

The Whistle

FHEA

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 4

WINTER 2009



Farewell 2008...When I began this journey in the Spring of 2008 I was walking from my car into my office, taking in the sights and sounds and smell of Spring...I find myself still walking from the parking lot into my office in 2009, and I continue to enjoy the sights, the sounds, the smell of the new day. Some things have not changed. I find myself being more thankful these

days. I am thankful that I continue to be gainfully employed and still have the opportunity to do the things I enjoy every day.

The President's Corner

DAVE PALMER, CHE, PRESIDENT

As we look back over the past year I am reminded of many accomplishments. We had a successful Spring meeting in Tampa at the Embassy Suites. Our educational program was well received by all in attendance. Skip Gregory started us off in 2008 by updating us all on Design and Construction standards. Next, I was honored to accept the Platinum Award for FHEA at the Chapter Luncheon during the ASHE 45th Annual Conference in our nation's capital Washington, D.C.

Moving forward, in October 2008 I recall a successful 46th Annual Meeting and Trade Show in conjunction with AHCA at the Rosen Center. Again, Skip Gregory spoke to us regarding clarification of the budget restraints that have removed the 80% construction review. We are all aware of the demands we face daily regarding budget restraints. We closed 2008 achieving and surpassing educational goals with positive and informative program presentations for the year. I was pleased to see increased participation on a district level and hope this trend continues in 2009.

I must thank Alethea once again for all her efforts in making our Annual Trade Show a big success. The show included 209 booths in a sold out show with an estimated 1200 people visiting. 110 healthcare facility professionals registered for the well received educational program and a total of 135 people attended, including some our Supporting Members and exhibitors. My thanks to all our Supporting Members and I look forward to our continued relationship in 2009.

I am grateful for all the Board Members' dedication, commitment, and your participation. It is greatly appreciated.

In closing, my wish for all of you is a very prosperous and successful 2009. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President in 2008.

Our thanks to Gobbell Hays Partners, Inc. for their generous sponsorship of this issue of the Whistle. If you are interested in sponsoring a future edition, we would be most happy to hear from you! Please contact the FHEA office at 407-332-7767 or email: fhea@earthlink.net

FHEA's new president is also Engineer of the Year



John Willingham, CHE

FHEA's 2009 president is John Willingham, CHE, who also happens to be FHEA's Engineer of the Year.

John expressed his honor at having been selected by the FHEA

membership for this distinction at last year's annual meeting held in October in Orlando. He credits his involvement in FHEA and the support from its membership as having an important part in shaping his successful career in healthcare engineering. He has been a member since 1998.

He has worked at Shands Healthcare for 25 years, serving as Director of Maintenance for the last 15. A native of Gainesville, he began his career in HVAC, working primarily on the tech side, but with a couple years on the design and sales end as well. His first position at Shands was HVAC Technician, moving up to Mechanical Supervisor before becoming Director.

John is married to Debbie Willingham and has three children and two stepchildren.

Excited by this opportunity to serve as FHEA president, John also hopes to encourage more people to join the organization and experience the benefits.



John Willingham accepts Engineer of the Year award from President Dave Palmer.

46th Annual Meeting/Trade Show Winners!



And many thanks to our platinum sponsor Balfour Beatty (represented here by Barry Searce) as well as all our other sponsors!



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Welcome New Supporting Members

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

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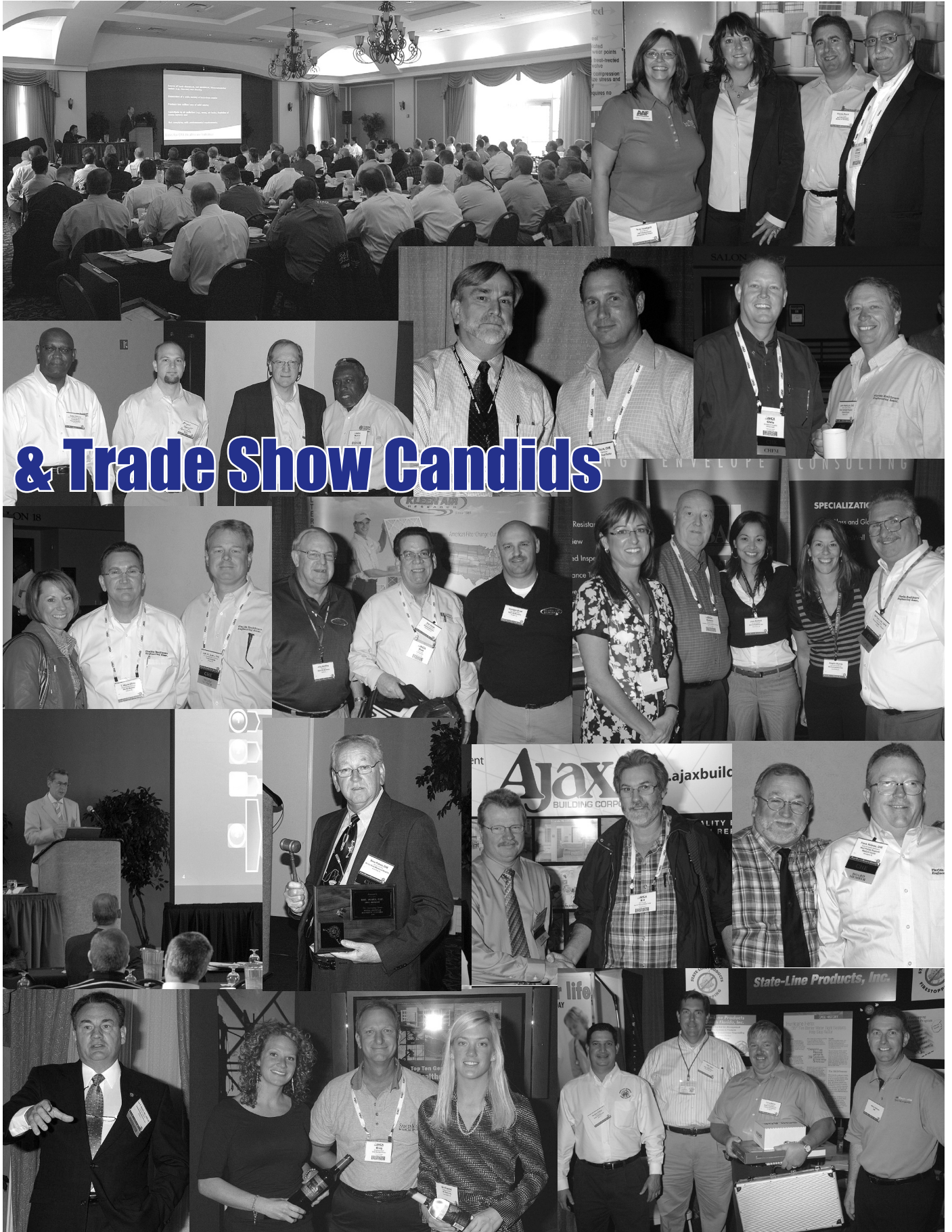
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& Trade Show Candid

EPA is constantly striving to strategically plan how to protect human health and the environment by ensuring that the regulated community obeys environmental laws and regulations. Frequently, this planning leads to focusing on a specific sector or segment of the regulated community. The EPA

with federal environmental laws and regulations.

EPA entered into voluntary audit agreements with 37 healthcare facilities/systems and 81 voluntary disclosures were received. Although half of these disclosures are still under review, **\$8,956,016 in penalties has been waived** and

Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).

GHP is currently working with major healthcare clients located in EPA's Region 4 in preparation for a potential inspection by the EPA and is also assisting facilities to

EPA Hospital and Healthcare Compliance Initiative

by Carl Gerhold, CCHO, Senior Project Manager
Gobbell Hays Partners, Inc.

kicked off a nationwide College & University compliance initiative in 1999 due to the institutions not being aware of their responsibilities under various environmental laws. In some cases, this lack of awareness put their staff and students at risk. The EPA was very successful in combining enforcement with compliance incentives and environmental assistance activities to help

1,100 violations have been corrected.

Conversely, 44 hospitals that did not enter into voluntary audit agreements were inspected by EPA Region 2 resulting in **22 enforcement actions and \$911,018 in penalties.**

In 2005, EPA Region 4 kicked off a similar initiative for the close to 2,000 hospitals and healthcare

prepare for conducting a self audit in conjunction with the EPA.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Even if your facility is in compliance with JCAHO, this may not be enough as far as the EPA is concerned. EPA has found when conducting compliance inspections, inspectors find that hospitals who were recently visited by JCAHO may conclude they do not have violations. In most cases, the hospital is surprised to find they are in violation of one or more federal environmental regulations because they assumed that JCAHO would have identified existing violations when the on-site review was conducted.

44 hospitals that did not enter into voluntary audit agreements were inspected by EPA Region 2 resulting in 22 enforcement actions and \$911,018 in penalties.

this sector improve their compliance and avoid adverse public relations in their community.

As part of EPA's continuing compliance strategy, the hospital and healthcare sector came into focus as another area not meeting environmental responsibilities. In 2002, EPA Region 2 began a compliance initiative for states in this region by encouraging hospitals to participate in the EPA Audit Policy Program. This program safeguards human health and the environment by providing several major incentives for regulated entities to voluntarily come into compliance

facilities located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. In 2008, the EPA will send 24 to 40 letters to hospitals in Region 4 asking them to participate in a self audit program.

As in Region 2, EPA Region 4 does plan to conduct unannounced inspections of facilities in the region and is targeting violations involving hazardous waste management (RCRA), Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC), Emergency Planning and

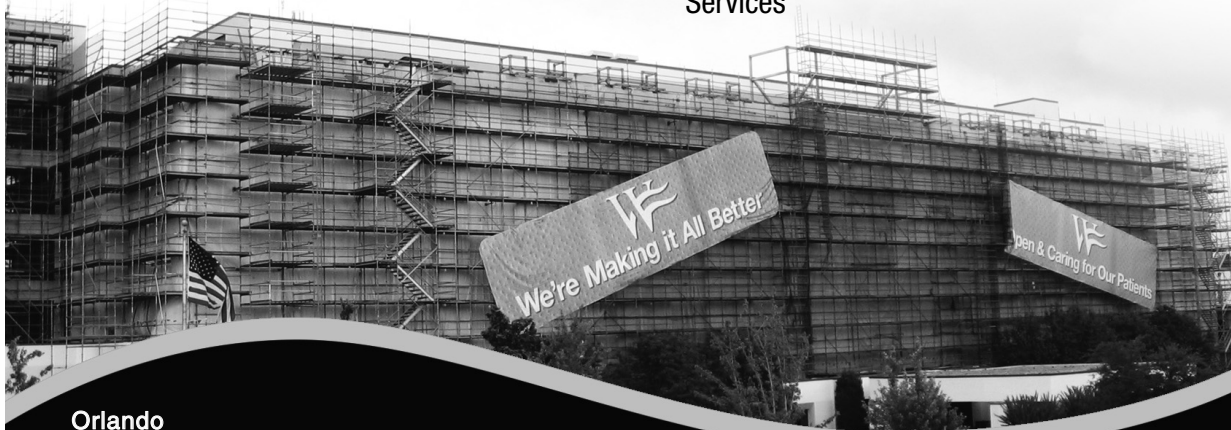
Mr. Gerhold provides professional services to the daily operation of the GHP Nashville office. He serves as a project manager and client contact for various Industrial Hygiene, Environmental, asbestos, microbial, and hospital infection control projects.

He has conducted OSHA compliance evaluations involving noise, silica, welding, asbestos, chemical exposure, and microbial (mold, Legionella) assessments for general industry, educational facilities, state and federal governments, and healthcare facilities.

Mr. Gerhold can be reached at 615-782-6872 or cgerhold@ghp1.com

GHP is proud to be a member of FHEA and a leader in providing environmental and architectural services to the healthcare industry.

- Mold Remediation and Training and Moisture Assessment
- Emergencies and Disaster Response
- Forensic Architecture
- USP 797 Upgrades
- Fire/Smoke Damper Inspections and Sprinkler Upgrades
- Clean Demolition and Infection Control Plans
- Industrial Hygiene Monitoring
- Legionella Sampling
- Life Safety Building Assessments and Systems Redesign
- EPA and OSHA Compliance Audits
- Building Maintenance Program (JCAHO)
- Thermal Imaging Moisture/Utilities
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessments
- Asbestos Abatement at Risk
- Provide Asbestos Inspection and Project Design (O&M) Programs
- 2 Hour Asbestos Awareness/16 Hour O&M Asbestos Training
- Building Envelopes/Façade (EIFS, windows, roofs, etc.)
- Project Budgeting and Scheduling (unique projects)
- Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Services
- EPA and OSHA Compliance Audits
- Review and Coordinate Life Safety Drawings
- PM@Risk Delivery – Life Safety Projects
- Elevator Upgrades
- Fire Alarm Retrofit/Whole Scale Replacement
- Joint Commission Mock Inspection (JCAHO)
- Interim (Director of Plant Operations) Services



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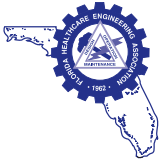
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

25th Spring Meeting

Thursday & Friday, April 30-May 1, 2009
Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

There are only a few tabletop spaces at spring meeting remaining - contact the FHEA office if you're interested - fhea@earthlink.net or 407-332-7767.

47th Annual Meeting and Trade Show

Monday-Wednesday, October 26-28, 2009
The Rosen Centre in Orlando

To our Exhibitors: booths will be assigned based on past participation level and sponsorship. FHEA office will contact past exhibitors by March 15. If you haven't heard from us by then, call.