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NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2019
A LETTER FROM
PRESIDENT
DOUG HALL

I can’t believe that in June I officially assumed the role as the President for GASHE. I would like to say what an honor and privilege it is going to be to serve this Society. For the past six years I had the opportunity to serve on the Board in all capacities. I have worked with Past Presidents such as Tim Allen, Zack Holt, John Ware and Sammy Bledsoe. It was a great learning experience and has taught me more than I ever could have imagined. As I continue to familiarize myself with the responsibilities of my new position, I would like to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to Sammy for spending so much of his time mentoring me through this process. His knowledge, resourcefulness, guidance and expertise are irreplaceable. He was a great President and is a wonderful man. I have big shoes to fill!

One of my first responsibilities as President was to attend the ASHE Annual Conference and Tradeshow in Baltimore Maryland July 13th -19th. I was also joined by Tim Sizemore, President Elect; Terry Bowen, Treasurer; Ken Ozment, Board Member at Large. During the Conference I had the honor of accepting the ASHE Platinum Award on behalf of the Society. Every year ASHE sets forth a great deal of criteria and guidelines that must be met in order to receive this award. It is because of our amazing team that we earn/receive this award year after year. Also, during the Conference, Ken Ozment was awarded the ASHE Regional Leader Award. Congratulations to Ken for receiving this prestigious award. GASHE is honored & proud to have him serving as an amazing leader for our Society. The ASHE Tradeshow was huge, so we were all very excited to see some familiar faces on the tradeshow floor. We visited with Patrick Allen, CL Burks, Cary Darden, EMGS, Amy Walker, ICRA Solutions, Cherrie Carney, Relyn Companies and Chris Simpson, Siemens. One of the greatest lessons I’ve learned over the years is how vital our Business Partners are to our success as a society. It’s crucial that we as a group support them at events such as this tradeshow, but more importantly promote and use their services back at our facilities. I encourage you to utilize our GASHE Business Partners every chance you get. Please know that without our Business Partners, GASHE would not be successful or continue to grow.
Our September 12th & 13th meeting is dedicated to 'Energy to Care'. We will be hearing more about this from Georgia Power & Comfort Systems. Please also mark your calendars for our December meeting scheduled for the 12th & 13th. For our December meeting ICRA Solutions will be performing their “Construction in Healthcare Facilities” workshop. We will be sending out more details regarding that meeting in the very near future. My commitment is to bring you current/relative education topics and to keep the information fresh so you will become a returning/active participant in GASHE. I’m excited to be in my new role as President and can’t wait to see how the rest of the year unfolds. Great things are happening within our society. Be a part of it! Go DAWGS!

“My first experience attending the ASHE Annual Conference was truly a memorable experience. From growing relationships with other GASHE Board members, to networking with other Facility leaders from around the country, to real time educational seminars, this conference will be one of the professional highlights of the year.”

Tim Sizemore
Director of Facility Operations and Safety Officer at Colquitt Regional Medical Center

“I was very surprised and excited to learn I had received the 2019 ASHE Regional Leader Award for Region 4. I am very thankful for this recognition, and for the nomination and support from GASHE. Our society provides exceptional leadership and educational opportunities for every member.”

Ken Ozment, CHFM, CHC
Director
Plant Facilities
Floyd Medical Center

This was my first time attending the ASHE Conference. The education pieces were very good especially for the operations of the OR suites for HVAC conditions and the USP 800 room requirements for Pharmacies. I met and talked with people from across the country and other parts of the world and to learned that they have the same issues we have at our facilities. A memorable conversation I had was with a group who ran a military hospital in Germany for our wounded soldiers. Thank you GASHE for allowing me to go and help represent the group.

Terry E. Bowen, P.E., CPE, CHFM
Director of Facilities, Engineering, and Safety Management
Tift Regional Medical Center
Keep your eyes open! You don’t want to miss this one!
Yancey Power Systems will be hosting an educational event focused on automatic transfer switches, switchgear and UPS systems. Discussions will review key components of maintenance and considerations for prioritizing upgrades or replacements. There will be opportunities for hands-on learning in a safe environment. The event will be hosted at Cat Switchgears’ manufacturing plant in Alpharetta and take place in late October/early November (Date TBD). Registration will be open to all GASHE members employed by a healthcare facility. Space will be limited, so please contact Peter Moore at peter_moore@yanceybros.com to get on the early bird registration list.

MARK your calendars! The December Meeting is going to be packed!
ICRA Solutions will be performing their “Construction in Healthcare Facilities” workshop for GASHE targeted specifically for Healthcare Facility Managers. We will be having Terry Parish & Kelly Proctor teach this workshop. This course will be designed to cover the standards and guidelines for Facility Managers based on which governing agency’s protocols deem (be it Joint Commission or DNV), but will also consist of experienced knowledge for those who are looking to obtain higher certifications in the healthcare facility management realm.

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

In 1993 I attended my first Society meeting. I had recently taken over the State Architect reigns from a man who held the position for 27 years. Not knowing what to expect my predecessor, Robert Hall, told me to bring a Suit for the awards night and be prepared to eat. I had worked with a few of the members over the previous 10 years. 6-1/2 working with a design firm and 2-1/2 years working with Dwayne Garriss at the State Fire Marshal’s office.

After meeting a bunch of new people, attending some education classes and hearing stories of the Trap shoot and other activities it was time to eat. A big ole Steak and Fish Fry was had along with a lot of camaraderie and some late night partying. Looked like a family reunion!

I was told there would be a special guest at awards night to honor Mr. P.J Wise, who I had recently met during a facility inspection. That guest turned out to be our former President Jimmy Carter. Unfortunately he had a conflict and couldn’t be there in person but did make the time to record his speech. Turns out it wasn’t a speech but a lengthy video telling of his childhood memories of his friends P.J. and Billy Wise. He talked about being there when they started the Society and their friendship and support over the years.

I started to wonder if it was a good idea to invite the AHJ’s when I saw 2 racks of guns on either side of the stage. Turns out they were prizes for the friendly competitions held early. Laughed when one of the engineers I had known for several years won a BB gun for lowest trap shoot score.

Over the last 26 years, with the exception of one or two years, I have attended every meeting and watched the Society grow and accomplish great things. I have learned that with the Facility Engineers the corporate policies and rivalries did not matter. The members of this Society are the most dedicated, hard-working people I have ever known. If someone needs help, advice or even a shoulder to cry on another member will be there for them.

I am retiring from State service after 29 years to pursue other opportunities in the world of Architecture, Dog Rescue, hobbies and hopefully travel. The members of this Society have become family and I plan to attend as many meetings as I can in the future. If I may be of service to you in the future, please feel free to contact me. Kelly will have my contact info once I decide on what I am going to be doing.
Business Partner Spotlight:

BOBBY GEORGE

One beautiful wife, 4 wonderful daughters, 13 healthy grandchildren, 40 years and 7 months of employment and $50,000,000+ in Filter Sales!! No doubt in my mind, I have won the life lottery for blessings!

The words above are how I penned the start of my farewell letter to my AAF family announcing my retirement June 28th, 2019. I thought how perfect these words would fit my appreciation letter to my GASHE family. I use the word family because over the years that is what GASHE has been to me. The hospital engineers have allowed me to be a part of this family since 1978. From the first meeting I attended in McRae, Ga. I felt welcomed and over the years what started as a business relationship developed into a life time of friends and fellowship. There are so many words I could use to describe the hospital engineers of Georgia, but the one that keeps coming to mind the most is “Respect”. I’ve seen the society grow from just a hand full of engineers to a group that impacts State and National decisions for healthcare in the USA. Knowing the challenges all the hospitals face in Georgia the engineers are always working to educate themselves and make their facilities safe and comfortable for their patients.

You have allowed me to be a part of the changing world of healthcare for over 40 years. I do not take that role lightly and will always be available to help in any way I can to support the hospital engineers in their efforts to make their communities a better place to live and grow.

The Honorary Member Status you presented to me at the June 14th, 2019 quarterly meeting is the highlight of my professional career. To be accepted by GASHE as a part of the family means more to me than I could ever express in words. I am humbled and proud to be a member of this great organization. As the historian for the group, I look forward to taking more pictures and documenting the progress and growth of GASHE.

Finally, as Tee and I start the next chapter of our lives, my greatest hope is for all of my GASHE family to find happiness in whatever you do and that your life foundation is built on the Rock of Ages which will weather all the storms that your precious lives will go through. Time is short so live it to the fullest and remember Eternity is Forever.

Thanks again for all the Great Memories!