

The Whistle

FHEA

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I hope this letter finds all members in good health and spirits and that your summer was enjoyable. As I sit here writing my third letter I cannot help but think about the year that is almost past. I recall when I was given the honor of taking the presidency of this great association, the outgoing president “Hutch” told me that before I knew it the year would pass; I see that happening! As it does, I reflect on the events that I have had the pleasure of being involved in.

I would like to acknowledge the talent and wisdom of our board members—they have been a pleasure to work with and with their help we have continued to move ahead on an exciting future. Our last board meeting in August took place at the Embassy Suites in Tampa-USF. The board has chosen it as

meeting, or the opportunity to share experiences with fellow facility professionals from around the state.

Please convey to your administrators that this year we continue to hold our meeting in conjunction with AHCA’s annual meeting and educational sessions. This partnership has benefited both our FHEA members and the AHCA survey teams. Don’t forget to bring your business cards, and meet with *your* vendors—their continued support is what makes our Trade show such a huge success and affords us the funding to continue to grow, add new programs, more educational opportunities, and keep our dues low.

Back to some of the events of this year: the most outstanding was my first visit to New Orleans for the annual ASHE meeting and trade show. What a great city—including Bourbon Street! The leadership meetings were inspirational as were the ASHE district 4 meetings. I had the honor of accepting the Gold Chapter award for our state along with two free registrations for the 2008 annual meeting. We also

received three free registrations for the CHFM test. The educational sessions were great, but I must assert that our FHEA trade show has ASHE’s beat—I may be biased, but I stand firm that ours is by far a better trade show!!

The President’s Corner

DINO GAVAZZA, CHE, PRESIDENT

our venue for our Spring 2008 meeting scheduled for May 8-9. The hotel is extremely hospitable and is in a great location, just minutes from the university and Busch Gardens. The meeting room fits our needs with a comfortable surrounding area for our exhibitor’s tabletops.

We also finalized plans for the 45th Annual Meeting and Trade Show which will take place in just a couple weeks at the Renaissance Orlando Resort at SeaWorld on October 22-24. We are very excited about our educational session with our chosen theme “Focusing on the Patient Experience,” for which we have secured an impressive line up of presenters. I look forward to seeing you all in Orlando. I’ve been made aware that some of you have experienced difficulty in arranging lodging—we’ve been told there are several meetings taking place in the city at the same time which is making rooms scarce. Rooms can still be found at nearby hotels; please be persistent—you do not want to miss one of our largest sold out trade shows, a great annual

I must apologize to the districts whose meetings I was unable to attend this year; my role in my organization has expanded and I have been very restricted in travel and time off.

In closing I again would like to thank our current board of directors for their support, their ability to stay focused and their help to further realize my commitment to have a positive impact on patient care. At times it is difficult to see beyond what “has to be done,” what “has to be fixed”, or the bottom line—to what truly matters: the patients. Our ultimate responsibility is to provide the best patient care possible. Caring and compassion is what the healthcare industry must embrace. The bottom line and the “bosses’ agenda will be in line if we help to provide the best patient care we can. Do not let your staff feel like they cannot make a difference—in patient care they are on the front lines. Teach them compassion, teach them a “can do” attitude, to take the time to ask the patient if there is anything they can do for them. It matters and so do they!

Welcome New Supporting Members

The following have joined our growing ranks since our last newsletter.

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Executive Director

District Update

District 2 'picks a bone' with Skip Gregory

Skip Gregory, NCARB, Bureau Chief of AHCA Office of Plans and Construction, was the guest speaker at the September 19th FHEA District 2 meeting. This was the district's 5th annual "Pick a Bone with AHCA!" and was a huge success with 64 members, supporting members, potential members and guests attending. Skip presented an overview of the 2007 changes in Codes and Standards that was very well received. The food was outstanding, not to mention the fellowship and opportunity for networking.

The meeting was held at the Aetna building alongside the St. Johns River in Jacksonville, and was

graciously hosted by Harvard Jolly Inc. and TLC Engineering for Architecture. We want to thank Skip and our hosts for making this meeting both fun and enjoyable and we look forward to doing it again next year!

Thanks to David Kovacs, Florida Hospital Flagler, for providing this report.



In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn recently of the passing of life member

JOHN DIFENDORF, CHE
of District 2.

Our thoughts go out to John's family.

Advanced Emergency Power Management Systems

EPMS networks provide a coordination that is becoming increasingly essential for compliance and 'defending in place' for extended periods.

—Dan Chisholm, Sr., MGI Systems, Inc. and Joe Scoufis, Blue Pillar Technology, Inc.

By combining isolated backup power components into a cohesive network, Emergency Power Management Systems (EPMS) provide facilities managers with round-the-clock visibility into the health and readiness of their equipment. An EPMS also facilitates testing, providing tools that automate and simplify an otherwise inconvenient, labor-intensive process. Most importantly, an EPMS provides the facilities manager with the critical information required to manage—not just monitor—emergency events caused by utility power disruptions.

The software and hardware components of an EPMS form a system that provides facilities managers with instantaneous access to data from all of their emergency power assets (backup power generators and associated electrical distribution equipment). This heightened level of connectivity also enables facilities personnel to remotely manage, test and monitor their emergency power equipment—equipment that exists to protect not only lives, but business revenue streams as well.

Automated Emergency Power Supply Systems (EPSS) testing is a key attribute of the EPMS. Regularly testing and reporting offer unequivocal proof that the system will perform as expected during actual emergencies (and, as is the case for health care organizations, satisfies requirements for governing bodies such as the Joint Commission and EPA). Unfortunately, to date, the vast majority of EPSS testing and reporting has been done manu-

ally with attendant errors and omissions—mistakes that for all intents and purposes can be eliminated through automated testing procedures.

Inarguably, the greatest possible justification for installing an EPMS is that it gives facilities managers the insight and tools they need to cope with emergencies stemming from the loss of utility power. In the event of a widespread natural disaster, such as an earthquake or hurricane, “situational awareness” becomes all important. Furthermore, “tactical decision making” can be built into the EPMS that ensures that proper emergency protocols are followed. For example, “building triage” can be automatically performed if fuel supplies fall below critical levels (i.e., non-essential Building A may be allowed to go dark to prolong the flow of emergency power to essential Building B). This feature is especially critical when demonstrating compliance to the Joint Commission’s EC 4.12, B-6 which will become enforceable on January 1, 2008.

While the value of an EPMS is undisputed, the problems that must be solved in order to successfully create and implement a system are daunting: Not only must the developer of the system have a deep understanding of EPSS operations, they must also possess expertise in managing a wide variety of equipment of various ages from many different manufacturers. That knowledge must then be encapsulated in sophisticated application software so that users can easily view and manage their EPSSs from a standard

web browser. The system must also fit easily into (and have minimal impact on) existing IT networks. Finally the system cannot remain “frozen-in-time,” but must allow for simple, straight-forward upgrades as required by changes in business and regulatory circumstances.

When considering vendors for their EPMS, it is important that facilities managers not fall into the “science project” trap. Suppliers that wish to build custom solutions (SCADA/PLC-based) are to be avoided. “Custom” engineering all too often equates to long project cycles with correspondingly high costs. More importantly, such projects are inherently risky because, until the system is in place, the ultimate usefulness of the final system cannot be predicted with any degree of certainty.

It is recommended that the facilities manager select a supplier that offers a customizable, but “purpose-built” EPMS application. This is equivalent to using TurboTax™ rather than Excel™ to address a complex tax situation. Furthermore, this approach enables the facilities manager to “see” the proposed system in action at one of the supplier’s customer sites before a purchase decision is made—which only makes sense in environments where “failure is not an option.”

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MGI Systems, Inc.
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Joe Scoufis, CEO,
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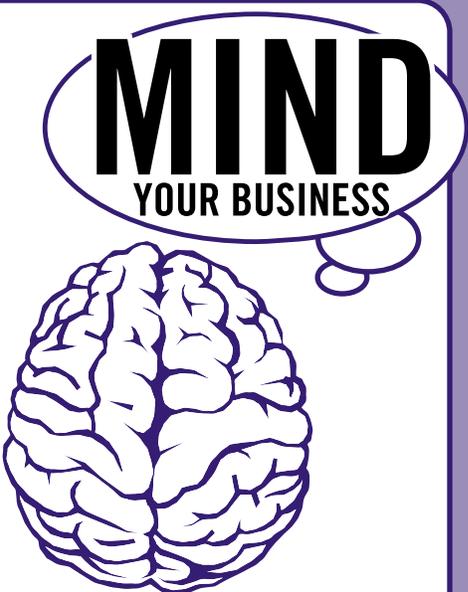
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