Save the Dates for Spring Seminar — March 5-7, 2008

**Education session speakers** and their topics are (clockwise, from left to right):

**Bill Warren**, Chief, Construction Section, North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation, “DHSR Updates,”

**Chuck Robbins, P.E., CEM**, Account Manager, Progress Energy Carolinas, “Energy Conservation,”


**Steven Spaanbroek**, “The Joint Commission in 2008 and Beyond,” and

**John Kramer, P.E.**, Staff Engineer at Duke University Medical Center, “Water Conservation.”

**Pre-register at www.nchea.com!**

Seminar hotel: Days Inn, Southern Pines, NC — Hotel reservations: 1-800-262-5737; Room Rates: $63.00 plus tax (9.75%) Single Occupancy $73.00 plus tax (9.75%) Double Occupancy. Rates are good through February 15, 2008. Be sure to tell them you are attending the NCHEA conference.

2008 Program Chairperson: Robert Thompson, CHE, CHFM; rthompson@firsthealth.org

2008 Vendor Chairperson: Gene Pettit, CHE, CHFM; gene@mercync.org

IES Engineers-Dewberry 6th Annual Spring Golf Tournament is March 5, 2008

Whispering Woods Golf Club, Southern Pines

*Free* admittance for all healthcare engineers; *Vendor sponsorship; free* breakfast, snacks, and drinks, including beer; *Free* cookout following the Awards Ceremony. We look forward to welcoming back last year’s attendees as well as those from years past. To sign up, send an email to Wilma Joyner, wjoyner@Dewberry.com

56th NCHEA Annual Conference
August 11-15, 2008

Kingston Plantation, North Myrtle Beach, SC
Hotel reservations: 1-843-449-0006: Room Rates: Ocean View Suite: $214.00 plus tax; 1 bedroom Plantation Villa: $190.00 plus tax; 2 bedroom Plantation Villa: $225.00 plus tax. Be sure to tell them you are attending the NCHEA conference.

VENDORS - NEW! - ON-LINE PRE-REGISTRATION FOR BOOTHS and SPONSORSHIPS — Coming soon on www.nchea.com

HEALTHCARE ENGINEERS: Watch www.nchea.com for pre-registration information, education agenda, and golf information.
NCHEA has its first strategic plan, written by Board members and adopted July 31, 2007.

Elements of the plan are:
• Address membership eligibility and privileges
• Define membership types (Full, Associate, Retired)
• Define participation
• Enhance communications to members
• Effective use of email
• Website redesign
• Web-based membership management system
• Enhance relationships with vendors/sponsors
• Utilize marketing help
• Vendor survey/meetings
• Refine sponsorships’ requirements and benefits
• Encourage professional development
• Obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for education and training
• Promote Certified Healthcare Engineer program (an NCHEA program) and Certified Healthcare Facility Manager program (an ASHE/AHA program)
• Investigate ways to collaborate with NCHEA districts to conduct seminars
• Improve governance of the Association
• Revise bylaws
• Develop policies
• Manage finances
• Separate Secretary and Treasurer Duties
• Utilize online accounting software to manage revenues and expenses
• Establish financial categories to budget and track.

Expanded Scope of Service for LSC Specialists for Critical Access Hospitals and Hospitals

Since January 1, 2008, a Life Safety Code Specialist has been added to the survey team for one day for all hospital surveys.

In addition, the time spent by the Life Safety Code Specialist during on-site surveys will increase to two days in hospitals with 750,000 or more square feet.

Life Safety Code Specialists were added to survey teams in 2005 for surveys of hospitals with 200 beds or more.

The expanded involvement of the Life Safety Code Specialist in hospital surveys supports the Joint Commission’s continuing scrutiny of Environment of Care requirements.

Avoiding Hazards of Using Cleaners and Disinfectants on Electronic Medical Equipment

Issued: October 31, 2007
This notification describes the hazards of using excess cleaning and disinfecting liquids on certain electronic medical equipment and recommends ways to avoid these hazards.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) collaborated to develop this notification.

Find the full text of the notification at http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety/103107-cleaners.html

NCHEA District News

District I:
Chairperson: Gary Thompson
Angel Medical Center, Franklin
ghtompson@angelmed.org

Officers are: Chairperson – Gary Thompson, Vice Chairperson – Marvin Martin, CHE, CHFM; Secretary/Treasurer – Paul Barlow, CHE.

The 2007-2008 District I meeting schedule is: October 12 – Highlands/Cashiers Hospital; December 14 – Deerfield Retirement Center; March – Spring Conference at Days Inn in Southern Pines; and June 13 – Boone, NC.

District II:
Chairperson: Jerry Thompson, P.E.
Duke University Medical Center, Durham
jerry.thompson@duke.edu

A meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2007 at Birchwood Country Club.

Officers are: Chairperson – Jerry Thompson, P.E., Vice-Chairman – Mike Baker, Secretary-Treasurer – Shannon Clifton

District III:
Chairperson: Coy Overton, CHFM
J. Arthur Dosher Memorial Hospital, Southport
coyoverture@dosher.org

Officers are: Chairperson – Coy Overton, CHFM; Vice Chairperson – Ken Shields, and Secretary/Treasurer – Carlton Cashwell, CHE. District II met October 4, 2007 at Cape Fear Valley Health Center. The program, presented by IES, was “Emergency Power for Health Care Facilities.”
Exam Fee Waiver Provides Incentive for NCHEA Member to Pursue CHFM Certificate

Like many facility managers, Tom Hutchins intended to take the CHFM exam some day. The incentive to do so came last year when he received one of the four CHFM exam fee waivers ASHE gave NCHEA.

“The CHFM designation is beginning to be recognized nationally by hospitals as a minimum level of competence for physical plant administrators,” said Tom, the Director of Engineering at Craven Regional Medical Center in New Bern. “I had been thinking about taking the CHFM for several years.”

“I didn’t use the on-line self-assessment before I took the exam; in my opinion, there is not much focused preparation possible. Daily exposure to the operation of a hospital physical plant and especially to the various applicable codes and standards is the best preparation.”

Tom graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1992 and received an MBA from LSU-Shreveport in 2000. He is a member of ASHE, NCHEA, and NFPA and is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and North Carolina.

He entered the healthcare field as a Biomedical Technician at Rutherford Hospital (Rutherfordton, NC). Before moving to CRMC, he worked at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, LA, first as a Staff Engineer and then as an Assistant Director of Physical Plant.

At CRMC, he is responsible for Maintenance, Bio-medical, and Telecommunications for 313 beds (approximately 500,000 square feet).

James Best Now Serves on ASHE Committee, Attended Leadership Institute

James Best, III, CHE, CHFM has been appointed to the Member, Chapter and Customer Relations Committee, one of several ASHE Board of Directors’ standing committees.

“I am interested in getting more involved in ASHE affairs in order to be active in this profession,” James said. “It is my understanding that there are about four committee meetings per year. I will learn more of the specific details at the first meeting on January 26 in Jacksonville, FL.”

James, who serves as the NCHEA Correspondence Secretary, is the Director of Maintenance and Engineering at Carol Woods Retirement Community in Chapel Hill. In 2006, he was chosen as the 2006 NCHEA Engineer of the Year and as the ASHE Region 3 Regional Leader.

As Regional Leader, James was invited to the ASHE Leadership Institute October 25-26, 2007 in Phoenix, AZ for two days of intensive leadership training. The training, taught by representatives of sponsoring companies, was based on the best-selling book, The Oz Principle: Getting Results Through Individual and Organizational Accountability.

“It was extremely interesting,” James reported. “The training included new leadership techniques as well as a review of some things I have heard about in the past.”

Also attending were other Regional Leaders and honorees and ASHE

Robert Thompson is Appointed to an NFPA 99 Committee

Robert H. Thompson, CHFM, CHE has been appointed to serve on the NFPA 99 Technical Committee for Electrical Systems.

“Since NFPA 99 may include a total rewrite, sub-committees have been formed to focus on specific content,” Robert said. “I asked to participate with the sub-committee that is reviewing the proposed ASHE rewrite document.”

“We have spent the last several months discussing this document one line at a time and will be convening in San Diego for the January Report on Proposals meeting.”

Robert, who is the Director of Safety at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, has served as the District II Chairperson for several years. He is currently busy as the 2007-2008 Program Chairperson, planning the Spring Seminar and Annual Conference.

* Over the past two years, numerous ASHE workgroups have reviewed the existing language of the Standard on Health Care Facilities (NFPA 99) and have proposed revisions to modify or delete existing language and have proposed new language.
Durham Regional Hospital is ranked 31st on the 2007 list of the 50 AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50.

Employers apply for this honor by submitting an application outlining their policies and practices toward workers aged 50 and over. The Best Employers winners were featured in the November-December 2007 issue of AARP The Magazine.

Thirty percent of DRH employees are 50+. The average tenure of employees age 50+ is 14 years.

NCHEA, ASHE, and PDC Dates

2008 NCHEA Spring Seminar
March 5-7, 2008
Days Inn
Southern Pines, NC

2008 International Conference and Exhibition on Health Facility Planning Design and Construction
March 10-13, 2008
Gaylord Palms Hotel & Convention Center
Orlando, FL

2008 45th ASHE Annual Conference and Technical Exhibition
July 20-23, 2008
Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center
Washington, DC

56th NCHEA Annual Conference & Exhibition
August 11-15, 2008
Kingston Plantation
North Myrtle Beach, SC

Future NCHEA Dates
Go to www.nchea.com and click on CALENDAR on the left to see schedule of Annual Conferences through 2012.

Future ASHE Conference, Seminar, Education Dates
Go to http://www.ashe.org