The President’s Message

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the upcoming Holidays, make sure to mark your calendar for the December GaSHE meeting on December 8th and 9th. You don’t want to miss the opportunity to come and network with your peers, attend educational sessions and have a little fun provided by GaSHE.

As a Healthcare Engineer there is no cost for you to attend our meetings. Because of the outstanding support from our business partners and continued relationship with Little Ocmulgee State Park, GaSHE continues to be a vital network for healthcare and hospital engineers around the state and you owe it to the facility you represent and your own professional development to become involved.

I am proud to be a member and to serve you as GaSHE president.

Yours to Count On,
Zack Holt, Piedmont Newnan Hospital
GaSHE President
For our business partners, if you plan to arrive on Thursday, December 8th, please reserve a room at the Lodge by calling (800) 864-7275 to make your reservation.

If you are an Engineer, please submit your registration form no later than November 21st. All Engineers rooms are covered by the Society and we will make the room arrangements for you. Please do not reserve your room if you are an Engineer. GaSHE will only cover the rooms that we have arranged on your behalf. This will greatly reduce any overlapping with reservations at the Lodge.

The Wedge Room at the lodge will serve as the Hospitality Suite for our December meeting.

Please join us on Thursday evening, December 8th, for the hospitality suite and then dinner and Christmas party immediately following. This year we will play trivia and have our gift exchange.

For December’s meeting we will be having our Christmas party! Please do not forget to bring your gift and participate in a gift exchanging game that is loaded with fun. The gift exchange will take place on Thursday evening.

GaSHE will be sponsoring Toys for Tots again this year and we are asking that you bring a new, unwrapped toy with you to the December meeting. The Society will be contributing a $100 monetary donation to the campaign and with a toy from each of you we can help Toys for Tots reached their goal of over 800,000 toys.

We have established 2 additional ways for business partners to sponsor the quarterly meetings. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities then please let Kelly Wilson know (email: gashesecretary@gmail.com.)
As has been the case for years, the top 5 most challenging requirements from surveys conducted in the first half of 2011 are predominately filled with Life Safety and Environment of Care standards.

Most challenging standards of first half of 2011 are:

- RC/01.01.01 (the hospital maintains complete and accurate medical records for each patient) 62%
- LS.02.01.02 (the hospital maintains the integrity of the means of egress) 50%
- LS.02.01.01 (building and fire protection features are designed and maintained to minimize the effects of fire, smoke and heat) 44%
- EC.02.03.05 (the hospital maintains fire safety equipment and fire safety building features) 38%
- LS.02.01.03 (the hospital provides and maintains building features to protect individuals from the hazards of fire and smoke) 37%

“Continuing the Culture of Safety”
Reducing the Risk of Workplace Violence

by: Leann Miller, PBX, Safety, Security Manager, Henry Medical Center

In times like these workers everywhere experience acts of workplace violence; sometimes never giving it a second thought. Acts of physical and verbal abuse, threats and intimidation all represent acts of workplace violence. To discourage workplace violence, be proactive and immediately talk to your supervisor, if you experience or see acts of unusual behavior in others. Never underestimate the potential for a coworker acting out violently.

When you experience workplace violence directly, make it your primary goal to:

- Defuse the person’s anger so that he/she can cool down. Speak to them calmly and rationally.
- Maintain your composure.
- Try to signal a co-worker to contact management, security, and/or the police.
- Listen attentively. An individual who feels they have your attention are sometimes less likely to act out physically.
- Maintain eye contact, this helps calm the person down, because they feel they have your full attention.
- Be courteous and patient until help arrives.
- If the person has a weapon, follow their instructions giving time for help to arrive.
- Never try to intercept the weapon or act aggressively against the individual. Do not risk harm to yourself or others.

Potential warning signs of workplace violence are:

- Threats of harm either directly or indirectly.
- Inappropriate and aggressive behavior such as intimidation, harassment, bullying, and belligerency.
- Statements of desperation over finances, family or other problems.
- Numerous conflicts with supervisors and/or other employees.
- Mention of weapons during conversations.