The President’s Message

I am honored to represent Georgia Society for Healthcare Engineers this year at the ASHE conference and receive the prestigious Platinum Award on behalf of our chapter. GASHE is very strong and growing because of the dedication of our membership, business partners and elected board of directors. I am proud to serve you as president and appreciate the many benefits of being a member of this professional society. Please visit our website www.gashe.org and become active and enjoy the opportunities that we have planned this year. December 8th & 9th is our next quarterly meeting and we look forward to seeing everyone for the fun, networking and educational tracts scheduled for this meeting.

Yours to Count On,
Zack Holt
Director of Construction/Engineering
Piedmont Newnan Hospital
NFPA APPROVES NEW VERSION OF LIFE SAFETY CODE

The long awaited process toward adopting a new edition of NFPA 101, the Life Safety Code (LSC), took a large step forward in June after the NFPA membership approved a new version of the code.

The vote took place at the NFPA's Technical Meeting, which was held after its 2011 Conference and Expo in Boston. The 2012 edition of the LSC is expected to be published officially in the next few months after the NFPA Standards Council votes in August to finalize it.

In addition, the NFPA approved the 2012 edition of NFPA 99, Standard for Health Care Facilities.

Once the 2012 editions are published by the NFPA, The Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services and The Joint Commission are expected to follow suit and adopt the 2012 editions. Currently, both require hospitals to comply with the 2000 edition of the LSC. The most recent edition of the LSC was published in 2009.

It could take up to 18 months before CMS adopts a new edition of the LSC. Once that happens, The Joint Commission, Det Norske Veritas, and the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program will also adopt it, and subsequently accredited hospitals must comply with the new requirements.

Steve Jordan
Director of Safety
Piedmont Hospital
GASHE, as a professional organization, hosts some of the best educational programs you will find anywhere in the healthcare arena. I would like to encourage each of you to get involved in our quarterly meetings. Where else can you go to learn updated codes, regulations, etc. for no cost to you or your Hospital? GASHE even pays for your overnight stay and the meeting lunch is provided by us as well. For your convenience, a cook-out is held on the evening before the meeting, again at no cost to you.

The networking opportunity with fellow healthcare professionals and business partners is priceless. Many organizations would love to have the ability to have cost-fee continuing education for their employees and may spend thousands of dollars for staff development. At GASHE’s quarterly meetings you receive this education at no cost to you.

Please plan to be at the next meeting on December 8th & 9th at Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae, Georgia. Visit our website at www.gashe.org for updated information on dates, times, and directions, or contact me directly.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,
Sammy Bledsoe
VP for Physical Plant & Environmental Services
Magnolia Manor