



Aboard HESNI's 2010 Awards Dinner & Cruise



Architectural River Cruise & Fireworks Display
Saturday, June 13

It's possible that very few outdoor events have dodged the recent spate of rainstorms that have passed over Chicagoland. Fortunately, one was HESNI's Annual Awards Dinner and Cruise on Saturday, June 13th. More than 100 guests ignored the late afternoon downpour on their trip to Navy Pier. Their risk was nicely rewarded. The rain ended and the sky cleared revealing a brightly lit skyline and beautiful sunset during our 3-hour architectural cruise along the Chicago River. Our guide had lots of interesting stories about the skyscrapers and other landmarks visible

from the river. On the return trip, we passed through the Chicago Locks for a leisurely cruise in the Lake and a front row seat to Navy Pier's featured fireworks display. While aboard, everyone enjoyed a delicious Italian buffet, open bar beverages and lots of time to spend with friends old and new. We think they enjoyed themselves, as evident in the photos inside this issue.

HESNI MEMBERS STUDY A HOSPITAL MASTER PLAN

2ND QUARTERLY MEETING VISITS PALOS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

At recent quarterly meetings, HESNI members have seen and learned about major expansion and improvement projects underway at hospitals in our region. They toured the new "Bed Tower" at Lutheran General Hospital, in Park Ridge, last spring; Sherman Hospital's whole new replacement facility, in Elgin, last August; and then in the fall it was south to Kankakee to Riverside Medical Center, to learn all about their in-house Life Safety Management Program.

More than 160 signed up for our most recent 2nd Quarterly Meeting of 2010 at Palos Community Hospital, in southwest suburban Palos Heights. Our meeting space was inside the hospital's brand new central



Architect Linn Floerchinger, M&CA (left), and engineer Dave Pfipsen, KJWW, discuss their companies' consulting roles in Palos Hospitals' master plan development to an interested audience.

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ASHE NOMINATES JEFF ARTHURS

Jeffrey Arthurs, CHFM, CHSP, SASHE, was recently nominated for election as President-Elect for 2011 of the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE). Jeff said that the ASHE election is an electronic vote that begins on July 1, 2010. If elected, he said the position will involve a 3-year commitment. His nomination by professional peers demonstrates his outstanding leadership capabilities and superior knowledge and understanding of the healthcare engineering profession. Jeff currently serves on HESNI's board of directors and as Advocacy Committee chair.

ASHE ANNUAL CONFERENCE & TECHNICAL EXHIBITION

JULY 11-14, 2010 | TAMPA, FLORIDA

This meeting is for all individuals working in the health care facility management profession, from facility managers and engineers to health care contractors and consultants.

Get the information and education you need to increase your value to your facility. Learn more about:

- The impact of health care reform on your organization and your department
- Case studies that illustrate real-world solutions you can use
- Methods for reducing your facility's carbon footprint
- How to support the Hospitals in Pursuit of Excellence initiative of the American Hospital Association
- Ways to streamline your processes and help you work smarter
- Training programs you can implement to help your staff prepare for the future

For more information and registration details, visit

<http://www.ashe.org>.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

IT HAPPENS WHEN "WE BELIEVE"!

As I write this letter, I am still rejoicing over the accomplishments of my daughter's high school softball team this year — and it's not over yet. This is a team that had to have a playoff game in order to qualify for the Regional playoffs. Now they are one of Illinois' "final four"! This team stuck through a whole lot of adversity through a difficult season and worked as a team to accomplish what nobody thought was possible. They continue to tell themselves before, during and after each game that "We believe."

While not quite the perfect analogy for HESNI, we have had our bouts with adversity, yet we have continued to find ways to keep this organization together and progressing. HESNI continues to grow as its members benefit from their attendance and participation in its activities. The annual meeting this year was held at a different venue from recent years to accommodate this event's growing attendance. Like any significant change, it presented challenges; however, I believe that the annual meeting was a large success. The quarterly meetings, as well, continue to be a bright spot for us, thanks in no small measure to the hospitals and other organizations that have opened their doors to enable HESNI members to see firsthand new and different technology, engineering and facilities management delivery options that are out there.

Of course, HESNI members are also ready to



enjoy themselves, and we offering them chances, at social gatherings like our annual golf outing, boat cruise and other events, to have fun while meeting other people in the field.

All of these events are here for you to connect

"I BELIEVE IN US AND I BELIEVE IN YOU...HERE'S TO ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE HESNI WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT CAN BECOME!"

and build relationships; personally, professionally, or both.

I trust that you have seen the letters that have gone out urging everyone to help us build membership in HESNI, particularly among facilities personnel, and encouraging everyone to attend the annual conference where we all come together to reconnect, seek more business opportunities, improve our workplace knowledge and skills, and listen to the experts who graciously give their time for us — all of this that has grown and improved since the founding of HESNI by those who had the vision for folks like us to grow and learn more about our profession.

So I close with those words from the girls who traveled downstate: "We believe!" I believe in us and I believe in you. Here's to many more years of success for HESNI as a premiere subchapter of ASHE. Here's to all of you who continue to make HESNI what it is and what it can become!

John Maurer, CHFM, CHSP
2010 HESNI President

HESNI MEMBERS FACE CHFM EXAM DAY



A dozen HESNI members gave up part of their Saturday on May 15th to take the three-hour-long CHFM certification exam. The American Hospital Association conducts the test using a third party organization as a proctor. The test followed a preparatory course held in October 2009; both activities were arranged by HESNI. Several members agreed it was a difficult test, especially since it had recently been modified. Thanks (and good luck) to all who participated and to West Suburban Medical Center in Oak Park, for offering the use of their classroom.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES? HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

NFPA 99 Health Care Facilities Code

Over the past five years, the draft 2010 edition of NFPA 99 has gone through an immense rewrite. Presented to the NFPA, it is undergoing further review, and will be a brand new document when completed. If ever there was an opportunity to get NFPA 99 right, now is that time. So what does this mean to you as an ASHE member? ASHE staff will publish a white paper on the major issues, educating you on those areas needing attention and official comment. ASHE staff appreciates your input and expertise on the writing of health care codes and standards. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Douglas Erickson at 312-422-3823 or douglaserickson@mac.com.

Damper Testing

The Joint Commission Continues to accept Six-Year Fire and Smoke Damper Testing in Hospitals. [EC.02.03.05, EP 18](#)

The [organization] operates fire and smoke dampers 1 year after installation and then at least every 6 years to verify that they fully close. The completion date of the tests is documented. *Note 1:* The initial test that must occur 1 year after installation applies only to dampers installed on and after January 1, 2008. *Note 2:* For additional guidance, see NFPA 80, Standard for Fire Doors and Other Opening Protectives, 2007 edition (19.4.1.1) and NFPA 105, 2007 edition (6.5.2). The Joint Commission has assured ASHE that its intent is to follow the six-year testing requirement as stated in the August 2009 edition of The Joint Commission Perspectives. ASHE also continues to work with CMS to resolve its procedural challenges in accepting proactive waivers from hospitals regarding damper testing and other issues. If you have further questions or comments, please contact Tim Adams at 312-422-3804 or tadams@aha.org.

CMS Statement

Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

Ref: **S&C-10-04-LSC**

DATE: October 30, 2009

TO: State Survey Agency Directors, State Fire Authorities

FROM: Director, Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Waiver to Allow Hospitals to Use the

NFPA 6-Year Damper Testing Interval

Memorandum Summary

• Option for Damper Testing Interval: This memoran-

ADVOCACY ISSUES CONTINUED

dum permits hospitals to apply the NFPA 6-year testing interval for fire and smoke dampers in hospital heating and ventilating systems, so long as the hospital's testing system conforms to the testing requirements under the 2007 edition of NFPA 80 and NFPA 105.

• **Categorical Waiver:** Hospitals may operate under the damper testing cycle of the NFPA 2007 edition without special application to CMS.

On Humidity

Proposed Change to Reduce Minimum Humidity Levels to 20% for Short-Term Patient Treatment Stay Areas (Including Operating Rooms) ASHRAE Standard 170: Ventilation of Health Care Facilities and the FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities ASHRAE Standing Standard Project Committee (SSPC)-170 has issued a public notice for a proposed addendum "d" on lowering the minimum design humidity levels for short-term patient treatment stays from 30% to 20% RH in ASHRAE Standard 170-2008: Ventilation of Health Care Facilities. This standard, and all approved addenda, have been fully incorporated into the 2010 edition of the FGI Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities, so if this proposed addendum is approved the 2010 Guidelines will officially have been modified.

Background:

There was a lot of discussion about eliminating the minimum humidity requirements completely, but after an extensive literature search found that no clinical study had looked at humidity levels lower than 20% RH. For decades health care organizations have struggled to maintain relative humidity in operating rooms and other short-term clinical spaces above 30% RH. Clinical arguments for this level have always been that it is needed for infection control purposes and for control of static discharge. After reviewing these claims, SSPC-170 conducted a literature search and, working with organizational representatives from APIC, CDC, and NIH, found no direct correlation between infections and humidity below 30% RH. It is the belief of the ASHE staff that the 35% RH is a holdover from the era when flammable anesthetics were used in operating rooms. The proposed 2012 edition of NFPA 99 has eliminated the 35% requirement and refers to ASHRAE Standard 170.

Contributed by

Jeff Arthurs, CHFM, CHSP, SASHE
HESNI Advocacy Chairman

ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRINGS MORE PEOPLE, PROGRAMS

One lesson taken home from the 2009 Conference, in Oak Brook Terrace, was that the annual educational program and exposition was not only growing but had perhaps outgrown its venue. So in 2010 the Conference moved to larger quarters at the Aramark headquarters, in Downers Grove, Ill. — and the decision, it seemed, was well timed.

More than 250 people attended the 2010 HESNI Annual Conference, May 6-7. They included hospital facility management executives as well as HESNI's professional affiliate members whose company's provide a range of products and services aimed at the healthcare industry.

They came to attend one or several of the 14 seminars held over the day and half during which the Conference ran. During breaks they toured the three exhibit rooms where they had the chance to make contacts and see and hear about ways to improve the efficiency of their hospital, for example, or make it safer or more compliant. With 47 exhibitors, this year's exposition component also saw significant growth.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the 2010 HESNI Conference. Included, of course, are our program presenters and exhibitors. We are also especially grateful for the hard work of our key program coordinator, **John Maurer** (Delnor Hospital), and to **Vince** and **Tim Shanahan** (Keen Air) who handled arrangements with exhibitors and sponsors. Once again, we must thank all our sponsors, whose generosity and support we count on repeatedly and who never let us down. This event would not be possible without all these people.

A commitment has already been made to return to Aramark next year for the 2011 HESNI conference, on May 5-6, 2011. We hope we'll see even more people at this time.

2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHERE TRAINERS, MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS MEET HOSPITAL FACILITY MANAGERS

SEMINARS

Attendees could choose from 14 seminars that ran concurrently in two rooms. At right, Jack Gosselin delivers his keynote presentation on facilities management in the 21st century. In another session, Abigail Clary explains how to get the whole project team to work together from design to completion of the construction project.



TRADE SHOW

It took three rooms to contain all that our 47 exhibitors brought to the Conference. Many took advantage of their breaks to meet vendors. Patten Power Systems representatives (at right, above) talk with one visitor. Exhibitor Vickie Farina, ProLiance Energy (below) introduces her company to Ken Bator, MacNeal Hospital.



NETWORKING

The were breaks during the Conference that offered participants chances to relax, socialize and network with other members. Many stayed for the social hour (right, above) after the opening



day to enjoy cocktails, refreshments and conversation. Delicious food, and plenty of it, was served.



Rollin' on the River
2010 Annual Awards Dinner & Cruise





HESNI members get update on medical gas at 1st Quarterly meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 12, HESNI Annual Awards Dinner & Cruise — Architectural Chicago River Cruise followed by fireworks display near Navy Pier. Open bar and catered buffet. For reservations, call (708) 636-5819.

July 11-14, ASHE 47th Annual Conference & Technical Exhibition — Tampa, Florida

Aug. 19, 3rd Quarterly Meeting — Details forthcoming.

Sep. 13, HESNI Annual Golf Outing — Returns to Ivanhoe Club. For information or to reserve a foursome, call Tim Shanahan, (773) 631-0007.

Oct. 21, 4th Quarterly Meeting — Details forthcoming.

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PALOS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL'S MASTER PLAN FROM PAGE 1

plant located behind the hospital. After lunch, many listened to a detailed explanation of the hospital's ongoing building and expansion program. The architectural firm of Matthei & Colin Associates, which helped develop the master plan, gave an overview of the plan, describing several features. They also discussed the challenges faced while relocating the central plant.

whom hosted a great lunch and meeting program. They went out of their



way to make everyone feel welcome.

In a master plan developed in 2006, PCH aims not only to expand its healthcare facilities but also convert the entire hospital into an all-private room facility by 2020. The work has already started, and the afternoon included a tour of the central mechanical plant, which was currently online and servicing the hospital through an underground tunnel. A new enclosed, multi-level parking garage, next to the plant, has also been completed. In the next decade, the plan calls for construction of a new bed tower as well as new facilities for surgical and critical care and outpatient services. It's not unlikely that HESNI will return here for an update some time in the future.



Ronald Berry (left), TWTC, and Jim Weinold, Bear Construction, tour the new central utility plant at the 2nd Quarterly meeting. (Above) Palos Community Hospital's new plant, now online, connects to the existing hospital building through an underground tunnel.

We thank Palos Community Hospital as well as representatives of Matthei & Colin Associates and KJWW, all of

HESNI's 3rd Quarterly meeting is planned for Thursday, Aug. 19. The meeting location and other details will be announced soon.



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