The President’s Message

Hello to all GASHE members,

GASHE is having an active summer and I am excited to tell you all about it! Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the GASHE quarterly meeting September 10th & 11th. We will be networking and enjoying great company and education at Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae GA.

For those of you who missed last month’s meeting you certainly missed a great one! The June meeting had over 25 Engineers & 30 Business Partners in attendance and we celebrated with our very 1st GASHE low country boil. We had a wonderful time, amazing food, education and networking.

We are pleased to announce that GASHE sent 7 Engineers to the ASHE Annual Conference in Boston. During our time in Boston GASHE received the ASHE Platinum Award. Richard Johns, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, also joined us at the conference. Richard entered a GASHE essay contest last month where he submitted a 250 word essay describing what GASHE means to him both professionally and personally. All of the submissions were reviewed by the GASHE board and Richard’s essay was selected to receive an all-expenses paid trip to the ASHE Conference. Richard’s essay is included in this newsletter for your to enjoy. We are very pleased that GASHE has the financial stability to be able to provide such a wonderful experience to an Engineer within the Society.

Please review the 2nd GASHE Emergence Newsletter for 2015. We have included several great articles from our Business Partners, very informative information regarding the history of GASHE and a recap from the June meeting.

GASHE is continuing to grow every year and I am so proud to be part of such a wonderful organization. As of June 2015 GASHE has more than 75 Engineers and 240 Business Partners that are active in the Society. I speak for all of the GASHE Board when I continuously say thank you for your support, dedication and participation for the Georgia Society for Healthcare Engineers.

Zack Holt
GASHE President
GASHE held its June Quarterly Meeting on June 11 & 12th in McRae at Little Ocmulgee State Park. Excellent networking and education opportunities were enjoyed by all.

The following educational topics were provided to healthcare engineers on Friday. To view the presentations, please view our website and click the "Past Meetings" tab.

- CIC Inc. Floors “The Evolution of Flooring for Hygiene Critical Environments
- Turner Construction, “LEAN Healthcare Construction - What’s all the Fuss?”
- Green Air Environmental, “Sustainable Air Handler Unit and Coil Cleaning”
Zack Holt asked me to write this article on the early days of the society and how it has grown into what we have today.

My first contact with the society was in 1979 when I became the sales representative for American Air Filter covering the middle and South Georgia territory. Needless to say I knew nothing about the hospital business at the time. This would change over the next 36 years.

In the beginning, my job was to call on local hospitals and encourage them to use pricing generated through purchasing agreements most hospitals utilized. This put me directly in line to see the engineers of each hospital and help them understand what they needed for proper filtration throughout the hospital. Soon I was hearing about the Georgia Society for Hospital Engineers and how I needed to be involved with this group. They were the first society established in GHA in 1964-65 and are still the largest of the 14 societies in GHA today.

P. J. Wise invited me to my first meeting in McRae, Ga. and the rest is history. This group of engineers welcomed me with open arms and to this day I am proud to call them my friends. The engineers met in different locations over the years around the McRae Ga. area. Attendance at the meetings in the early 1980’s would be up and down.

I remember one meeting in town, at the only motel that had a meeting space, there were two engineers and three vendors in attendance. The annual “Fish Fry” was always a big hit at McRae. The engineers would turn out for this event with all helping prepare the meal. Wendell White, Billy Wise, P.J. Wise, Mr. Holloway from Coffee County Hospital would always run the event along with Mahlon Hill the Hillrom representative. When those old boys got together there was a good time in store. Wendell would tell the same jokes every year and we would all laugh uncontrollably. He has that same wit today that we all love.

P.J Wise was always trying to make the society better for the engineers by offering programs to better educate them in their jobs. He would have vendors from different companies attend the meetings and discuss the current regulations that would affect their hospitals. These events led to what we now call trade shows.

He knew vendors wanted the opportunity to talk with the engineers in a casual setting and what better way than a trade show or open discussion. These events were very successful, and for the small hospitals in South Georgia, a bargain, because there was very little money available for training. The only problem was GHA bylaws did not allow their societies to hold trade shows or keep a bank account from funds raised by the trade shows.

This turned out to be an issue in the early 90's when GHA demanded the trade shows be stopped and all money be turned over to GHA. The engineers would have no part of that demand. A meeting was held in the fall of 1992 at the Ramada Inn in Macon, Ga. with Joe Parker, GHA President, and a large group of hospital engineers from all over the state in attendance.

Several engineers spoke in favor of the trade shows and why they needed them for educational purposes. Mr. Parker listened to their reasons, but because of the GHA bylaws, said his hands were tied and he had no other choice but to request the trade shows stop. Because of these events, things were going to change for the Georgia Society for Hospital Engineers. Once it was determined that the move away from GSHE would not affect the engineers ASHE status it was decided to change
Ted Kipreos serves as a Healthcare End User Specialist for ASSA ABLOY Door Security Solutions based in Marietta, GA. Ted has been with ASSA ABLOY for over 10 years and has been an active member of GASHE since joining the company in 2005.

He started his career in the family restaurant business (what Greek wasn’t in the restaurant business?) upon graduation from the University of Georgia in 1985. In 1990 he embarked in his new career in sales at Rollins Protective Services. He then joined Brinks Home Security in 1992 where he held several positions until he ascended into the position of East Coast Manager for Home Builder Operations- a position he held for over 5 years. Ted spent a few years doing security and safety consulting at various firms upon leaving Brinks until he began working at ASSA ABLOY.

He is married to Vicki Kipreos and they have 2 sons, Nick (23) and Chris (21). They look forward to celebrating their 25th anniversary in July on a trip to the Dominican Republic. Ted’s hobbies include golf, all things UGA, cooking on his Big Green Eggs, being very active in the Greek Orthodox Church, and spending time with his family and friends. He recently served for 2 years as Co-Chairman of the Atlanta Greek Festival and is very active member of a Greek Men’s fraternal organization (AHEPA) where he currently serves as Co-Chairman of 2 educational foundations whose primary goal is to award scholarships to college students. A little known fact is Ted has an identical twin brother who also works in the security and safety industry, go figure!

Ted values his GASHE membership because it has provided him with a lifetime of business contacts and (more importantly) friends that he treasures.
GASHE receives the top award at the ASHE Conference - 2014 Platinum Award!
Richard Johns Wins GASHE’S Essay Contest and Trip to ASHE Annual Conference

Richard Johns, Cancer Treatment Center of America, wins 2015 GASHE/ASHE Scholarship. He received an all expenses paid trip to the 2015 ASHE Conference July 12th-15th. The GASHE board carefully reviewed all of the essay submissions and are pleased to present this award to Richard Johns.

Richard’s Essay

I was first introduced to GASHE last year at the 2014 Annual Conference and Trade Show by my mentor, Daniel Dunn. Since becoming a member of the Society, I immediately felt like I was making life long relationships - not only on a professional level, but on a personal level too.

The fellowship at our meetings has enabled me to share my own experiences and gain from the experiences of others. This gift from GASHE has made me a stronger leader in my personal and professional life. It has also led to discussions about different operations and policies and, in turn, I have been able to offer more insightful dialogue during plant meetings.

Development through continued education classes offered by GASHE has given me a stronger understanding of not only Joint Commission, but an extension of Operations, EVS, Infection Prevention and so much more. The members of the Society have been more than willing to share stories that will help me down the road of leadership in healthcare management.

GASHE has offered much more to me than new information about technology; the history and knowledge that the members carry will help me grow in my journey into Healthcare Management.

Although I am new to the Society I know one day I too will be a leader in the field, and GASHE will help me meet my goals. Someday, I would like to be able to mentor a new person into the Society.

GASHE President-Elect, John Ware, Participates in Healthcare Panel

John Ware, GASHE President Elect, participated in a panel discussion at United Consulting on April 29th. He was joined by Bryant Cornett, LEED AP, Senior Vice President of Ackerman & Co. and Joe Collins, President, Collins Project Management. It was moderated by Glenn Pearson, FACHE, Principal of Pearson Health Tech Insights.

The audience of about 40 attendees included Architects and Contractors from various areas in Georgia.

Topics included updates on Healthcare trends such as construction projects, consolidation, ownership and lease purchases and creative project financing. The effects of the Affordable Healthcare Act on hospital budgets and projects were also topics of discussion. Questions from the attendees included how qualified companies could break into the Healthcare marketplace, and the importance of Architect’s and Contractor’s relationships with Hospital Engineers and the Georgia Society for Healthcare Engineers.
Business Partner Spotlight: Fuel Quality Solutions

My name is Jared Robbins and I am Co-Owner of Fuel Quality Solutions, LLC based in Cleveland GA. I have been with FQS for 13 years working my way up from a technician to Sales Person, Operations Manager and finally, Co-Owner. Fuel Quality Solutions specializes in preventative maintenance and regulation compliance for Emergency Fuel Storage Systems. This includes, but is not limited to comprehensive fuel system audits and fuel tank cleaning services.

I have been married for 12 years and have two wonderful boys, Isaac (5) and Noah (3). I enjoy fishing, shooting, and woodworking...I like all things, I guess. But more than anything else I enjoy being with my family and friends whether it is running a 5k obstacle course or simply watching a movie.

This past March was my 10th GASHE meeting and I plan on being involved in many more. GASHE has provided a supportive environment to grow as a salesman and business man in a way I would have never imagined. The bonds that are formed at the meetings between engineers and business partners are stronger than any other bonds I have encountered in my career. The opportunity to continue to strengthen those bonds every quarter makes great business sense, but is also set in a laid back and fun atmosphere. Throughout my time supporting and being supported by GASHE I have made unrivaled business connections and unparalleled personal friendships.
Interested in joining GASHE?
Call Kelly Wilson, GASHE Secretary, at 770-506-7509 or email her at gashesecretary@gmail.com

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