2019 started with a very successful FHEA 35th Annual Spring Meeting, which was hosted on May 15 - 17 at the beautiful Pier 66 Hotel and Marina in Fort Lauderdale. There were a record 300 attendees and 50 exhibitors. Our attendance this year is an increase of 35% over last year’s event and a true testament to the growth of this organization. This year, the FHEA offered some amazing educational programs from emergency preparedness to evaluating hospital security risks. We also launched the special session of our newest program, the Hospital Sustainability Collaborative. Thank you to our Sustainability Chair, Ben Fitzgerald, and Alexis Stone, of EcoPreserve, for their hard work and efforts creating and building this program throughout the state.

Many members also enjoyed the Spring Golf Scramble and the Fishing Tournament. We received very positive feedback for this year’s event. One attendee even stated, “best ever Spring event!” I want to send a special thank you to our Executive Director, Sarah Jeffcoat, and Marty Streeper, our meeting planner, for their hard work in making this event so successful.

Our next meeting will be October 6 – 9 at the Orlando World Center Marriott. Please mark your calendar for the 35th Annual AHCA Seminar and the 57th FHEA Annual Meeting and Tradeshow™. Once again, this annual event will deliver the best in education and Florida’s largest healthcare facilities trade show. So far, it looks as though this conference will be one of our largest ever, and we have already booked the Caribe Royale Orlando as our overflow hotel, which is an amazing resort and very close (1.1 miles) to the main venue. If you haven’t registered or made your room reservations, make sure you do so soon.

I want to encourage our member hospitals to get involved in the Hospital Sustainability Collaborative, our newest program, which is a joint effort of the Florida Hospital Association and the Florida Hospital Engineering Association. This program is the creation of Ben Fitzgerald, our Sustainability Liaison, and is a multi-year program to support the growth of sustainability in healthcare in Florida. The focus in 2019 is on energy. Educational programs, webinars, and live support to hospitals wishing to improve sustainability and participate in protecting our environment are being offered.

Don’t forget to visit the FHEA website, www.fhea.org. You will find up-to-date information about the organization and offerings, as well as member and district information, discounted educational resources, employment opportunities, ASHE advocacy, and current codes and standards updates. Visit often, as our website is updated continuously.

In closing, I want to thank our members and supporting members. Without you, the FHEA would not be the success it is today. A special thank you to our FHEA board of directors. These dedicated individuals are committed to improving hospital engineering throughout Florida.

For more information or to submit comments and suggestions, please contact president@fhea.org or info@fhea.org

We are now approaching our mid-year point for 2019. For healthcare engineers, this means we are in hurricane season and hopefully have updated our emergency preparedness plans. In 2018, Florida was impacted by four major storms - two tropical strength storms and two hurricane strength storms, with Hurricane Michael being the most significant of these storms making landfall in October and causing over $4.5 billion in damages. Many of the impacted areas are still in recovery.
FHEA ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 9, 2019

REGISTRATION FEES
Registration fees include the one day educational program, continental breakfast, luncheon, and networking break.

- FHEA Members (Active Healthcare Engineers) $95.00
- FHEA Certified Engineers (CHE) $85.00
- FHEA Supporting Members $125.00
- Non-members $300.00

For More Information, visit the FHEA website

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57th FHEA Annual Meeting & Trade Show
October 7 - 9, 2019

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019
7:30am FHEA Golf Tournament Registration
8:30am Golf Tournament Shotgun Start

(See www.ahcaseminar.org for information regarding the AHCA Seminar schedule)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019
8:00am FHEA Trade Show Exhibitor Check-in/Move-in
4:30-7:00pm FHEA Trade Show

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2019
7:00am-2:00pm FHEA Trade Show

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 – FHEA ANNUAL MEETING
“Sustain, Strategize, and Build – Setting the Stage for the Future”
7:00am Registration and Continental Breakfast
7:00am CHE Breakfast
8:00am FHEA Meeting Welcome and Announcements
Thomas Gibson, CHE, CHFM, CHSP, CHC; FHEA President
8:15am “Business Planning for Energy Resiliency in a Time of Natural Disaster”
Mark Mininberg, Steve Jalowiec, and Thomas Mort; Hospital Energy
9:15am “Complying with New Florida Backup Power Rules”
John Sharpe, Generac Industrial Power
10:15am Networking Break
10:30am “Standardizing Materials for Cost Savings: The Benefits and Challenges”
Adam Mayle, BSHA, CHC; Memorial Regional Hospital
11:30am “Sustainability – Tying It All Together”
Alexa Stone, ecoPreserve
12:30pm Luncheon: “I Know What To Do, So Why Don’t I Do It?”
Dr. Nick Hall
1:45pm “XGen & Millenials: Succession Leadership Planning”
Mike Canales, Program Director for Healthcare Facilities Leadership at Owensboro Community and Technical College
2:45pm ASHE Update and FHEA Annual Business Meeting
3:45pm Adjournment

The FHEA reserves the right to modify or change topics and/or speakers due to unforeseen circumstances.
FHEA Trade Show Exhibitors

The FHEA Trade Show sold out in April with 300+ booths, the largest show ever! Visit the electronic floor plan on the FHEA website at https://www.fhea.org/2019-fhea-annual-meeting for a preview of the exhibitors that will be showcasing their products and services at the FHEA Trade Show October 7-8, 2019. This year, there also will be over 50 new companies participating!

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C.T.Windows LLC
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Coastal Mechanical Services
COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS
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CVG Construction Management - Tur Health Care Facilities
Davey
Davidson Sales Company, Inc.
DAVIS WATER SERVICE
DeAngelo Diamond
DEBONAIR MECHANICAL
Delta Cooling Towers, Inc.
Derbigum Americas
DH Pace Door Services, Inc
DIXIEPLY
Door Control Inc. (D.C.I.)
Doyle Electric Services Inc
Dryfast Recovery Systems LLC dba Duct Dynasty
DS Contracting, LLC
Dynamic Air Quality Solutions
EcoWater Systems
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EMPIRE ROOFING
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Evergreen Medical Services, Inc.
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EXP US Services, Inc.
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Filter Pure Systems, Inc.
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FHEA Annual Meeting & Trade Show Hotel Information

The block of rooms at the Orlando Marriott World Center, for the Joint AHCA Seminar and FHEA Annual Meeting and Trade Show, October 6 – 9, 2019, is now sold out.

The FHEA, however, has been able to secure suites at the Caribe Royale, located just 1.1 miles away from the Marriott. Suite rates, with no resort fees, on a space-available basis, are: Queen Double or Standard King: $159 + tax.

To make reservations at the Caribe Royale:

1) Online: Click Here

2) By phone: 888.258.7501 (Please identify yourself as a member of the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association in order to receive our discounted group rate.)
Hospital Sustainability Collaborative Award

The Hospital Sustainability Collaborative Award will honor FHEA and FHA member hospitals that are helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the environment by reducing their consumption of (fossil fuel derived) energy. The Award will be given out annually to honor a single hospital facility or healthcare campus that has demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation and commitment to environmental protection.

Two hospitals or campuses that demonstrate year-over-year excellence in sustainability will receive awards. To compete for these awards, applicants must:

- Share ENERGY STAR data with the Hospital Sustainably Collaborative (FHEA) or ASHE Energy to Care
- Update ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager monthly
- Have established annual energy reduction goals and track progress toward the goals
- Describe a sustainability program in the last 24 months that you’ve implemented and how it impacted finances, the environment, and/or the community.

COMING ATTRACTION: HSC TRAINING SESSIONS

July 9 - Class #3: Developing your Action Plan and Energy Goals
August 4 - Class #4: Implementing Your Energy Action Plan
October 9 - Class #5: Tracking Performance and National Recognition

In 2019, the Science Screen Report Project reported that schools in the counties listed have sent letters of appreciation from educators and administrators.

For more information about the Science Screen Report, visit https://ssrvideo.com/

Alachua  Columbia  Hendry  Liberty  Orange  St. Johns
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Citrus      Hamilton  Lake        Okeechobee Seminole
Clay        Hardee     Lee         Walton
WIRELESS ANTENNAS – ARE YOU COMPLIANT AND WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With the widespread deployment of wireless technologies since the mid-1990s, the number of rooftop antenna and in-building Distributed Antenna System (DAS) installations in medical facilities nationwide is growing exponentially as a result of patient, staff, and business demand for faster, more robust mobile data. Because local jurisdictions have encouraged the use of existing infrastructure for the placement of antennas, the installation of antennas has proven to be a significant source of lease revenue for building owners, including hospitals and other healthcare facilities. However, the success of this relationship depends on building engineers, operations, and property management professionals maintaining a safe environment for patients, staff, and contractors that may have access to the areas where antennas are located.

The prevalence of antennas on rooftops introduces a potential safety issue for every electrician, roofer, painter, HVAC technician, hospital maintenance person, and wireless carrier representative who accesses these rooftops. It is estimated that over 250,000 workers per year encounter radio frequency (RF) antennas at job sites, according to A.M. Best in its February 11, 2013 briefing (Diadato, Best’s Briefing). While the FCC sets guidelines for human exposure limits and safety requirements, and wireless service providers routinely evaluate their operations, many building owners believe compliance is the responsibility of someone else; the wireless service provider, the equipment manufacturer, the company installing the antennas, or the site management company handling the leasing and installation coordination. In reality, all parties have exposure in a lawsuit, but the hospital may end up most accountable since building workplace safety is their responsibility, similar to historical asbestos claims.

The FCC requires licensees to ensure new and existing wireless antenna sites do not expose people to hazardous levels of RF electromagnetic emissions (EME). Wireless service providers (AT&T, Sprint, Verizon, T-Mobile, etc.) consider compliance with these rules when designing new transmitting sites or modifying existing operations that could change the RF environment where antennas are installed. The FCC rules set forth exposure limits, not emission limits. Industry practice is to mitigate accessible impacted areas with RF alerting signage and other conspicuous measures such as post and chain barriers or rooftop paint to provide notification of potential exposure hazards near antennas. This approach is intended to educate and deter access. Building owners have a responsibility to ensure that workers permitted in these areas understand and follow this information.

In general, wireless service providers proactively audit their own antenna and equipment installations, as well as evaluate, implement, and maintain mitigation procedures. However, compliance requires consideration of all sources of RF emissions, including the hospital’s own transmitting antennas and the resulting potential cumulative exposure to workers.

Jeffrey Ebihara, President, EbiCo Group LLC, dba Rize Solutions
Steve Baier-Anderson, P.E., Vice President of Engineering, Waterford

With its knowledge of rooftop leasing activity, it is important for hospital building management to be involved with the mitigation measures devised by wireless tenants, as well as develop and maintain a formal RF safety plan of its own. Hospital staff, maintenance workers, and contractors should be made aware of the presence of transmitting antennas and the meaning of RF signage, barriers, and markings. Training should be documented and maintained in personnel files. Work activities within these impacted regions require workers to have RF safety training and personal protection equipment to be able to monitor their exposure. Further, antenna locations and mitigation requirements should be maintained as reference when evaluating work plans and approving qualified contractors to work near antennas. Ensuring that people with access to areas near antennas understand the information and act in accordance with warning information will prevent exposure to hazardous levels of RF energy.

The commercial insurance industry has chosen to exclude RF emissions from most of its general liability policies. Whether this action is based on insurance underwriters perceiving that RF safety awareness is lacking in the industry among workers or linking emissions from mobile handheld devices with base station antennas, this poses a significant financial risk for hospitals and healthcare facilities with transmitting antennas.

Referencing a 2013 report on emerging risks by the AM Best insurance rating agency, Gloria Vogel wrote for TalkMarkets in July 2017 (“A Coming Storm For Wireless”?) that in the interim, “global insurers have chosen to exclude RF coverage from their policies. The last global insurer to exit the RF exposure market was Lloyd’s of London in 2015.”

The most successful lawsuit to date involved AT&T in a July 2007 decision by the Alaska Supreme Court (Orchitt vs. AT&T Alascom, FindLaw’s Supreme Court of Alaska Case and Opinions). In this case, the Alaska Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Alaska Workers’ Compensation Board awarding an AT&T employee 100% temporary disability as a result of his exposure to radiofrequency emissions that were slightly above the FCC limits.

It is likely hospitals will not be proactive addressing their EME risk until other, more costly claims are successful. However, awareness is growing among workers as antenna installations become more prolific with accompanying FCC signage and barriers.

Workers may be confused and require training regarding the hazards of working near antennas with RF alerting signs, including areas near antennas where no signs are posted.
WIRELESS ANTENNAS CONTINUED...

An educated hospital operations manager with a RF Safety Plan is able to speak to these issues. When these matters are not proactively addressed, there may be significant liability concerns.

In the end, employers, wireless service providers, property management companies, rooftop leasing/management companies, and equipment installation companies will all become part of the litigation. However, the defendant with the most financial exposure may very well be the asset owner who is collecting revenue from the antennas and responsible for rooftop access and safety.

About the Authors

Jeffrey Ebihara is President of EbiCo Group LLC, dba Rize Solutions, a certified Minority Business Enterprise project management and technical solutions consulting firm. Mr. Ebihara has the unique background of having worked as a commercial property manager for Trammell Crow Company in Dallas, TX, was a licensed insurance agent in Michigan and has served in an executive leadership capacity over 20 years in the wireless telecommunications industry with such companies as BellSouth, AT&T, American Tower and Network Building + Consulting. Rize Solutions currently provides consulting services to Waterford Consultants.

Steve Baier-Anderson, P.E. has worked in the wireless industry since 1990 as an engineering consultant and cellular network engineer. Prior to his leadership role as Vice President of Engineering for Waterford, Mr. Baier-Anderson held key roles in the design, deployment and optimization of 2G, 3G, and 4G technologies in the Mid-Atlantic region for Verizon Wireless. He holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maine and an MS in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Summary Recommendations are:

1. Review your general liability insurance policy with respect to RF exposure in the workplace
2. Perform an annual RF emissions audit to ensure FCC compliance
3. Re-analyze and re-certify the rooftop every time a new tenant is added or when a tenant changes antennas
4. Develop and maintain a formal RF safety plan
5. Provide RF safety training for employees, contractors, and others who have access to the rooftop
6. Require the use of personal protective equipment, as required

THE WAY FORWARD FOR FHEA

The FHEA Executive Committee and staff met recently to discuss the way forward for the organization. We began by looking at our Mission Statement and Core Objectives to determine strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Participants discussed specific goals, programs and services, and objectives to make sure the FHEA is delivering on its promises.

Specific considerations were on governance; membership, both on the State and District levels; education; communication, including the FHEA website, social media, and publications; and our new joint program with the Florida Hospital Association, the Hospital Sustainability Collaborative.

As the group discussed these various considerations, we wanted to make sure that each was specific, that there were indicators of progress, that they were assignable (in other words, who would carry out the various objectives); and that they were realistic for the FHEA. We determined that FHEA needs more member involvement and support, working alongside officers, board members, committee chairs, and staff, to see plans and objectives become successful and meaningful to our association. If you have suggestions for programs, resources, or membership services that would be helpful to you, the healthcare engineering professional, please don’t hesitate to reach out to us to discuss. The FHEA is committed to providing value as we continue becoming a recognizable “brand” in the healthcare engineering industry.
Thank you Spring Meeting Exhibitors and Sponsors
(* indicates companies who gave prizes for the Vendor Bingo!)

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Yorkshire Sales & Marketing / Anchor Floor & Supply

FISHING WINNERS
Biggest Fish & Most Caught - Chris Barnhart
First Fish - Tony Echazabal
Smallest Fish - Don Russell
WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING MEMBERS  (March - May 2019)

DAN AIMORE  
Vice President  
Forney Construction  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  786/239-5101  
dan.aimore@forneyconstruction.com

ALISON AKERS  
West FL District Manager  
Mannington Commercial  
Bradenton, FL  941/932-3245  
allison_akers@mannington.com

MATT ALDERMAN  
Sales/Business Development  
Coastal Mechanical Services  
Melbourne, FL  321/312-5699  
malderman@coastalmecanical.com

CHARLES ALEXANDER  
Healthcare Principal  
EXP US Services, Inc.  
Maitland, FL  407/860-0088  
Charles.Alexander@exp.com

MICHAEL AMMERMAN  
Director DG Program Development  
PowerSecure, Inc.  
Wake Forest, NC  919/622-7743  
mammerman@powersecure.com

MAZEN AWAD  
Sr. V.P., Sales & Marketing  
Heat Pipe Technology, Inc.  
Tampa, FL  813/906-3170  
awad@heatpipe.com

JOHN BALL  
Senior Mechanical Engineer  
Burns Engineering  
Orlando, FL  215/979-7700  
jball@burnsengineering.com

REECE BAREFOOT  
Regional Sales Manager- Southeast  
Spirax Sarco, Inc.  
Blythewood, SC  804/647-3245  
jbarefoot@us.spiraxsarco.com

JAMES BELLE  
Business Development Manager  
GreenAir Environmental, LLC  
Debary, FL  407/669-5385  
jbelle@GreenAirenv.com

MICHAEL BIRD  
Business Development Manager  
Gilbane  
Boca Raton, FL  561/307-1207  
mbird@gilbanecom.com

JEFF BLACK  
Director of Marketing  
C. L. Burks  
Weston, FL  407/408-7743  
jeff.black@clburks.com

WILLIAM BLUM  
President  
Wilson Floor Covering  
Pensacola, FL  850/433-3154  
wblum@wilsonfloorcovering.com

CANDICE BRADLEY  
Director of Business Development and Marketing  
Envinity, Building Energy Solutions  
State College, PA  814/231-3927  
cbradley@envinity.com

SHANE BURNSED  
Sr. Director of Business Development  
Gilbane Building Company  
Orlando, FL  407/274-2862  
shurnsed@gilbanecom.com

ANTHONY CRISCIONE  
Account Executive  
Comprehensive Energy Services  
Tampa, FL  813/579-4454  
tony@cesmechanical.com

DOUGLAS CROOKS  
Director of Sales  
Metal Industries, Inc.  
Clearwater, FL  813/997-4763  
dcrooks@metalindustriesinc.com

STEVEN DOOLEY  
Regional Sales Manager  
TSIG Consulting  
New York, NY  512/592-2659  
sdoleey@greeley.com

TIM DOYLE  
Assistant Project Manager  
Miller Electric Company  
Altamonte Springs, FL  904/719-4120  
tdoyle@mecojax.com

JAMES DUDASH  
Sales  
Portable Air and Power Inc.  
Orange Park, FL  904/772-5711  
james@portableairandpower.com

SHANNON DUHON  
President  
Duhan's Roof Consulting, LLC  
Boynton Beach, FL  561/734-3818  
sduhon@drroofconsulting.com

TIM DYAR  
Account Executive  
Pevco  
Baltimore, MD  864/284-0434  
tdyar@pevco.com

MEGHAN ENGER  
Specification Representative  
Wilsonart LLC  
Orlando, FL  407/832-5388  
rwllim@mecojax.com

DENIS ERMINY  
Director of Business Development  
Waterhouse Construction  
Doral, FL  786/587-2077  
Derminy@waterhouseconstruction.com

RON FAGERSTROM  
VP Sales  
Precision Air Products Co.  
Minneapolis, MN  952/854-4121  
rfaugerstrom@precisionairproducts.com

BOBBY FISCHER  
General Superintendent  
Stevens Construction, Inc.  
Lutz, FL  813/949-3030  
bfischer@stevensconstructioninc.com

JENNIFER GARRETT  
Director of Marketing and Business Development  
Duval Asphalt  
Jacksonville, FL  904/296-2020  
jgarrett@duvalasphalt.com

WILMER GRANERA  
Superintendent  
Stevens Construction, Inc.  
Orlando, FL  407/667-3457  
wgranera@stevensconstructioninc.com

HILLARY GULDEN  
Astro Integrated Services  
Royal Palm Beach, FL  561/566-5116  
hillary.gulden@astrointegratedsystems.com

CLINT HALE  
Manager, Business Development  
Haskell  
Jacksonville, FL  317/523-2717  
clint.hale@haskell.com

LONNIE HATCHER  
Dyole Electric Services, Inc.  
Tampa, FL  813/630-4600  
lonnieh@dyole-electric.com

EVAN HELINSKI  
Account Manager- Sales Manager  
Trane  
Pensacola, FL  251/285-9844  
evian.helinski@irco.com

LENIN HERNANDEZ  
Sales Manager  
Stewart & Stevenson FDFA LLC  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  954/327-4443  
l.hernandez@sfsusa.com

DARIN HORSLEY  
Account Executive- Central Florida  
nora systems, Inc.  
Davenport, FL  863/207-1925  
darin.horsley@nora.com

DEBORAH HULL  
Marketing & Business Development Manager  
Argonide  
Sanford, FL  407/322-2500 X110  
Deborah@Argonide.com

EDDIE HYDE  
Vice President  
Hoar Construction  
Birmingham, AL  205/803-2121  
sbrcato@hoar.com

JAMES INZEO  
Vice President  
L&R  
Nashville, TN  615/250-9131  
jinzeo@landrco.com

RICHARD JOHNSON SR.  
Inspection Sales Rep  
Fire & Life Safety America  
Tampa, FL  813/450-4860  
rljohnson@flsamerica.com

DOUGLAS KLINE  
Business Development  
Comprehensive Energy Services  
Clearwater, FL  813/938-0434  
dkline@coastalmechanical.com

AMBER KOTTLE  
Superintendent  
Mannington Commercial  
West FL District Manager  
Bradenton, FL  941/582-3245  
awkottle@wilsonart.com

LARRY LEVINE  
Vice President  
Jefferies Group  
Orlando, FL  407/414-4200  
lllevine@jefferiesgroup.com

MAUDE LINCOLN  
Account Manager  
Stevens Construction, Inc.  
Orlando, FL  407/667-3457  
milincoln@stevensconstructioninc.com

JEFF KOVACH  
Fire Protection Specialist  
Hilti  
Pensacola, FL  850/932-2450  
jeff.kovach@hilti.com

BOB KUTZ  
Commercial Manager  
McBride Construction  
Jacksonville, FL  904/941-2700  
jbkutz@mcbrideconstruction.com

CRAIG LAMBERT  
President  
Forney Construction  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  786/239-5101  
craig.lambert@forneyconstruction.com
GLEN LYNCH  
Sr. Project Manager  
Project Management Advisors, Inc.  
Orlando, FL  407/489-1787  
glenn@pmainc.com

SUZANNE LARSON  
Marketing Manager/Client Relations  
Servpro North Seminole & West Volusia  
Sanford, FL  407/868-0317  
suzanne.larson@servpro.com

DARLIN LINARES  
Owner  
Absolute Painting Group  
Orlando, FL  407/744-6233  
absolutepaintinggroup@outlook.com

FRANK LOPEZ  
Regional Manager  
Garrett-Callahan Company  
Davie, FL  305/746-4063  
lopez@g-c.com

EDDY LYONS  
Director of Business Development  
Master Restoration  
Clearwater, FL  727/798-3339  
eyons@master24-7.com

JENNIFER MILBURN  
President  
Roly n Companies, Inc.  
Orlando, FL  240/205-9102  
jmlburn@rolyncompanies.com

MATTHEW MILLER  
Therographer  
Infrared Thermographic Inspections, Inc.  
Niceville, FL  850/974-9929  
millerm@infraredal.com

PIERCE MOONEY  
President  
Parasound  
Orlando, FL  850/339-4898  
pierce@parasound.com

OWEN MOORE  
Director Business Development  
Hoar Construction LLC  
Birmingham, AL  205/803-2121  
omoore@hoar.com

KEVIN MORGAN  
Chief Operating Officer  
Cvg Construction Management LLC  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  954/332-2444  
kmorgan@cvgmanagement.com

MICHAEL MOSTARDI  
Regional Sales Director, Healthcare  
ATG a JLL Company  
Lombard, IL  630/730-3499  
mmostcardi@atginc.com

RYAN NASH  
Vice President  
Nash Plumbing and Mechanical, LLC  
Wildwood, FL  352/748-1454  
bong@nashpm.com

GARTH NEUMANN  
Regional Director  
BMS Cat.  
Orlando, FL  407/353-9454  
gneuman@bmscat.com

TRICIA NEWTON  
Project Manager  
Realty Trust Group  
Atlanta, GA  470/447-6072  
tnewton@realitytrustgroup.com

KEVIN ONEIL  
Sales Manager  
Filter Pure Systems, Inc.  
Tampa, FL  813/334-1188  
kevin@filterpure.com

JANE PATTON  
HVC Service Sales  
Harper Limbach  
Sanford, FL  407/206-6399  
npatton@harperlimbach.com

MICHAEL PAUL  
National Product Sales Manager  
Accutrol, LLC  
Danbury, CT  878/622-3336  
mpaul@accutrollic.com

STACY PEREZ  
Account Executive  
nora  
Jacksonville, FL  904/571-5619  
stacy.perez@nora.com

BERNARDO PEREZ  
EVP  
OHL  
Miami, FL  786/418-3740  
michelle.flores@ohna.com

ALAYNA RADFORD  
Social Media Director  
Innerface  
Chamblee, GA  770/638-2283  
aradford@innerfacesign.com

GREG RATTER  
Special Projects Division Manager  
S.I. Goldman  
Longwood, FL  407/830-5000  
greg.ratter@comfortsystemsusa.com

JASON REBER  
Project Manager  
Wilson Floor Covering  
Pensacola, FL  850/433-3154  
jason@commercialspecialtyinteriors.com

PATRICIA RICE-SPIVEY  
Vice President  
Studio+  
Fort Myers, FL  786/694-3937  
pattyr@wearstudiosplus.com

CHRISTIAN RIFE  
President  
Premier Medical  
Brentwood, TN  615/477-7737  
christianrife@msan.com

ERIK ROBAINES  
President  
Construction Solutions Products, Inc.  
Miami, FL  786/429-1638  
constructionspiff@gmail.com

AHMED SALIH  
Electrical Engineering Associate  
Burns Engineering  
Orlando, FL  215/979-7700  
asalih@burns-group.com

NOEL SANTOS  
President  
Specialty Steel Fabricators  
Saint Cloud, FL  787/478-4872  
jessica.specialtysteel@gmail.com

JENNIFER SCHMIDT  
Water Safety Specialist Infection Prevention  
Nalco Water an Ecolab Company  
Maitland, FL  407/227-5481  
jennifer.schmidt1@ecolab.com

CHRIS SHULTZ  
Sr. National Account Manager  
Stanley Security  
Tampa, FL  813/416-1824  
chris.shultz@dsbdinc.com

DAIRO SIERRA  
President  
Advantech Inc.  
Hialeah, FL  786/274-0060  
ds.advantech@gmail.com

STEVE STURNIOLO  
Regional Manager  
RF Technologies, Inc.  
Brookfield, WI  262/373-5124  
sturniolo@rfi.com

SHANE SULLIVAN  
Vice President of Sales  
Nephros  
South Orange, NJ  415/336-2990  
sullivan@nephros.com

CHRISTINA TADROS  
Account Executive  
Pro Chem Inc.  
Orlando, FL  619/519-0515  
c tadros@procheminc.com

ARLENE TASSEY  
Business Development  
Dryfast Recovery Systems, LLC  
Orlando, FL  407/440-6080  
tassey@dryfastsystems.com

TRAVIS TASSUEY  
Chief Operations Officer  
Dryfast Recovery Systems, LLC  
Orlando, FL  407/440-6080  
ttassey@dryfastsystems.com

BRANDON THURNAU  
Service Manager  
Northeast Florida Heating and Air Conditioning  
Jacksonville, FL  904/783-7003  
brandonthurnau@gmail.com

CHERIE TURBITT  
Market Development Manager  
Germtree  
Ormond Beach, FL  360/990-3007  
turbit@germtree.com

MELISSA TURNER  
Healthcare Account Manager  
Grainger  
Gulf Breeze, FL  850/261-6288  
melissa.turner@grainer.com
**WELCOME NEW SUPPORTING MEMBERS**  (continued)

SAJU VARGHESE  
Director of Engineering  
Restekc Engineers  
Miami, FL  786/803-8689  
saju@restekc.com

KEITH VENEZIE  
CEO  
The Eric Ryan Corporation  
Ellwood City, PA  724/971-4748  
kvenezie@ericroyan.com

MATTHEW WARREN  
Plumbing Service Manager  
Home Construction Inc.  
Winter Haven, FL  863/604-4720  
Matt@Homeconstructionfl.com

MANDY WEITKNECHT  
VP, Business Development  
Skanska USA Building Inc.  
Tampa, FL  407/979-5959  
hannah.kim@skanska.com

MICK WENTZEL  
Regional Manager  
Becker Pumps Corporation  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH  330/928-9966  
mick@beckerpumps.com

CLIMA WHITE  
Director of National Accounts  
Fire Door Solutions  
Stilwell, KS  855/714-3473  
snewmaster@firedoorsolutions.com

NICK WILMOTT  
Facilities / Engineering Operations Manager  
Sodexo  
Oakland Park, FL  561/305-0071  
NichWilmott@gmail.com

GLENN WINEINGER  
MEP Manager  
Hoar Construction, LLC  
Birmingham, AL  903/650-3838  
sbrocato@hoar.com

ANDREW WRIGHT  
Region Manager  
Jeron Electronic Systems  
North Lauderdale, FL  800/621-1903  
awright@jeron.com

**FHEA Recognized by ASHE**

The Florida Healthcare Engineering Association recently received the 2018 ASHE Platinum Chapter Award. Because of our recognition, ASHE gave several generous offers to our members, both to current ASHE members as well as non ASHE members.

FHEA members, who have belonged to ASHE for over one year and have not previously received a certification exam waiver for either the CHFM or CHC, qualified to apply for a voucher to take the CHFM exam on a complimentary basis. The four vouchers have been awarded to:

- John Hatfield, BA, CHE, CHEP; Encompass Health, Miami
- Larry Little; Tradition Medical Center, Port St. Lucie
- George A. Mayle, BSHSA, CHC; Memorial Healthcare System, Hallandale Beach
- Dewayne Roark; UF Health Shands, Gainesville

FHEA members, who are not members of ASHE, also qualified for one year of complimentary ASHE membership. Membership application vouchers have been awarded to:

- Randal Dane; Shands Starke Regional Medical Center, Starke
- Duane Green; Kindred North Florida & Kindred Ocala, Green Cove Springs
- Laura Heins; Orlando Health, Orlando
- Walter Vandermark, CHSP, CHE; AdventHealth Fish Hospital, Orange City

The FHEA appreciates the support of ASHE and the participation of our members. To learn more about the FHEA and ASHE, visit [fhea.org](http://fhea.org) and [ashe.org](http://ashe.org)
ASHE – Why Be a Member?  

Larry Peterson, CHC, CHFM, CHSP, ASHE Advocacy Liaison

Following up on Jeff Walters’ article in the last edition of The Whistle, educational opportunities for our members is one of the primary objectives of the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association.

As your ASHE Liaison, I can assure you there are many educational opportunities available for you and your team through ASHE. For over 50 years, ASHE has been a leading source of information on the healthcare physical environment. Be sure to visit the ASHE website at ASHE.org and on the top banner bar, go to the Education and Events link to check out the many opportunities that are available. Education is available through E-Learning, Face to Face (conferences), Webinars, and On-Demand, a program that allows you to learn 24/7 at your own pace and on your own schedule. ASHE offers certifications for Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM), Certified Healthcare Constructor (CHC), and the new Certified Healthcare Physical Environment Worker that has two levels for Contractor/Sub-Contractor workers and leaders.

If you are not yet a member of ASHE, I encourage you to join. The membership fee is $150 and will pay for itself many times over. Sell the benefits of membership to your C-Suite and they should be happy to pay for your membership. Show them what ASHE can do for you, your team, and your organization through educational opportunities, the resource library, information on compliance, and the My ASHE all member community digest. ASHE is also your voice to challenge regulatory agencies on unnecessary code and burdensome regulations saving your organization time and money. Let them know that ASHE is a professional membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA), most C-Suites are members of the AHA. While you are explaining the advantage of being an ASHE member, use the opportunity to let them know the advantages of your FHEA membership and participation and how it benefits your organization.

Remember, no one has all the answers, that is why we have each other.
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57TH FHEA ANNUAL MEETING AND TRADE SHOW
October 7-9, 2019

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October 6, 2019

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FLORIDA HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION
11812 N. 56th Street ● Tampa, FL 33617
813.775.6416 ● info@fhea.org ● www.fhea.org