

The formation of IAHS

Russell Colling, CHPA, CPP

In providing this brief recap of the first 24 months of IAHS, Russ Colling records important IAHS history. It is significant to note, he says, that the Association encountered a loss of certain historic documents that resulted from a major flood event at Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital where many of the Association records were stored. Thus the information contained in this recap was derived from some of his personal files of correspondence and early Association newsletters.

(Russell Colling, CHPA, CPP is Founding President of IAHS. He has served as a Police Chief, Hospital Administrator, University Professor, and Program Director of a large multi-facility healthcare security system. In addition, he has served as an expert witness and security consultant involving over 150 hospitals and healthcare organizations. He developed and implemented, under IAHS Administration direction, the initial IAHS security officer training program and the Healthcare Security Basic Industry Guidelines. He has authored many articles and books on healthcare security, including two books for The Joint Commission and has authored and co-authored several editions of "Hospitals and Healthcare Security." In addition, he has received numerous organization and community awards.)

Over the 49 years that the International Association for Hospital Safety and Security, IAHS (originally International Association for Hospital Security, IAHS) has been in existence, the most frequent question I have been asked has been, "How did the Association begin?" As we approach our 50th Annual Conference and Exhibition Program it seems a fitting time to share a brief snapshot of some inception highlights of the Association.

THE FIRST MEETING

It all began at the 1967 International Security Conference held in Los Angeles, CA. The conference was produced by the Security World Publishing Company. A number of Chicago area hospital security directors, including myself, were in attendance even though there were no specific programs, sessions, or exhibits specifically pertaining to hospital security. It was suggested that we, our Chicago group, post a notice for an informal "no-host" breakfast just for a meet and greet opportunity. Approximately 20 persons attended.

There was an idea presented by an attendee that we compile a list of those present, including contact information, so that attendees could interact individually with each other. Edward Thurman, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis MO, assumed the project of producing, managing and distributing the collected list of interested individuals. As the project developed Ed reported a significant interest with new names continually being added through word of mouth conversations. It was suggested that we should consider forming an association, or other type of a more formal organization. Further exploration resulted in forming IAHS. Note: the name IAHS was developed several years later when safety officers expressed an interest in belonging to our Association.

GOING NATIONAL

The Association, formed in late 1967, did not really get rolling until 1968 with the offices of President, Russ Colling; Vice President, Edward Thurman; Secretary, Lindberg Bell; Treasurer, Thomas Dailey. At the very beginning, in 1967, the Association's mailing address was 8060 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, in conjunction with Raymond Farber, Security World Publishing CO., acting as the IAHS Executive Secre-

tary. His help with printing applications, brochures, and record keeping were invaluable. In 1968 the official address was changed to the Merchandise Mart, Post Office Box 3776, Chicago, IL, 60611. The first Association Constitution went into effect on May 24, 1968. It contained five member categories: Senior Member; Member; Affiliate; Associate; and Honorary Member.

A primary goal of the first Association officers was to work toward dispelling the thought that this was only a Chicago group. In fact our first election of a Board Member drew a nominee from the states of Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio and California. Tom Oster, Director of Security, Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, was elected to the Board in 1968.

INITIAL PROJECT

The first major project of the association developed as a result of member feedback to our first series of newsletters. This feedback indicated a strong interest in what security documents, (i.e. forms) were being utilized by others and what information was included in the different types of those forms. This interest culminated in solicitations of various forms from members with permission to reprint their forms

with distribution to Association members. The project was completed with publication of five separate booklets of forms which were: Security Incidents, Property Control, Identification Systems, Fire and Safety, and Parking and Traffic.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The first Annual Meeting of IAHS was held June 3, 1968 at the New York Hilton Hotel. The main topic of discussion was development of a collective consensus of what general responsibilities a hospital security program should include. A total of 16 responsibilities were identified. It is noted that just over 50 percent of the IAHS membership attended the Annual Meeting.

The second Annual Meeting of IAHS was held May 23, through May 27, 1969 at the Sherman House Hotel in Chicago. Among the speakers at this meeting were Carol Jacobs, Security Director, Methodist Hospital, Gary, Indiana; Thomas Conkling, Director of Safety Services, Department of Mental Hygiene, State of New York; Maynard Enos, Chief of Security, Veterans Administration Hospital, Palo Alto, CA; and Joel Edelman, Attorney, American Hospital Association,

Chicago. A major "hit" at this 2nd Annual Meeting was an extensive program for attendees "significant others" hosted by the Chicago Chapter Wives Club. The program included Chicago area tours, luncheons, teas and entertainment.

THE FIRST CHAPTER

The first chapter of IAHS was the Chicago Chapter approved by the Board of Directors on October 2, 1969. No time was wasted and the first Chicago Chapter meeting, chaired by Donald Owens, convened on October 9, 1969. At this first meeting, it was agreed the Chapter would conduct a one day training session for security officers employed in chapter member hospitals. It was decided that there would need to be a minimum of 25 officers to render the project financially feasible. The training session was held five weeks later at the Little Company of Mary Hospital, Evergreen Park, IL. There were 107 security officers in attendance that day.

It is fitting that the 50th anniversary annual meeting of IAHS be held in Chicago with attendees, I am sure, from our chapters in 29 states and Washington, DC; seven Canadian provinces, Australia, and Europe.