



LETTER FROM AAHE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering,

We are excited to have the newly elected 2023-24 AAHE board members of our esteemed association. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you to continue advancing the goals of our organization.

There are many challenges in healthcare that we are facing, from workforce demands and regulatory compliance to financial issues in the coming year. Together as a chapter, we can face these challenges by continually seeking out opportunities for professional development and staying up-to-date with the latest industry trends and best practices.

As facility management continues to grow in scale and complexity, businesses are feeling the pressure to innovate to keep up with the latest trends. This emphasizes the importance of being prepared to adopt a comprehensive approach to transformation, as the trends underscore the vital role that facility management plays in the overall effectiveness of modern organizations. Therefore, facility managers need to integrate these trends into a practical framework that streamlines facility management processes.

Many trends in technology and facilities management sneak up on you gradually. While it may take time, these trends ARE coming – maybe not this year, maybe not next year, but they're coming.

- The FM industry will leverage IoT technology, connected devices, and cloud-based data to continue improving building operations, including remote meter readings, ESG reporting, and advanced data analysis.
- Facility managers will adopt preventive and predictive maintenance strategies to improve building performance and reduce unexpected repair costs.
- A real-time energy efficiency monitoring system, reducing over-maintenance, and asset tracking will become one of the main cost-reduction strategies.
- Mobile-first building operations will become the standard, with a centralized app, a paperless approach, and easier communication.

During our Long-Range Planning meeting this summer, the board developed a strategic plan that emphasizes education and training to tackle these trends. I encourage each of you to get involved in this process by sharing your ideas, concerns, and suggestions. Together, we can build a stronger, more effective association that truly represents the needs and interests of our members.

I am excited about the future of our association and the important work that we do. I look forward to getting to know each of you better and working together to achieve our shared goals.

Sincerely,
George McFerron
President - Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering

New Board Member Introduction

We are thrilled to welcome four exceptional individuals to the Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering's board. Their appointment to our board brings a wealth of expertise, experience, and dedication to the forefront of our organization. Each of them has shown an unwavering commitment to improving healthcare facilities and infrastructure across Arkansas, and we are confident that their contributions will help us achieve our mission of "Education through Association." Please take a moment to get to know our new board members below.

David House

-UAMS-Asst. Director of Engineering & Operations
-Years in current position: 4
-Years of experience in healthcare or assisting with healthcare: 36

- Number of years as an AAHE member: 5
- What does AAHE mean to you?

I cannot help but appreciate the hard work that all the members do to deliver timely program topics, that are often presented by nationally recognized speakers and always relevant to the healthcare industry. AAHE has provided educational programs that have deepened our understanding of hospital facilities' safety, such as Negative pressure and COVID-19 HVAC, Firestopping, Joint Commission Update, and if that is not enough AAHE gives you the opportunity to exchange information concerning everyday problems relating to hospital engineering with other AAHE member.

- As a new AAHE board member, what do you look forward to the most?

I look forward to the opportunities to develop professional relationships with other AAHE Board Members and Business partners through video conferences, trade shows, and other social events

- Favorite hobby?: Fishing, Bike Riding, basketball and Football
- One interesting fact about yourself: I have had only two Jobs my whole life UAMS and Georgia Pacific

Cami Lambert

-Bernhard-Sustainable Solutions Jr. Fellow & transitioning into project management role
-Years in current position- 1 year 8 months
-Years of experience in healthcare or assisting with healthcare- 3 years

- Number of years as an AAHE member: New member
- What does AAHE mean to you?

It's an exceptional organization that unites individuals sharing a common goal of enhancing healthcare and engineering, both locally and beyond our state borders.

- As a new AAHE board member, what do you look forward to the most?

I look forward to the connections and relationships that will come from serving as a board member and being more involved in AAHE.

- Favorite hobby? : I love to golf, but definitely a fair weather golfer!

Wayne Bollman

-Arkansas Childrens Hospital Northwest-Facilities Operations Manager & Safety Officer
-Years in current position – 3.5 years
-Years of experience in healthcare or assisting with healthcare – 22 years total in healthcare facilities and physical environment safety, 14 of those in leadership.

- Number of years as an AAHE member? : 3
- What does AAHE mean to you?

AAHE means camaraderie, and that many challenges I face on a day to day basis are the same or similar to challenges of other healthcare facility managers. We get more opportunities to share information and ideas as a part of this group.

- As a new AAHE board member, what do you look forward to the most?

I look forward to helping educate others on the value of AAHE and how it can benefit individuals and organizations to be involved.

- Favorite hobby? : Most of my free time is spent with my family and my dogs.
- One interesting fact about yourself : I didn't choose healthcare facility management intentionally, but I enjoy what I do every day.

Mark Mergenschroer

-Autodesk-Customer Success Manager-Tandem
-Years in current position: 4 1/2
-Years of experience in healthcare or assisting with healthcare: 27 years

- Number of years as an AAHE member: I have been presenting to AAHE since 2008.

- What does AAHE mean to you?

AAHE has always been special to me, it's an organization that I feel makes a difference. It's made a difference in my family life, I know. It's exciting to be part of innovative engineering solutions to enhance patient care, optimize healthcare facilities, and improve overall healthcare delivery in Arkansas. AAHE provides a me personally a platform for networking, continuing education, and professional development opportunities, while fostering a community of experts working towards advancements in healthcare engineering, of which is a passion of mine.

- As a new AAHE board member, what do you look forward to the most?

I'm Looking forward to advancing the field of healthcare engineering in Arkansas, exchanging knowledge, sharing best practices, and collaborating on improving healthcare infrastructure, technology, and systems in the state.

- Favorite hobby? Announcing Miracle League Baseball on Friday nights during the spring and fall.

- One interesting fact about yourself: I had the opportunity to take batting practice inside of the famed visitors batting cage of Fenway Park in Boston

FACILITY, SAFETY, CLINICAL EDUCATION

ADVOCACY UPDATE

Active Shooter Preparedness and Response for Hospital Staff

In today's world, the unfortunate reality is that hospitals and healthcare facilities can become targets of violence, including active shooter incidents. In 2022 this issue hit close to home for all AAHE members when an incident occurred at a member organization in Central Arkansas. As a healthcare professional, it's crucial to be prepared for such situations to ensure the safety of both patients and staff. This article provides a brief guide on how to prepare for and react to active shooter scenarios in a hospital setting.

1. Develop a Comprehensive Plan

Creating a well-structured and detailed active shooter preparedness plan is the first step in safeguarding your hospital and its occupants. Involve security experts, law enforcement, and staff representatives to develop a plan that covers all possible scenarios and provides clear guidelines for staff actions.

2. Training and Education

Education is key to effective response. Regularly conduct training sessions for all hospital staff to ensure they are aware of the protocols and procedures to follow during an active shooter situation. Training should include:

- Recognizing Warning Signs: Teach staff to recognize behavioral indicators that might precede an active shooter incident.
- Alert Systems: Familiarize staff with your hospital's alert systems, including codes and alarms used to signal an emergency.
- Evacuation Plans: Provide guidance on evacuation routes, safe assembly points, and the process for helping patients evacuate.
- Lockdown Procedures: Instruct staff on how to secure their location, including locking doors, turning off lights, and silencing mobile devices.
- Communication: Establish clear communication protocols, including whom to contact, how to relay information to law enforcement, and how to communicate with colleagues.

3. Run Drills and Simulations

Regularly conduct active shooter drills to help staff practice their response in a controlled environment. These simulations can identify weaknesses in the plan and highlight areas that need improvement. Simulations should cover various scenarios, such as different locations and times of day.

4. Emergency Notification System

Implement a reliable emergency notification system that can quickly alert all staff members to an active shooter situation. This can include a combination of text messages, public address systems, and overhead announcements

5. Collaboration with Law Enforcement

Maintain a strong partnership with local law enforcement agencies. They can provide valuable insights and training to your staff, helping them understand how to work alongside law enforcement during an incident.

6. Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Define specific roles and responsibilities for staff members during an active shooter incident. This can include designating individuals to call 911, assist injured colleagues, or coordinate with law enforcement.

7. Patient and Visitor Safety

In addition to staff safety, ensure the safety of patients and visitors. Develop plans for their protection, including methods for quickly relocating patients if necessary.

8. Psychological Support

Active shooter incidents are traumatic events. Offer psychological support for staff, patients, and their families in the aftermath of such incidents. Provide access to counseling services and resources for coping with trauma.

Conclusion

While the possibility of an active shooter incident is unsettling, preparedness is essential to mitigate the potential damage. By developing a comprehensive plan, providing thorough training, and fostering a culture of vigilance, hospitals can empower their staff to respond effectively to such emergencies, ultimately safeguarding lives and minimizing harm.

Platinum Elite Chapter Award



AAHE has once again received the Platinum Elite Chapter Award from ASHE for our work in 2022. Chapter representatives George McFerron, Jordan Plyler, Joe Calvert, and Anna Rogers were on hand at the ASHE Annual Conference in San Antonio to accept the award.

Photo attached-left to right-Past President Jordan Plyler, Current President George McFerron, ASHE Region 7 Director Mike Hatton, AAHE Treasurer Joe Calvert, and board member Anna Rogers.

AAHE has consistently reached the highest possible level offered every year (except 2020, but hey, we were all busy ya know). Being a Platinum level chapter is such an honor to wear with pride. It speaks so much to the strength of our "small" chapter.

ASHE's Annual Chapter awards are ranked Bronze-Silver-Gold-Platinum. The additional "Elite" designation shows that we participated in the Energy to Care Chapter Challenge.

To receive the Platinum Award, we had to submit a lengthy application and corresponding documentation showing that we:

- Provide at least 24 hours of CEC credit to our Membership
- Send Officers to the annual Leadership Forum
- Ensure that all 5 officers hold dual memberships in AAHE and ASHE
- Attend all quarterly Advocacy Liaison meetings and share that info with our Membership (shoutout Lindsey)
- Held an annual strategic meeting to set the events and budget for the year

Big thanks for everyone's help in achieving this award! Lets make it happen again for 2023!

ASHE 2023 Small Category Winner

Through the Energy to Care program, ASHE Chapters can participate in a challenge, competing to demonstrate the highest reductions in energy consumption. Thirteen ASHE Chapters participated in the Energy to Care 2023 Chapter Challenge. Big thanks to all Arkansas chapter members who made the challenge a success!

- Small Category Winner: Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering

Upcoming AAHE Events

- **AAHE Fall Conference**
 - Friday, September 22nd @ Washington Regional Medical Center
 - Be on the lookout for a registration email from AAHE

- **AHA Annual Meeting**
 - November 1-2 @ Little Rock Marriott
 - Contact AHA to register

- **AAHE Scholarship Trust Trap Shoot**
 - Friday, November 2nd @ AGFC Jacksonville Shooting Complex
 - Registration link sent via email from AAHE

- **AAHE Winter Meeting**
 - January 19th @ St. Vincent Infirmary Little Rock, AR
 - Registration link to be sent via email from AAHE

Social Media Update

AAHE is excited to announce that the chapter is now LIVE on Facebook and LinkedIn. Be sure to like or follow each of the pages for chapter news, upcoming events, job opening



LinkedIn

To find the page on Facebook search "Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering"

To find the page on LinkedIn search "AAHE - Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering"

AAHE 56TH ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW FOLLOW UP AT OAKLAWN APRIL 20-21

A big thank you to everyone who attended and to our sponsors for making this year's annual meeting a success!

