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A LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT
SAMMY BLEDSOE

As you may have noticed, I was not able to attend the December GASHE meeting. I recently had rotator cuff surgery and wasn’t able to make the trip. The December meeting is very special and I hated to miss it, but I know the Board had everything under control and the meeting was a great success! I have already heard from many of you regarding the December meeting, so I will share your reactions/thoughts and will then reflect on this year and hopes for 2019.

I have only heard positive things about the OSHA10 Class and GASHE providing a continuing education class to our members. I’d like to thank Cherrie Carney for suggesting the class, and Roly for providing the training. The turnout was great. We certified 37 people who attended. As usual, the group shelter was decorated for the Christmas party in holiday glamour, and the food for dinner was home style delicious. GASHE is lucky to have decorating assistance from Omie and Jim Sherill, and Suvannee Jordan’s cooking team. I heard Santa was even at dinner along with Elf Doug! Our own Kelly Wilson did an outstanding job as emcee for the night, and managed to do it while recovering from bronchitis/pneumonia and without a microphone! During training on Thursday & Friday, we signed up 3 facilities for the Energy to Care Program. That is a great feat and I’d like to thank John Hayes, Caleb Hayes, Ken Ozment and Ralph Graham for their guidance for this program.

We sent out a survey to get your feedback from the meeting. We haven’t heard from everyone, so I do encourage you to take just a few minutes to complete it. From those of you we have heard from it is very clear you like the continuing education/certification aspect for our meetings. The Board will need to look for additional options that meet our meeting schedule and would be beneficial to both Engineers and Business Partners. We will also look for more ways to network and continue to bring new members to GASHE.

2017 has flown by, but what a successful year we have had as an organization. We’ve worked hard to retain members while recruiting new ones and I see the fruits of our labor at every meeting. The Board has focused on training that the Engineers can take back and use at their facilities, and carry with them throughout their careers. We have also tried to enhance the experience for our Business Partners in hopes that they can build lasting business relationships with the Engineers.

Moving into 2018 and with the help of all our members, our organization will move forward and do amazing things. The quote “Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together” reminds me of the collaboration between the Board and our members. I’m proud to be the President of GASHE and thank you for your continued support. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! See you in March.

Sammy
Our December meeting had 4 new attendees. We want to recognize them and welcome them to the Society!

Engineers:
Alan Burt, Miller County Hospital

Business Partners:
Randy Wimmer, AHA Consulting Engineers
Shelby Grissette, CIC, Inc.
April Vacca, Dewberry

We collected 186 Toys and 2 Bikes (thank you Sonny Connor) for Toys for Tots! This is our 5th year collecting and the largest amount from GASHE yet. Emmett Yancey from ASCO Power Services also donated a Straight Talk Phone with 2 months of service!

We learned that Ron Snodgrass, Director of Engineering at St Joseph/Candler Health System in Savannah and a newer member of GASHE is being deployed to Afghanistan for a year. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers for his service and a safe return.

If you’d like a job posted, please send gasheseconetary@gmail.com. We think this is a great tool for our healthcare engineer members to utilize for job openings within their facilities.

It’s never too early to mark calendars for 2019 Annual Conference March 6th, 7th & 8th!

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Zach Holt - Education Director
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We are now accepting new nominations for the GASHE Board. Please send nominees to Sammy Bledsoe.
As every hospital engineer knows, to maintain employee and patient safety, OSHA compliance in healthcare spaces is paramount. Hazards within the facility pose hard-to-detect risks that can quickly turn into disaster situations. At this month’s GASHE meeting, Rolyn Companies offered OSHA 10-hour General Industry training to over 35 professionals from across the state.

OSHA trained GASHE members are now able to prepare for inspections, better utilize worker safety and health resources, and inform others of worker’s rights. Standards reviewed included recordkeeping, bloodborne pathogens, walking/working surfaces, lockout & tagout, fire prevention, and emergency action planning. Further subjects discussed included posted violations protocol, complaint filing, and employer responsibilities.

Relevant instruction coupled with holiday celebration made for an enjoyable weekend at Lake Blackshear Resort. GASHE’s regular meetings and social nature create an environment conducive to business connections between those with understanding of what makes healthcare different than other fields. The group was welcoming, focused, and passionate about their work. In a few short days, GASHE defined their relationship to OSHA and what safety meant within each health system represented. With plenty of free and low-cost resources available online through the United States Department of Labor (www.osha.gov), a unique, inspection/emergency ready plan is right around the corner in 2019.

By offering this educational opportunity, Rolyn looks to reduce on-the-job accidents within GASHE affiliated organizations. Ideally, the training serves as a foundation upon which a tailored safety plan can be built afterwards. Disaster recovery services are a critical tool within this plan and Rolyn is ready to further ensure hospitals stay safe and in operation. We would like to thank Zack Holt and the Education Team for giving Rolyn the opportunity to present and be a part of the December meeting.
Engineer Spotlight

My name is Richie Sinclair and I am a licensed electrician by trade and still enjoy the work today. I started my healthcare career in 2010, later becoming Director of Engineering and Support Services in 2016 for Clearview Regional Medical Center in Monroe, Georgia. In 2018 Clearview Regional was purchased by Piedmont Healthcare. Any bit of free time I can find is spent in the woods hunting or on a lake fishing. I joined GASHE early 2018; however, my first opportunity to attend was in September at the Fall quarterly meeting. During the meeting, there was an open discussion with fellow engineers to share cost effective resources and time-saving techniques that worked for their systems. You quickly realize no one person is going through the trials and tribulations of healthcare alone - we are all in this together. The networking time allows for new friendships/partnerships to be formed and I have enjoyed meeting other engineers and several reputable vendor representatives. The networking and education prove to be a great asset as we stay up to date while standards continue to change. Having the ability to share experiences and hear the different ways to prepare for the future in healthcare is much needed in this ever-changing, fast paced healthcare industry. We should always strive to provide the best facility for our patients, visitors and staff. GASHE provides several meetings throughout the year as an invaluable resource to assist us in meeting that goal.
Business Partner Spotlight

I have been involved with GASHE since 2004 as a business partner. Having served with two previous consulting firms, and now with my own company, I have never hesitated to insure my membership and support stays current with this association. In my opinion, as not only a support business partner, but as a former healthcare facilities engineer, this is one of the best healthcare engineering groups. The comradery it builds among ALL members is nothing short of amazing. I only have a “business” association with someone for about 5 minutes upon meeting, and from that point on these are “friends” that I happen to also have a business relationship with. And I can honestly say that some of my best friends for life I have met through GASHE. The relaxed atmosphere is refreshing. From hospital members to business partners, everyone is approachable and ready to communicate and learn from each other without hesitation. Having presented to the association many times on many subjects through the years, it makes my job much more enjoyable when I can look out at the audience and see that everyone is engaged and fully desiring to learn all they can to make their facilities safer and more efficient. I see a mix of retired, to experienced, to new faces just beginning on this journey all working together and helping each other whether it’s a healthcare member or business associate. As long as I am in the business, I plan to continue being a partner with GASHE and supporting its members to be the best in their industry. I truly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the association. I don’t have a lot of downtime, but when I’m not on the road visiting facilities, I love to bass fish and spend time with my grandkids!
If you’d like a job posted, please send to gashesecretary@gmail.com. We think this a great tool for our healthcare engineer members to utilize for job openings within their facilities.