”);

Joe Wosczyna, Hartford Hospital: scholarships;

Fred Leffingwell, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (New London): golf tournament;

Ron Hussey, Bristol Hospital (Bristol): Partner solicitations;

Cliff Ashton, Middletown Hospital (Middletown): program brochure design, publicity and mailings;

Jack Goselin, SDA Arneill International (Glastonbury): hotel liaison;

John Wrobel, Hartford Hospital: guest program;

Guenter Ohler, MidState Medical Center (Meriden): Partner solicitations;

Mark English, Hartford Hospital: registrant logistics and Committee Chair.

The Educational Program

The content of the educational program is being developed as a group effort. Speaking of educational content, we have identified thus far the following topics as deserving of serious speaker recruitment:

* Electricity deregulation (many state legislatures are reconsidering their strategies subsequent to the California debacle);

* JCAHO construction-related Indoor Air Quality safeguards (an anticipated “hot topic” for 2002-2003 accreditation surveys);

* Emergency preparedness (the 9/11 aftermath and Local Emergency Planning Committee efforts);

* Facilities management benchmarking surveys (regional-NEHES and national-ASHE);

* “Case studies” presented by state chapter and NEHES members (e.g. cogeneration, medical gas certifications, customized Requests for Proposals, etc.);

* The future of hospitals and their utilization vis-à-vis subsequent design (perhaps a panel discussion with prominent healthcare facility architects); and

* The process of applying for grant funding related to healthcare facilities.

Since we wish to avoid developing programs in a vacuum, please send us any suggestions you may have regarding program content (menglis@harthosp.org or 860-545-2661).

A very appealing educational and just plain fun option we are also pursuing is setting up a tour of the behind-the-scenes infrastructure of the Mohegan Sun complex. As the character John Hammond said of his amusement creation in the movie “Jurassic Park,” “we spared no expense.”

The Largest Technical Exhibit Ever

Due to the sheer scope of Mohegan Sun’s accommodations, we anticipate an unprecedented Technical Exhibit on Tuesday, up to well over 100 booths. Our intent is to schedule no other sessions during this 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. event so that all conference attendees may show their support for our partners by visiting their booths and considering their products and services. The financial support of our exhibiting partners is essential to the success of our seminars and conferences, and we encourage win-win business relationships between active and supporting members.

Guest Program Planned

Along the lines of the Significant Other Program, several ideas are taking shape: a vineyard tour and winetasting; horseback/haywagon riding; Mystic Seaport and Aquarium museum and shopping; a windjammer cruise on a schooner on Long Island Sound. However, in order for the arrangements for these excursions to work reasonably well, it would be very helpful to know how many guests will be signing up (contact John Wrobel, jwrobel@harthosp.org, or 860-545-2661).

Golf, Banquet, Awards

We are working on setting up a golf outing in the area on Sunday, September 29. Silver, Gold and Platinum Partner Sponsors are entitled to golfing slots, and are often interested in inviting NEHES members to join foursomes. When the weather is reasonable, this event is always a big hit with aficionados and amateurs alike.

Planned social events include a welcoming reception for golfers and attendees arriving on Sunday evening, a theme-oriented dinner and entertainment event on Monday evening, and the Annual Banquet and Award Presentations on Tuesday evening. On top of all this, the Mohegan Sun Resort offers an extraordinary array of childcare, shopping, entertainment, gaming, and dining experiences under one roof.

Scholarship Candidates Sought

Perhaps one of the most gratifying aspects of the NEHES Fall Conferences is the awarding of scholarships to deserving students attending accredited engineering schools in the state of the hosting chapter. In Connecticut, there are seven such schools, and we are actively soliciting candidates from each school. Parenthetically, if any NEHES member has a son or daughter matriculated in an accredited Connecticut school, please let us know: (Joe Wosczyna, jwoscz@harthosp.org, or 860-545-2661).

As an aside, due to the financial success of the 2001 NEHES Fall Conference in South Portland, Maine last September, the NEHES Board of Directors voted at the Annual Planning Retreat in November to allocate $40,000 in society assets to a permanent scholarship endowment fund, with the idea of using the fund’s interest income to fund the annual scholarship awards. At current return on investment rates, the fund needs to be a bit larger. We will be actively soliciting scholarship sponsorships, and if the conference is as financially successful as last year, perhaps we can contribute more to the principal of the fund.

Room Reservations

The negotiated price for room reservations at the hotel is $170 per night plus tax. This is a considerable bargain in relation to the anticipated market rates of $250 - $325 plus tax per night for September – October 2002. The hotel is requesting that attendees hold off on making room reservations (1-888-777-7922) until four months prior to the conference (i.e. June 1, 2002).

However, the Planning Committee strongly urges you to make your reservations as soon as possible after that date to lock in the favorable rate. We will also be investigating and reporting alternative hotels/motels in the vicinity in the program brochure.

One last incentive: NEHES will be subsidizing preregistered attendee room expense down to $125 per night up to three nights (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday). Now that’s an offer you can’t refuse! So save these dates: NEHES 2002 Fall Conference, September 29 – October 2, 2002, Mohegan Sun Resort, Uncasville, CT.
NEW ENGLAND
HOSPITAL ENGINEERS SOCIETY
Newsletter

VOLUME III
JUNE 1961
NUMER II

Emblem Contest
Rules Announced
Join with other contestants, and let us see your talents in designing an emblem for our society.

1. The Emblem must show a true relationship between the items shown on the emblem
and our honorable profession.

2. Shall be drawn on 8½ x 11” paper.

3. Must be your own work.

4. Limited to Hospital Engineers, but not necessarily members of the
New England Hospital Engineers Society.

5. All designs to become property of the society.


7. All entries to be sent to Mr.
George Vora, Administrative
Engineer, St. Luke’s Hospital,
New Bedford, Mass.

Freight, pen or pencil is acceptable, and so are photographs.

Judging Committee
We are privileged to have past
first president, George Vora, Admin-
istrative Engineer, St. Luke’s Hos-
pital, New Bedford, Massachusetts, as
Chairman; Thomas Stebbins, Direc-
tor of Medical Illustration and Medical Art Dept., Mass. Gen-
eral Hospital, John Wilbeck, Chief
Photographer and Director of Med-
cal Illustration at Peter Bent Bir-
gham Hospital.

Prizes
Bottle of excellent Society and a
box of cigars. The prizes will be awarded
during the Fall Session.

Joseph W. Degen

KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT
During Joseph Degen’s first one
hundred days in office, the actual
number of working people in the
society has nearly been doubled by
appointing three new committees,
creating a request for better news-
letter, doing some paper planning,
and meeting the demands of the
members.

He is a mechanical engineer from
Stevens Institute of Technology,
Class of 1924. He worked for the
Alphomex Custodial Chimney Con-
struction Co., as an inspector and
designer until 1952, at which time
he entered the architectural firm of
Broadway, New
York City.

Robert P. Lawson
Program Chairman
Past Secretary and past treasur-
er, Bill Harney, has already started his
work as Chairman of the program
committee by recommending the
beautiful Schine Inn at Chicoopee,
Massachusetts for our fall meeting.

Bill is a member of the board of
directors of the New England
Hospital Engineers Society.

Using his personal contacts and
knowledge of the area, he will
attempt to make the meeting one
of the most enjoyable of the year.

R. B. Beal
Nominating Chairman
A formal call for the nominating
committee was made and is being
headed by Bill Orner. The naming
committee consists of all past pres-
itees, and all newly elected state
representatives.

Robert P. Lawson
to
Speak at Fall Session
Through the combined efforts of
Messrs. A. Warren Marble of publica-
tions and William Harney of pro-
gramming, our members will be privi-
leged to hear guest speaker Robert
P. Lawson, Administrative of the
Grace New Haven Community Hos-
pital, speaking on "The Administra-
tor’s Responsibility to the Engi-
neer." We know that this will be an
informative and interesting part of
our fall program.

Name Bill Harney
Program Chairman
Past Secretary and past treasur-
er, Bill Harney, has already started his
work as Chairman of the program
committee by recommending the
beautiful Schine Inn at Chicoopee,
Massachusetts for our fall meeting.

"The Inn offers the best facilities in
every New England city, and it is
worth visiting the other nineteenth
century buildings. We are looking
forward to another excellent pro-
gress with an exciting session.

Name Bill Orner
Nominating Chairman
A formal call for the nominating
committee was made and is being
headed by Bill Orner. The naming
committee consists of all past pres-
itees, and all newly elected state
representatives.
Important Dates

March 25-27, 2002:
International Conference and Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design and Construction
Gaylord Palms Resort, Kissimmee, FL

March 29, 2002
2002 NEHES Spring Seminar
Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Leominster, MA
Organizers: Vermont Healthcare Engineers’ Society

July 29-31, 2002:
39th Annual ASHE Conference and Technical Exhibition
Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, TN

September 29 – October 2, 2002:
2002 NEHES Fall Conference
Mohegan Sun Resort, Uncasville, CT
Organizers: Connecticut Healthcare Engineers’ Society

October 21 - 27, 2002:
National Healthcare Engineers’ Week

Spring, 2003 NEHES Spring Seminar
Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Leominster, MA
Organizers: Massachusetts chapters

Fall, 2003 NEHES Fall Conference
Newport, RI area
Organizers: Rhode Island Healthcare Engineers’ Society

Spring, 2004 NEHES Spring Seminar
Sheraton Four Points Hotel
Leominster, MA
Organizers: Maine Healthcare Engineers’ Society

Fall, 2004 NEHES Fall Conference
Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH
Organizers: NH Society of Healthcare Engineers

Latest NEHES Member to Attain CHFM Status Prepared for Exam by Reading Relevant Materials

Ed Lydon, Assistant Vice President of Facilities at Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital (Plattsburgh, NY), became the 12th NEHES member to earn the designation of Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager (CHFM). The American Hospital Association Certification Center (AHA-CC) conducts the program with collaboration from ASHE and others. Following the computer-based, 100-question CHFM exam at selected H&R Block offices answer questions in five areas: Compliance, Finance, Maintenance and Operations, Administration, and Planning, Design, and Construction. ASHE membership is not a requirement for participation in the program. Other NEHES members who are CHFMs are Clifford Ashton, Steve Cutter, Robert Falaguerra, Jim Gilmore, Jack Gosselin, Ron Hussey, Dawn LeBaron, Frederick Lefingwell, Robert Loranger, Jim Loughery, and Pat Taber.

Ed joined CVPH in 1994 after managing the Vermont operations for Con-Test, an environmental engineering firm. During his years at Con-Test, he met many healthcare facilities managers who are now his colleagues in the Vermont Healthcare Engineers' Society. VHES is the closest NEHES chapter to Ed's facility, and Fletcher Allen Health Care (Burlington, VT) is CVPH's Level I trauma center and nearest tertiary hospital.

CHFM certification, Ed said, is "an important certification that says you have an understanding of how a healthcare facility needs to be managed, and that you can handle a broad range of responsibilities." He prepared for the exam by reading NEHES journals, code changes, documents published by AHA, and several other books and articles. He keeps updated on Environment of Care standards as CVPH's EoC Committee chair, and completed Dan Chisholm's self-study certification program, Emergency Power Supply Systems: Inspecting and Testing of Generators for Health Care Facilities. "That was fantastic, a real asset in preparing me for the test," he said.

"I would encourage everyone to take the exam," Ed said. "It's good for ASHE and NEHES, and provides a lot of credibility for our profession." Closer to home, Ed's management was "very supportive and very impressed" that he attained certification.

In 1998, Ed was also certified as a Facilities Management Administrator through Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International's three-year program. For further information about the CHFM program, 1) visit the AHA website, http://www.aha.org/Certification/CertIndex.asp and click on the CHFM icon, or 2) call Applied Measurement Professionals, (913)541-0400.
Be sure to read the Engineer of the Year Selection Criteria on the back of this form first! Thank you for taking the time to nominate a colleague for this important award.

NEHES Engineer of the Year Award

Nomination Form

Name and Title of Nominee:  

Reasons for nomination:

- Contributions to NEHES in 2001

- Contributions, exemplary performance in healthcare engineering on a local, state, or national level

- Service to fellow healthcare engineers

- Other specific achievement(s) and/or honors, awards relevant to this nomination

Name of Nominator: ____________________________ Tel: ____________________________

Return or Fax to:  Joe Mona
Director of Facility Systems
Lawrence General Hospital
1 General St.
Lawrence, MA 01842
FAX: (978)946-8053

Questions: jmona@LawrenceGeneral.org
(978)946-8179
NEHES Engineer of the Year Award

Suggested Selection Criterion

1. Over the nominee's career (and particularly 2001), the candidate has displayed commendable leadership qualities.

2. Over the nominee's career (and particularly 2001), the candidate has ably represented the interests of the New England Healthcare Engineers and the hospital engineering profession.

3. The candidate has provided technical and/or professional assistance to other hospital engineers.

4. During the previous year(s), the candidate has published article(s) or technical document(s).

5. Within the preceding 12 months, the candidate has received professional recognition, met the requirements for an academic degree and/or achieved professional certification within an engineering related discipline.

6. The candidate has made significant contributions within the healthcare engineering field.

7. The candidate has shared programs or other information with fellow engineers that has helped them improve the overall effectiveness of their operations.

8. The candidate displays high levels of integrity and professionalism.

9. During 2001 the candidate has devoted significant amounts of time to a project which has brought positive (outside) recognition to the Society and its members.

10. This candidate has served on a Committee (State/Local Engineering Society, NEHES, ASHE, NFPA, ASHRAE, ASME, AIPE, etc.) and has contributed to the overall improvement of the membership.

11. The candidate has contributed to both the cohesiveness and organization of the Society and has promoted cooperation between members.

12. The candidate has hosted meetings and/or organized educational programs.

*********************************************************************************

After you read these points, please TURN this form OVER and use it to NOMINATE a candidate!
# 2002 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

As a member of the New England Healthcare Engineers’ Society you will receive a number of professional benefits: outstanding quarterly newsletters; discounted registration fees at the NEHES Spring Seminars and Fall Conferences; representation at ASHE and NFPA; lists of fellow healthcare engineers and supporting members in the New England region; press releases of your activities in your local newspapers and to your CEO; opportunities to enhance your resume by working on the Board or in the many planning activities the Society embarks upon; and the ability to network with your colleagues beyond state borders.

Annual dues of $25.00 are assessed each Active and Associate member for the calendar year. Honorary members are not required to pay dues but should verify their current address. If you have already renewed your membership or anticipate renewing via the ASHE/NEHES combined dues program, please disregard this form. Supporting member annual dues are $100, and although Supporting members cannot vote or serve on the Board of Directors, they are eligible for all other Society benefits.

Please fill out the appropriate information on this application and return it with your dues payment to the address listed below. Join today!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circle One Category:</th>
<th>ACTIVE</th>
<th>ASSOCIATE</th>
<th>HONORARY</th>
<th>SUPPORTING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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NAME: ____________________________________________________________

TITLE: ___________________________________________________________

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY: ENGINEERING FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SAFETY
MAINTENANCE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SECURITY
CONSTRUCTION BIOMED CONSULTATION
OTHER ___________________________________________________________

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR FOREMOST AREA[S] OF EXPERTISE? ________________________________

INSTITUTION/COMPANY: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS: _______________________________________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: ____ ZIP: ________________

TELEPHONE: [ ] __________ FAX#: [ ] __________ E-MAIL: __________________

HOME ADDRESS [Optional]: _________________________________________

CITY: __________________________ STATE: ____ ZIP: ________________ HOME PHONE: _________

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: ASHE _____ NFPA _____ OTHER

STATE CHAPTER: __________________________________________________

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NEHES
Mail check and application to: NEHES
    c/o Margaret Yip
    New England Medical Center
    750 Washington Street NEMC Box #834
    Boston, Massachusetts 02111
ASHE Advocacy Management Committee Tackles Issues Affecting 6,000 ASHE Members

The ASHE Advocacy Management Committee, chaired by Don Garrison (pictured at right), continues to research issues and take appropriate action regularly on behalf of the approximately 6,000 ASHE members worldwide.

Don, the Chief of Facility Management at Franklin Memorial Hospital (Farmington, ME), has a long history of involvement with the Maine Healthcare Engineers' Society, NEHES, and ASHE. Don was elected to a two-year term as ASHE Region 1 Representative from NEHES in 2002; his term began last year.

Other Advocacy Committee members include NEHES Treasurer Dana Swenson, PE, Vice President, Facilities Management and Development, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Boston), and Doug Erickson, FASHE, consultant to ASHE on codes and standards and an ex-officio member of the Life Safety Code Health Care Technical Committee.

At its January meeting, the ASHE Advocacy Committee discussed several important issues, including JCAHO activities, ASHE's recent campaign to educate the healthcare community on Life Safety Code adoption by CMS, NFPA updates, emergency preparedness/ readiness, and bed rail safety issues.

Of particular relevance to healthcare engineers is the committee's program to find advocacy people in each chapter to be part of a group that will regularly communicate with Don and Dale Woodin, ASHE Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy.

"We have a representative (Eugene Cable) who will represent NEHES, and I have representatives from other chapters in Region 1 as well," Don said. "What we envision is a network that communicates by email and by 'Advocacy Flash' to assist ASHE members in Chicago who are members of NFPA and other code compliance committees. With a quick turn around these folks could provide valuable input. This should provide a great opportunity for NEHES and others to have direct input to code changes."

The Advocacy Committee structure will change from an operationally focused to a strategically focused committee. To facilitate that shift in focus, the committee has been expanded to include the Chairs of the Facilities Management Committee, Healthcare Technology Committee, PDC Committee, and Safety, Security, and Environmental Committee. This will allow committees to share issues within the same forum in addition to ensuring effective communication directly back to specific committees. This will also develop a "two way" flow within the ASHE committee structure.

As necessary, Ad-Hoc workgroups will be assigned and chaired by an Advocacy Team member. These work groups will consist of three or four members assigned by discipline. The work group will discuss issue(s) and recommend actions, e.g., consulting, public comment, letter writing, political action, etc., and report back to the Advocacy Committee.

ASHE's advocacy efforts on regulatory issues, Don said, have saved hospitals billions of dollars over the years by clarifying and preventing arbitrary and potentially confusing codes, standards, and regulations that would have added unnecessary costs to its members' budgets. ASHE routinely works with JCAHO, NFPA, EPA, OSHA, HCFA, ICC, CDC, AIA, UL, ASHRAE, FDA, and FCC on behalf of its members.

Thanks to Mark English, Don Garrison, and Bob Thompson for their contributions to this section.

ASHE News Flashes

CDC Releases New Bioterrorism Web Resources for Clinicians, Lab Professionals, Public

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a redesigned website offering both new and updated bioterrorism resources for health professionals and the public. The site at www.bt.cdc.gov addresses the need for up-to-date and accurate information on health threats arising from exposure to biological, chemical, or radiological agents. The redesigned site, which focuses on Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response, is the official federal site for medical, laboratory, and public health professionals to reference when providing information to the public and for updates on protocols related to health threats such as anthrax. CDC redesigned the site in response to overwhelming demand from the public and professionals for credible information during the anthrax crisis. In October 2001, CDC experienced more than a 100 percent increase in traffic to its main web site, www.cdc.gov, which links directly to www.bt.cdc.gov. CDC was the most visited federal government web site in the nation in October, registering more than 9.1 million unique visits.

Bioterrorism Readiness Funds

In a letter to state governors, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson said the department will allocate $125 million in disaster readiness funds to state health agencies, which will then be distributed to hospitals. Responding to AHA concerns, Thompson's letter makes clear that hospitals can use the funds for resources and materials, rather than solely for planning and coordinating a regional emergency response to a disaster. Hospitals need to work with your state (hospital) association to find out how to apply for funding.

OSHA Recordkeeping Rule Takes Effect

Simpler, easier to follow requirements for tracking workplace injuries and illnesses are now in force for 1.4 million employers covered by OSHA's new recordkeeping rule. "The new recordkeeping system is easier for employers to understand, better protects employee privacy in sensitive cases, and will yield more accurate injury and illness data," said OSHA Administrator John L. Henshaw. "The new OSHA forms are smaller; they fit on legal size paper. We've also clarified and simplified the instructions for filling out the forms." In December, OSHA mailed forms to employers likely to be covered by the rule. In addition, new recordkeeping forms, training materials, fact sheets,
More ASHE News Flashes
(from page 1C)

and other assistance are available on OSHA's website at www.osha-slc.gov/recordkeeping/index.html to help employers make the transition to the new system. Employers can also access the web version of a satellite training broadcast the agency aired on Dec. 12, 2001. The OSHA website also includes frequently asked questions as well as a listing of recordkeeping coordinators and local OSHA offices if employers have further questions or need more information. As employers switch from the old recordkeeping system to the new one, they will need to post their 2001 summary of injuries and illnesses during the month of February. Beginning in 2003, the annual summary is to be posted for three months—February, March, and April.

Moratorium: Sentinel Event Alert Scoring

The Joint Commission has placed a moratorium on using the healthcare organization's response to Sentinel Event Alert recommendations as the basis for scoring standards. Current standards require organizations to review all Sentinel Event Alert recommendations, determine their applicability to the organization's services, and, where applicable, implement the recommendations or reasonable alternatives within 90 days of publication in Joint Commission Perspectives. Although the implementation of recommendations will not be scored during the moratorium, surveyors will assess, for consultative purposes, the organization's knowledge of Sentinel Event Alert recommendations and how the organization plans to implement these recommendations. With the assistance of the state hospital association-based Accreditation Process Improvement Implementation Task Force, the Joint Commission is developing a revised approach to the publication and survey of Sentinel Event Alert recommendations. The revised approach will address concerns regarding the frequency and content of Sentinel Event Alerts and the number of Alert recommendations subject to survey each year. ASHE will continue to monitor this and keep you informed.

States Adopt 2002 National Electrical Code

The Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations and the North Carolina Building Code Council implemented the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®), effective January 1, 2002. In addition, the North Dakota State Electrical Board and the New Hampshire State Electricians' Board voted to implement the 2002 edition of the National Electrical Code effective April 1, 2002 and July 1, 2002, respectively. The new edition of the NEC includes more than 300 significant changes and marks the 49th edition of the code, which was first issued in 1897.

Joint Commission Resources Seeking Good Practice Examples

Joint Commission Resources (JCR) has issued a call to action for hospitals to submit good practice examples related to patient safety, sentinel events, staffing, care of patients and performance improvement. The examples will be used to establish a good practices subscription database, scheduled to debut online this year. The database will be limited initially to hospitals, with a pilot project for ambulatory, long term and home care organizations set for 2003. The database is intended to help health care organizations improve services by learning from the successes of others.

Each detailed example submitted for consideration in the JCR database must include information on: staff involvement, tools and resources utilized, how the example was implemented, how the success of the good practice was measured, and lessons learned or recommendations from the organization. The database also will include advice, comments, and additional information resources from Joint Commission experts for each of these five implementation steps. Examples must be fully developed by organizations and must represent intellectually independent work. Examples referring to the use of any for-sale products or equipment will not be accepted. Only good practice examples from JCAHO-accredited organizations will be considered for the database.

A $500 fee will be paid to organizations submitting examples that are included in the database. In addition to sentinel events and patient safety, future topics for JCR's good practice database will include Environment of Care, pain management, HIPAA, medical staff, assessment of patients, and human resources.

Bush Budget Includes Funds for Preparedness

The President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2003 includes $518 million to enhance preparedness at the nation's hospitals as a response to incidents of biological or chemical terrorism. This is a 284% increase over the amount provided this year. The budget also includes another $100 million for programs for bioterrorism training for healthcare professionals, poison control centers, and emergency medical services for children. The funding would help build an effective nationwide network prepared to respond to large scale casualties, as well as helping to provide specific materials to be immediately available in hospitals, and helping to support new clinical personnel. The spending would be used to support: expanded capacity of hospitals and outpatient facilities to confront large scale casualty incidents; improve capabilities to control infection and treat individuals at risk for a communicable disease; training in recognition of rare diseases and treatment of toxic exposures; and infrastructure improvements including infectious disease containment systems.

New FDA Regulation Mandates U.S. Agents for Device Importers

Effective February 11, 2002, the FDA now requires foreign companies and establishments engaged in the manufacture, preparation, propagation, compounding, and processing of a device or drug imported in the United States to name only one U.S. agent. This agent must be a U.S. Citizen and maintain a place of business in the United States. In addition, the agent may also be designated as the importer's official correspondent. The regulation can be found in the Federal Register, Volume 66, No. 228, p. 59138-59161. (All ASHE items reprinted with permission from ASHE.)

ASHE's Education Calendar

The following ASHE educational opportunities are coming up:

The ASHE 2002 International Conference and Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design and Construction
March 25-27, 2002
Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center
Orlando, FL

New ASHE programs, all to be held at the

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix, AZ:

"Effectively Managing the Healthcare Environment During Construction and Renovation"
April 8-9, 2002

"Staying in Compliance with the Changing NFPA Standards"
April 10, 2002

"Facilities Management - Building a Strong Foundation for Your Department"
April 11-12, 2002

"2002 Joint Commission EC Update - The Bar Has Been Raised; Will You Measure Up?"
April 11-12, 2002

The ASHE 39th Annual Conference and Technical Exhibition
July 29-31, 2002
Nashville, Tennessee

Contact ASHE at (312)422-3800 or visit the ASHE website, www.ashe.org, for more information.