



**ISSUE
58**

**NEWSLETTER
Q1 2025**

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A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TERRY BOWEN



What a wonderful annual conference we had in March! If you were there, you know all about it, but if you missed it, what a time we had! I have only heard positive comments regarding our education. I'd like to give a big shout out to all our presenters (George Mills, John Smith, Knight Commercial; Andrew Miller, Engle Martin; Dana Coliano & Jonathan Flannery, ASHRAE and ASHE; Latoya Beard, ASHE; Sammy Bledsoe; John Garretson, Newcomb & Boyd; Mark Smith and Terry Parish, Piedmont Healthcare; Patrick Allen, Zurix Roofing).

It is wonderful to see our organization growing and we are honored to be able to continue to bring quality education to our group.

We did a new event during the conference to help raise money for our education program. We had a live auction! Thank you to all the sponsors who provided items for the auction and a special thanks to the engineers who agreed to be a part of the program and have their own time auctioned off. Zack Holt, Terry Parish (and his Camaro), Terry Bowen, Mark Smith, and Richie Sinclair who brought \$600! Brian Johnson, from JCAT Construction was a fantastic Auctioneer and I'm hopeful we can grow and make this an annual part of our conference.

2025 is going to be an exciting year and we can't wait for you to join us on this ride. Our next meeting is June 12th and 13th in Forsyth, GA. We hope you will put on your calendar and plan to attend. We also encourage you to invite other engineers to attend!

As always, if you ever need to discuss or talk to me, please reach out. I am always available.

Sincerely,

Terry

Terry Bowen
GASHE President
Director of Facilities
Colquitt Medical

GASHE GOSSIP

MARK your calendars!

Join us for the **June Meeting** –
June 12-13, 2025 at the **Monroe County Convention Center** in Forsyth, Georgia.

Add or update your online business profile.

Go to this link:

<https://gashe.org/add-a-business-partner>

Job Posting: Maintenance Tech-FT

Job Number: 1097977

United States-Georgia-Athens
Shift/Schedule: Full-time

Supv Maintenance/Engineering – FT

Job Number: 1090652

United States-Georgia-Athens
Shift/Schedule: Full-time

Maintenance Tech Electrician-FT

Job Number: 1095801

United States-Georgia-Athens
Shift/Schedule: Full-time

Maintenance Tech-HVAC – FT

Job Number: 1095099

United States-Georgia-Athens
Shift/Schedule: Full-time

Description:

Director, Facilities - Piedmont Fayette – FT

Directs and coordinates planning, budgeting, and operational functions of facilities and support services. Oversees all assigned departments. Assures compliance with all federal, state, and local building codes; DNV; and hospital safety requirements.

Facilities Management Director – FT

Job Number: 2428081

United States-Georgia-Newnan
Shift/Schedule: Full-time

For more information, please visit the “Job Openings” tab at www.gashe.org.

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.

Spring 2025

BOARD MEMBERS

Terry Bowen - President
tebow@colquittregional.com

Greg Wood - Treasurer
gregory.wood@tiftregional.com

Doug Hall - Past President
Douglas.Hall@piedmont.org

Robert Setters - Board Member at Large

Jeff Sheffield - Secretary
Jeffrey.sheffield@coffeeregional.org

Terry Parish - President Elect
terry.parish@piedmont.org

Sammy Bledsoe - Honorary Past President
sambledsoe@magnoliamanor.com

Richie Sinclair - Board Member at Large

We are now accepting new nominations for the GASHE Board. Please send nominees to Sammy Bledsoe or Terry Bowen

A Letter from Ken Gregory

When I first cut my teeth in consulting after leaving the hospital from "working for a living," GASHE was my first conference. One of my best buds for life, Larry Barlow, and I were preparing to head from Nashville to McRae, GA for the conference in 2003. Unfortunately, the night before his sister passed away. We decided for me to come anyway. I won't lie; I was a nervous wreck! I knew only a few folks and was clueless really about this game. I remember standing at my SSR booth alone and nobody would even say a word. They would grab goodies and run before I could even say hello (a trait from every association by the way). One of my dearest friends to this day, Deanna Jones, was in the booth beside me, and I guess she saw my concern and said "oh don't worry. They'll love you next year", and thank our Good Lord she was correct, or my consultant career might have ended then and there!

From that day forward until this very day, to me GASHE is treasured as an integral part of my consulting career, and honestly my life. I can't throw out enough names to cover all the folks I cherish, but rest assured every one of you are always in my thoughts and heart. As an association it has my biggest number of clients through SSR, TSiG and now my own gig with KGC Services, and more importantly, I can say honestly with all my heart that this organization includes some of my best friends in this world.

Is it work? Yes, it is!

Is it a huge part of my career development? Yes, it is!

But the camaraderie, friendships, and brotherhood/sisterhoods I have realized through this organization is a treasure that I can never appreciate enough! I can't really put into words just how much that means to me! I would encourage each and every healthcare and business partner member of this organization to truly value every opportunity to engage the organization in any manner they can. I feel confident that you won't be disappointed on the return.

Thank you to every member and business partner that I have had the most awesome pleasure of meeting and interacting with through these 22 years. I wouldn't change a minute of it! EVER! I love and thank you all!

Ken Gregory



Sponsor Highlight



Based outside of Atlanta, Georgia, C.L. Burks has been the Southeast's leading commercial roofing company for more than 40 years. We serve customers in a variety of industries across the Southeast, including pharmaceuticals, hospitality, retail, and more. C.L. Burks provides consistent, cost-effective results on large and small projects. A unique combination of experience and versatility allows us to provide services to our customers from roof inspections and reports, design and specification recommendations, project management, installation, disaster recovery, and preventative maintenance.



The First Onsite Atlanta office has built a team of knowledgeable, experienced professionals who pride themselves on being responsive, communicative, and thorough problem-solvers. Our services are tailored to the needs of our Atlanta-area customers;

We handle everything from water and fire damage recovery to mold remediation. Every day, we are dedicated to meeting our clients' expectations and delivering a smooth, by-the-book restoration experience from the moment they contact us. We are here to be your trusted, end-to-end restoration provider for all of your preparation and recovery needs.



A regional company, providing construction management, program management, and small projects/facility management to our clients.



Ace Technologies was established in 1998 as a Low Voltage Systems Integrator. We service, design, and install a multitude of low voltage systems ranging from Life Safety Systems, Network Cabling Infrastructure, Security Solutions, and Audio/ Visual Systems. Although the technology that we use continues to evolve, one thing that has not changed in our twenty-one years of business is the value that we place on customer service, quality, and gratitude. Whether we are performing a testing and inspection of your Fire Alarm System, doing a retro-fit of your Nurse Call System, or installing a custom-built solution for your building, we continue to go above and beyond every time. At Ace Technologies, we believe that our customers and employees are more than just a number, they are family.



Prime Power Services has been the cornerstone of Emergency Power Supply Systems (EPSS) in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic for more than four decades. Our reputation is built on rapid response, unparalleled expertise, and a commitment to keeping your critical operations running, no matter what. Our expert team of EGSA-certified electrical, mechanical, and professional engineers brings more than 200 years of combined industry experience to every project, ensuring top-tier service across all aspects of power generation.



KEN GREGORY CONSULTING

KGC provides documentation and record design services to assist your organization in designing organized, efficient, and streamlined documentation and records services. Services can range from providing education in this process, to turn-key design of manuals in hard copy or electronic format providing the required information to successfully display inspection, testing, and maintenance activities in order to insure ease of facility review, as well as

ease of presentation for your survey entities. The design is such that no matter who is displaying and/or reviewing the documentation it can be done with ease and confidence. Be ready for your next survey, not scared of it!



Barriers to Infection: Rethinking Mattress Cleaning

Laundering removable bed barriers provides a more effective, consistent and safer method for eliminating harmful bacteria compared to manual cleaning.

By J. Darrel Hicks, Contributing Writer

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers a patient's bed mattress a Class II medical device due to the moderate to high risk it poses to patients, as well as the need for special controls to ensure safety and effectiveness.

Mattresses, particularly those used in healthcare settings, are classified as Class II devices for several reasons. First, Class II devices represent a moderate to high level of risk to patients, which aligns with the potential hazards associated with hospital bed mattresses. Second, hospital bed mattresses have prolonged contact with a patient's skin due to the porous bed sheets.

The FDA provides specific guidance for environmental services workers who are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting mattresses to ensure patient safety:

- Remove visibly damaged, worn or stained mattresses according to facility procedures and the manufacturer's instructions for use.
- Clean and disinfect undamaged hospital mattress covers following the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Inspect mattresses thoroughly, including the sides and bottom, after each patient use.

The cleaning and disinfection process also typically includes these steps:

- Use a general-purpose cleaning solution to remove soil. Get rid of the term "clean when visibly soiled." C. diff the size of a pinhead contains enough infective material to transmit the disease.
- Rinse the surface with clear, clean water, and wipe the surface dry.
- Disinfect the mattress with the facility-approved product, and allow it to air-dry.
- Perform a final rinse using clear, clean water. Wipe the surface dry.

For mattresses that are exposed to non-intact skin or bodily fluids, workers need to use a sporicidal or intermediate-level disinfectant as appropriate.

Removable barriers

Studies have shown that current manual cleaning processes mattresses might not always achieve the required level of disinfection, potentially leaving residual bacteria that can be transmitted among patients. Therefore, laundering removable bed barriers is significantly more effective at eliminating harmful bacteria compared to manual cleaning using chemical disinfectants.

A peer-reviewed study found that laundering removable bed barriers eliminated all major organisms that contribute to healthcare associated infections, including C. diff, MRSA, and E. coli. The commercial laundry process achieved greater than 6 log₁₀ reductions for every tested organism, resulting in no detectable pathogenic bacteria or spores on barriers after laundering. In contrast, manual cleaning using chemical disinfectants typically only achieves 1 -2 log₁₀ reductions.

The process involves detergent, bleach, agitation and repeatability, which physically separate bacteria and spores from the barrier surface. Chlorine in the laundry process kills residual organisms. Multiple rinse cycles remove microorganisms from the washing machine, and the laundry process uses a higher temperature — 71 degrees — and stronger concentrations of chemistry than manual cleaning.

Laundering removable barriers also offers several advantages:

- It eliminates issues with insufficient removal of pathogens.
- The process is easily repeatable and allows for thorough inspection of the barrier.
- It avoids potential damage to mattress materials caused by chemical disinfectants.

Laundering removable bed barriers provides a more effective, consistent and safer method for eliminating harmful bacteria compared to manual cleaning with chemicals and elbow grease.

GASHE on the GO





To view the March Conference Highlights and educational sessions, please visit the following URL:

<https://gashe.org/2025/03/march-2025-conference>

Interested In Becoming a Member?

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