2026 OCTOBER- FALL ISSUE

THE WHISTLE

FLORIDA HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Luis Rodriguez, CHE

Welcome to the Fall edition of The Whistle! As we find ourselves already in October, I can only say, "Time flies!" FHEA has had an exciting and productive year so far, with even more to come as we approach our 2026 Fall Expo & Education Conference, November 7–10, at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village.

To our valued partners, members, board members, and staff, I hope your experience with FHEA continues to exceed your expectations. It is my pleasure to serve alongside such a dedicated team. I would once again like to thank our Board of Directors and staff for their continued support, hard work, and guidance throughout the year. Their commitment is a true testament to the strength and bright future of FHEA.

I would also like to thank FHEA for giving me the opportunity to attend the ASHE 2026 Annual Conference, August 1–5, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was truly an honor to represent FHEA and the State of Florida as President at such a highly respected national event. The educational sessions, networking opportunities, and trade show were all world-class, and I would strongly encourage our members to consider making this conference a priority for professional development and educational opportunities in the future.

One of the highlights of the ASHE conference was FHEA being recognized with the Affiliated Chapter Platinum Award. It was my honor to accept this recognition on behalf of the State of Florida. Our entire organization should be extremely proud of this accomplishment. This award reflects the dedication and hard work of our Board, staff, volunteers, members, and industry partners who continue to support FHEA's mission.

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2026 FHEA FALL EXPO & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

November 8 - 10, 2026
Westin Cape Coral

"Make Waves in Healthcare and Facility Management"

President's Message Continued

At its core, FHEA is committed to promoting educational opportunities and professional development within the healthcare engineering and facilities management community throughout Florida. We strive to support our members in many ways, whether through continuing education at our district and state meetings, access to industry professionals and subject-matter experts, or state conferences held at high-quality venues that provide exceptional value.

Our 2026 Fall Expo & Education Conference in Cape Coral is quickly approaching, and I cannot wait to see everyone there. Sunday will be filled with activities, including our golf and fishing tournaments, as well as the CHC Exam Review Course. The Expo and educational sessions will provide additional opportunities to learn, network, and connect with colleagues from throughout the state. I encourage everyone to take advantage of all that this conference has to offer.

The FHEA is offering the NFPA 101 Life Safety Seminar, January 28-29, 2027 in Gainesville. More details are on pages 12-13.

Looking ahead, our 2027 Annual Education Conference will be held May 22–25, 2027, at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. We are already working to make this another outstanding educational and networking experience for our members and partners. Please visit the FHEA website for additional information and updates.

As I approach the end of my year as President, I am reminded that none of us reaches our current position without the hard work, encouragement, and support of others. I am truly grateful to everyone who has contributed to my journey and to the success of FHEA. The hard work of those who came before us has helped build the organization we have today, and I am proud to be part of its continued growth.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. I hope everyone has a wonderful fall, and I look forward to seeing you November 7–10 in Cape Coral!

Thanks,
Luis Rodriguez, CHE
President, Florida Healthcare Engineering Association



2026 FHEA FALL EXPO & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THE SCHEDULE

(As of October 12, 2026)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

(Arrival if you are playing in the FHEA Golf Tournament or sitting for the CHC Review Course)

3:30pm...**Board Meeting**

6:00pm...**Dutch Treat Reception**

7:00pm...**Board Dinner**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

7:30am...**FHEA Golf Tournament at Cape Royal Golf Club**

**Shotgun start at 8:30am*

7:30am...**Grab and Go Breakfast** at the dock for the anglers

7:30am...**Voucher breakfast for CHC attendees**

8:00am...**FHEA Fishing Tournament** – leaving from the Marina behind the Westin

8:30am – 4:30pm...**CHC Exam Review Program** *(Separate fee)*

Instructor: York Chan, CHC, CHFM, SASHE

12:00 – 1:00pm...**Lunch for CHC Attendees**

4:00 – 5:00pm...**Supporting Members' Forum**

5:00 – 6:00pm...**Welcome Reception**

6:30pm...**Dinner on your own.** Visit area restaurants with colleagues and friends.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

7:00 – 8:00am...**Continental Breakfast**

8:00 – 8:45am...**Welcome to the 2026 FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference**

Luis Rodriguez, CHE, FHEA President

ASHE Update: *Dennis Ford, MHA, CHFM, CHC, FASHE; ASHE President*

8:45 – 9:45am... **From Blueprint to Bot: How AI Can Transform Facilities Management Through Better Data, Diagnostics, and Culture**

Speakers: Sanjyot Bhusari, Affiliated Engineers; Bobby Baird and James Davis, UF Health

9:45 – 10:45am...**Breakout #1:Beyond BMS: Cloud-based Technologies forTomorrow's Hospitals** (**AIA pending**)

Speakers: Paul Salonia and Steven Wagman, Siemens; Jared Galloway, Jackson Health System

Breakout #2: AI and the Future of Healthcare Facilities Operations in Acute Care

Speaker: George Valaes, Schneider Electric

2026 FHEA FALL EXPO & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THE SCHEDULE

(As of October 12, 2026)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

10:45 – 11:00am...**Networking Break**

11:00am – 12:00pm...**Breakout #1: Creating a Culture of Accountability in Life Safety**

Moderator: *Jeffery Kovach, Hantional Firestopping Solutions*

Speakers: *Lisa Hardesty, Joint Commission Resources; John Crouch, AdventHealth; Thomas Chapuis, Chapuis Design Group Architecture*

Breakout #2: Steam Systems for SPD at Healthcare Facilities

Speaker: *Leo Rocha, Thermal Tech, Inc.*

12:00 – 1:00pm...**Lunch**

1:00 – 2:00pm..**Breakout #1: NFPA 70B Review & Effects on Healthcare Market**

Speakers: *Ryan Gant and Sayad Khan, Siemens*

Breakout #2: What Happened to AEM? Risk, Requirements, and Results

Speaker: *Joe Stockman, FSI*

2:00 – 3:00pm...**Breakout #1: Joint Commission Physical Environment Standards –What's Changed and How to Navigate Compliance**

Speaker: *Justin Marcoux, JLL Healthcare*

Breakout #2: Mold in Healthcare Facilities

Speakers: *Don Seely, First Onsite; Rich Crim, GHP*

3:00 – 3:15pm...**Networking Break**

3:15 – 4:15pm...**Breakout #1:Understanding the 2026 Joint Commission Physical Environment Updates**

Speaker: *Mickey Eberts, Remedi8*

Breakout #2: Healthcare Facility Water Safety During Natural & Human-Driven Disasters

Speakers: Brianne McGuire and Kelley Leannah, Nephros

4:15 - 6:45pm...**FHEA Expo Reception** *Visit the FHEA Expo to see new products and services on display by our Supporting members.*

6:45pm...**Dinner on own** *Join other friends and colleagues for dinner at one of the area restaurants.*

2026 FHEA FALL EXPO & EDUCATION CONFERENCE

THE SCHEDULE

(As of October 12, 2026)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026

7:30 – 8:30am...**FHEA Expo Continental Breakfast**

Breakfast will be served in the FHEA Expo

8:30 - 10:00am...**Expo is Open**

10:00 – 11:00am...**Identify Hazardous Building Material Before Rnovation/Demolition (AIA approved)**

Speakers: *Christina Haworth and Brian Duchene, Terracon*

11:00am – 12:00pm...**Lessons from the Field: Helping Hospitals Identify and Mitigate Emergency Power Vulnerabilities**

Speakers: *Eric Cote, Powered for Patients; Tad Radecki,Solution 61*

12:00 – 1:00pm...**The Retirement Risk: What Happens When Knowledge Walks Out the Door?**

Speaker: *Jim Inzeo, Leyyett & Rogers Company*

1:00pm... **Grab n Go Box Lunches**

THE FHEA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE TOPICS, SPEAKERS, OR TIMES DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES



2026 FHEA Fall Expo & Educational Conference | Florida Healthcare Engineering Association on Glue Up

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Besides ASHE Continuing Education hours, the FHEA is offering Continuing Education for Florida Professional Engineers, Florida Architects, and Florida Interior Designers. It's important to note that although we are a provider for these designations, each course must be pre-approved by the various licensing agencies before CE credits can be awarded by the FHEA. Up to nine hours of CE have been approved for each of the mentioned designations as well as one CE credit for AIA.

FALL SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS

American Portable Air & Power
Monday Expo Drink Tickets

Anchor Mechancial Inc.
Monday Continental Breakfast

Belfor
Sunday Welcome Drink Tickets

Bethel Products, LLC
Tuesday Expo Breakfast

ChemTreat, Inc.
Monday Afternoon Break

Chillmaster
Sunday Welcome Drink Tickets

Concentric LLC
Tuesday Box Lunch

EDS
Monday Lunch

EOLA Power
Lanyards

Evoqua Water Technologies
Monday Continental Breakfast

GenServ Corp.
Monday Morning Break

Green Air Environmental
Key Cards & Packets

Hexmodal
Monday Expo Drink Tickets

Ketchum & Walton Co.
Monday Afternoon Break

Life Safety Enterprises Inc.
Monday Lunch

MediTrac
Saturday Board Dinner

Momar, Inc.
Monday Afternoon Break

National Building Contractors
Tuesday Box Lunch

Nations Roof
Monday Lunch

Painters on Demand
Tuesday Expo Breakfast

Perry Roofing Contractors
Monday Morning Break

Primetime Healthcare Services
Tuesday Expo Breakfast

Pureflow Inc.
Monday Expo Drink Tickets

RESA Power, Inc.
Monday Continental Breakfast

Siemens Industry, Inc.
Tuesday Expo Breakfast

StructureCare
Tuesday Box Lunch

Sutter Roofing
Saturday Board Dinner

The Garland Company, Inc.
Monday Morning Break

Tremco Roofing & Building Maintenance
Conference App

Weather-Tech Roofing
Sunday Welcome Drink Tickets

FALL EXHIBITORS

- Advanced Roofing
- Andrews Filter & Supply
- Avid Services
- Boiler Technologies Unlimited LLC
- Bray Commercial Division
- Concrete Protection and Restoration (CPR)
- Corvant
- CRB Water (Premier Water)
- Eaton
- Envinity
- EVCOR USA, LLC
- Everon
- First Onsite Property Restoration
- Florida Air & Filtration
- Industrial Engineering
- Inpro Corporation
- Kurita America
- LiquiTech
- LSS Life Safety Services
- National Firestopping Solutions
- Our Fresh Air
- Paladin Healthcare LLC
- Paradise Filter Supply
- Pevco
- Prime Power Services, LLC
- Rochester Midland Corporation
- Schneider Electric
- STARC Systems
- Temporary Wall Systems Tampa
- Translogic Corp dba Swisslog Healthcare
- Walker Consultants



Call for Presentations - 2027 FHEA Trade Show & Annual Education Conference

"Leading Through Change: Innovation, Motivation, and Adaptation"

May 22 -25 at the Renaissance Sea World in Orlando

To submit a proposal, visit https://www.fhea.org/call-presentations

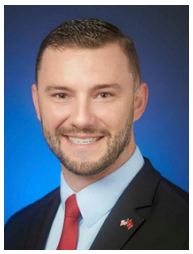
(Be sure to include all pertinent information requested)

Deadline: November 2, 2026.

Coming Soon!
Watch for Exhibitor & Sponsor Opportunities

FHEA 2027 Trade Show & Education Conference
May 22 - 25, 2027
Renaissance Sea World, Orlando

Meet Our Veterans!



Taylor Elders is a 13-year Marine Corps veteran who was honorably discharged in 2023. He came to Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville with a strong background in maintenance, specializing in electronics maintenance and leadership.

Taylor currently serves as a Facilities Technician at Mayo Clinic, where he has expanded his experience in healthcare facility maintenance while learning the unique demands of maintaining a safe, reliable, and efficient healthcare environment.

Throughout his Marine Corps career, Taylor demonstrated a commitment to continuous growth, taking on increasing responsibilities and seeking opportunities to develop both professionally and as a leader.

Taylor says attending the FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference will provide him with the opportunity to learn from experienced professionals, gain a deeper understanding of healthcare engineering and facility management, and build relationships that can help him continue to develop and progress in this industry.



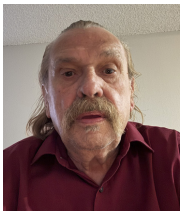
Larry Little served in the United States Navy from June 1985 until his retirement in June 2010, retiring as an E-8 Senior Chief Hull Maintenance Technician. During his 25-year naval career, he served aboard three ships based in Mayport, Florida, completing deployments that included two Mediterranean cruises, a six-month Standing Naval Forces Atlantic deployment, and a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf. His military service also included assignments at Norfolk and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Larry transitioned into healthcare facilities management and leadership. He served as Plant Operations Director for facilities at both Cleveland Clinic and Tenet Healthcare and currently serves as Director of Plant Operations at Alan B. Miller Medical Center in Palm Beach Gardens.

Meet Our Veterans!

Larry sees many parallels between military service and healthcare facility operations, particularly the need for adaptability, problem-solving, teamwork, and strong leadership. Each day brings new challenges that require the ability to respond effectively while maintaining a safe, reliable environment for those who depend on the facility.

For Larry, attending the FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference provides an invaluable opportunity to expand his professional knowledge, strengthen his leadership skills, stay current on emerging technologies and best practices, and connect with other professionals in the healthcare engineering and facilities management industry.



Dennis Waidler is a veteran who served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971, receiving an Honorable Discharge. From 1969–1970, Dennis served in Vietnam as a Combat Engineer.

Dennis currently serves as a Project Coordinator for AdventHealth's Office of Design and Construction in Orlando.

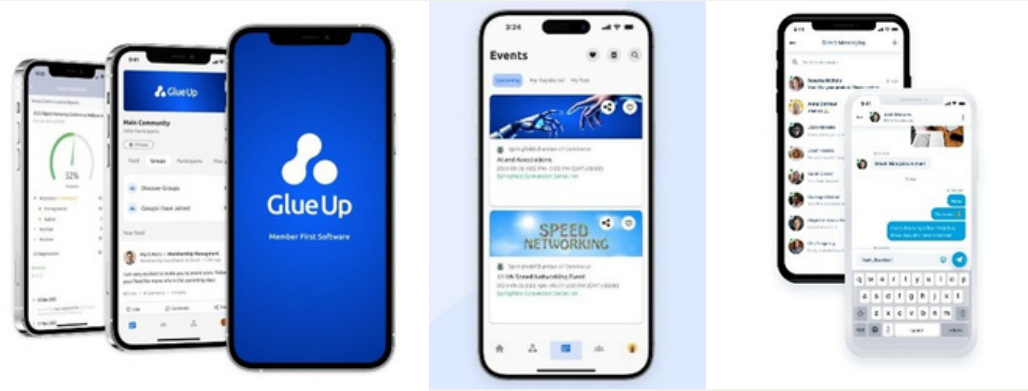
Through his attendance at the FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference, Dennis hopes to broaden his knowledge not only in his field of work, but also in how to interact and collaborate with others in the healthcare facility and engineering industry. He looks forward to learning from professional speakers on cutting-edge topics, networking with fellow professionals, and meeting vendors in the FHEA Expo.

WELCOME TO GLUEUP & INTRODUCING THE FHEA CONNECT APP

Sarah Jeffcoat, Executive Director, FHEA

The Florida Healthcare Engineering Association (FHEA) is excited to announce the launch of our new association management platform—GlueUp—along with our brand-new mobile app, FHEA Connect. This upgraded system serves as a centralized hub for all FHEA activities, designed to enhance both efficiency and the overall member experience. From membership management to event engagement, everything you need is now in one place—and accessible anytime, anywhere.

📱 Take FHEA With You – Download the App



With the FHEA Connect mobile app, you can:

- Register for events quickly and easily
- Access your membership profile and renewal status
- View event schedules and receive real-time updates
- Network with fellow members through messaging and directory features
- Track your continuing education (CE) credits

👉 Download the app:

- iOS: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/fhea-connect/id6758319581
- Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.glueup.wl.fhea

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WELCOME TO GLUEUP & INTRODUCING THE FHEA CONNECT APP

(Continued)

🚀 What This Means for You

The transition to GlueUp introduces several powerful tools to better serve our members:

- Streamlined Membership Management
- Automated applications and renewals make it easier to stay active and engaged.
- Enhanced Event Experience
- Register, access agendas, and stay informed—all in one place.
- Integrated Communications
- Receive important announcements and updates directly from FHEA.
- Continuing Education Tracking
- Easily monitor your CE credits for certifications and professional development.

🔒 Stay Connected

To ensure you receive all FHEA communications, please ask your IT department to whitelist email addresses ending in @fhea.org and @glueup.com.

We are excited to bring you a more connected, efficient, and user-friendly experience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at sarah@fhea.org.

We look forward to serving you better with GlueUp and the FHEA Connect app!



The Whistle is a quarterly publication of the FHEA

Do you have an educational article to submit for consideration?
Contact: *info@fhea.org*

Supporting FHEA members:
Place an ad in The Whistle (as space permits)

1/2 page - $350 - 1/4 page - $175

NFPA 101 Life Safety Seminar: January 28–29, 2027 | Gainesville, Florida

Please join the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association for the NFPA 101 Life Safety Seminar in Gainesville, Florida. The seminar will include a Welcome Reception Thursday evening, at Hotel Indigo in Celebration Pointe, followed by a full day of NFPA 101 instruction on Friday, at the University of Florida Professional Park. The cost for FHEA members is only $101, so be sure to make plans to attend.

Instructor: George Mills, CHFM, CEM, CHOP-DNV
George Mills has more than 40 years in healthcare, including 14 years at The Joint Commission as director of engineering. He has also worked for two years for ASHE (an American Hospital Association Personal Membership Group), as director of codes and standards. His remaining work in healthcare includes Facilities Management, the CEO of ATG for two years, and was the Director of Technical Operations with JLL Healthcare from 2017 – 2025. He is currently the President of the George Mills Company.

Prior to healthcare, Mr. Mills was a carpenter and iron worker. He has an MBA from California Coast University, is certified as a CHFM, CHSP and CHOP-DNV; he is a Fellow with ASHE, AAMI, and RSPH. He has co-authored books and many articles and is a nationally recognized speaker. He is also enrolled at Midwestern Theological Seminary

Session Description:
This Seminar will focus on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and their impact on Accrediting Organizations (AOs). It will explore how CMS guidelines and regulations have influenced the practices and procedures of AOs, and the resulting effects on the healthcare industry. The presentation will provide related education on the NFPA Life Safety Code (NFPA 101).

This Seminar is focused on the NFPA Life Safety Code (NFPA 101), the CMS KTags and the Joint Commission Physical Environment Chapter (specifically PE.03.01.01). The session aims to enhance the audience's understanding of the challenges faced by healthcare organizations in complying with Joint Commission Life Safety Standard PE.03.01.01. The presentation will also analyze and discuss the common findings in JC Survey activities.

Attendees will leave this session empowered with the knowledge needed to navigate the dynamic healthcare regulatory Life Safety landscape. By understanding CMS regulations and how they have influenced the Joint Commission’s PE Chapter, participants will be equipped to enhance their organizations' compliance efforts and drive continuous improvements in their respective physical environment.

NFPA 101 Life Safety Seminar:

Session Objectives:

1. Discuss the impact of CMS on the Accrediting Organizations.
2. Understand the CMS Regulatory landscape that impacts the Joint Commission Standards.
3. Examine the PE.03.01.01, “The hospital designs and manages the physical environment to comply with the Life Safety Code.”
4. Review the common findings in Joint Commission survey activities in the Physical Environment

Thursday, January 28, 2027

Hotel Indigo at Celebration Pointe
5020 SW 30th Lane
Gainesville, FL 32608

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Welcome Reception

Friday, January 29, 2027

University of Florida Professional Park
3300 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608

7:30 a.m. — Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. — Morning NFPA 101 Session
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. — Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. — Afternoon NFPA 101 Session

Registration:
https://floridahealthcareengineeringassociation.glueup.com/event/nfpa-101-life-safety-seminar-197529/

Hotel Reservations

A room block has been reserved at Hotel Indigo at Celebration Pointe at the special FHEA group rate of $109 + tax per night.

Reserve your room at Hotel Indigo
You may also make reservations by calling 352-240-8900.
Be sure to ask for the group rate of $109 + tax for the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association.

Hotel reservation cutoff: Thursday, January 14, 2027.
Space is limited, so please make your hotel reservation by the cutoff date to ensure you receive the FHEA group rate.

The Power of a Conversation



Jeff Howard, MBA, CHFM, CHE
Chair, FHEA Membership Committee

In my last article, I discussed leadership as the next step in professional engagement. While leadership can take many forms, one of the most meaningful and lasting is mentorship.

In many ways, mentorship is a natural extension of leadership. Leadership creates opportunities for others, and mentorship is how those opportunities are shared, multiplied, and passed forward.

Few careers are shaped by individual effort alone. Along the way, each of us has benefited from someone willing to share their time, knowledge, or perspective. It may have been a supervisor who took the time to explain the "why," a colleague who shared hard-earned lessons, or a professional who encouraged us to pursue a new opportunity. Many of the most valuable lessons in healthcare engineering aren't found in a manual, policy, or formal training. They come from everyday moments when experience and perspective are shared through conversation, guidance, and a willingness to help others succeed.

These interactions may not seem significant at the time, but they build confidence, develop skills, and strengthen our profession.

One of FHEA's greatest strengths is the network of professionals willing to share their knowledge and experience with one another. Through district meetings, educational programs, conferences, and committee involvement, members have opportunities to connect with peers, exchange ideas, seek advice, and learn from professionals who have faced similar challenges. Those connections often provide the insight, perspective, and practical advice that help us navigate challenges throughout our careers.

As you reflect on your own career, think about the people who invested their time, knowledge, and encouragement in your success. Then consider a simple question:

Who are you investing in today?

Warm regards,
Jeff Howard, MBA, CHFM, CHE
Chair, Membership Committee
Florida Healthcare Engineering Association



The Missing Link in Healthcare Facilities Performance

Rob Graziano, CHFM, CHE
President, FHEA District II

In healthcare facilities management, people remain our most valuable asset. Our staff play a critical role in supporting patient care by ensuring the reliability of essential building systems, including utility and essential power, medical gas, HVAC, fire protection, domestic, industrial, and high-purity water systems, building automation and security systems, and our favorite responsibility, "all other duties assigned." While significant attention is often placed on equipment performance, efficiency, and regulatory compliance, operational excellence depends just as much on the people who operate, maintain, and manage these systems. Traditional facilities management primarily focuses on preventive maintenance, asset management systems, and equipment performance metrics. While these tools are valuable, healthcare facilities ultimately operate as people-process-technology systems, where outcomes depend on both the assets themselves and the people responsible for operating and maintaining them.

Human performance is the practice of designing systems, processes, and work environments that help people perform at their best. Simply put, it's about making it easier for staff to do the right thing, the right way, every time. Rather than focusing on individual mistakes when something goes wrong, human performance looks at the conditions that influence performance, such as procedures, training, communication, workload, technology, and workplace design. By improving these factors, organizations can reduce errors, improve reliability, and create safer, more efficient operations.

Applying human performance principles can help healthcare organizations improve utility system reliability, reduce maintenance-related failures and downtime, enhance regulatory compliance, strengthen emergency response, improve staff safety, and increase operational efficiency.

Today, facilities leaders have access to an expanding toolbox of technologies, including inspection management platforms, mobile maintenance applications, algorithm-based fault detection, predictive analytics, advanced building automation systems, and emerging AI-driven solutions. These tools help us identify, track, and reduce risks associated with critical utility interruptions, ultimately supporting patient safety and operational resilience.

These tools are here to stay, and they provide tremendous value. However, as leaders, we must not lose sight of our foundation, our team of system matter experts, our staff. Technology can help us find problems faster, analyze data more effectively, and automate routine tasks, but it cannot replace clear procedures, strong communication, workforce competency, effective leadership, and a culture of accountability. The greatest advantage of utilizing in-house staff is the development of institutional knowledge, accountability and organizational resilience.

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The Missing Link in Healthcare Facilities Performance

Vendors may add specialized expertise when needed, but utility operations generally are more successful when they are owned by facilities staff who understand the mission focus, their facilities and the customers they serve. In this model, vendors serve as an important resource, while in-house staff remain as the primary owners of reliability, safety, regulatory readiness and operational excellence.

The most successful healthcare facilities organizations understand that reliability is not created by technology alone. True operational excellence is achieved when people, processes, and technology work together. When we invest in our teams, standardize our processes, and leverage technology appropriately, we create safer environments, improve operational performance, maintain regulatory readiness, and better support our ultimate mission: providing exceptional care for our patients and a safe environment for our staff and visitors.

Rob Graziano, CHFM, CHE
President, FHEA District II

What's Going on with WoFac?

Don't miss out on the upcoming activities of WoFac (Women in Facilities Healthcare)! For more information about WoFac, visit https://www.fhea.org/wofac-committee

November 7-10	FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference	Westin Cape Coral
November 8	WoFac Leadership Business Meeting - 3pm	Westin Cape Coral
November 8	WoFac Sip & Savor - 4pm	Westin Cape Coral
November 13	WoFac Round-Up Country Dinner & Line Dancing - 6pm	
December 5	3rd Annual Christmas Carols & Cookies	The Palms of Plantation
December 18	D4 Annual Christmas Party	Rayshell Ranch
December 19	3rd Annual Christmas Brunch	Location TBA

COMMITTEE CORNER

DISTRICT III MEETING RECAP





Our August FHEA meeting was a wonderful reminder of the generosity of this community! Attendees donated $2,000 to support the Comfort Baskets initiative started a few years ago by Kayleigh Rodriguez, a Transition Nurse with the Inpatient Blood & Marrow Transplant unit at Moffitt Cancer Center. Her initiative brings comfort and encouragement to patients during a difficult time, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed. For anyone who would like to continue supporting this meaningful cause, please use this link below to donate and keep this beautiful initiative going.

https://fundraise.moffitt.org/campaign/661669/donate

Our backpack drive benefiting Metropolitan Ministries also had an amazing turnout! FHEA donated 20 backpacks, and our wonderful members came together with additional donations and support to help students prepare for the school year. Thank you to everyone who participated in these efforts. Your generosity and willingness to serve make our FHEA community so special!













2027 Code Changes: Don't Let Your Projects Get Caught Between Editions

Florida healthcare facilities are approaching another significant code transition. As we enter 2027, several primary codes and standards governing healthcare design and construction are scheduled to move to new editions. Understanding these changes, and more importantly, when they become applicable to your projects, is critical to avoiding costly redesigns and delays.

What's Changing?

- Florida's upcoming code cycle includes:
- Florida Building Code (FBC): 8th Edition (2023) to 9th Edition (2026).
- NFPA: Florida Fire Prevention Code updates, including the transition from the 2021 to 2024 editions of NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 (including referenced publications).
- FGI: 2022 Guidelines to the 2026 FGI Codes for Planning and Design, incorporating ASHRAE 170-2025.

The updated Florida Building Code is currently scheduled to take effect December 31, 2026. Confirm the final effective dates and Florida adoption of each applicable code before establishing project requirements.

The Trap: Starting Under One Code, Submitting Under Another

A common misconception is that projects are governed by the codes in effect when design begins. In reality, the applicable code edition is generally determined by permitting or regulatory review milestones, not the design start date.

Healthcare projects often involve multiple Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs), including AHCA, local building departments, and fire authorities. Each may have different submission requirements and milestones that establish the applicable code edition.

For example, a project may complete its AHCA review milestone under the current codes but not reach local permitting until after the new codes take effect. This can trigger additional requirements, design revisions, updated code references, and costly delays, particularly when projects are already nearing construction.

Plan Ahead and Avoid Costly Revisions

Proactive coordination between owners, architects, engineers, contractors, and regulatory agencies can help prevent unnecessary redesigns and keep projects on schedule. Identify the governing code editions early and coordinate submission timelines across all applicable AHJs. Project teams should:

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CODES AND STANDARDS CONTINUED

Establish the applicable code edition and transition milestone for each AHJ during programming.

- Account for review periods, comments, resubmittals, and permitting in the project schedule.
- Avoid assuming approval or submission to one AHJ protects the project from new requirements imposed by another.
- Consider designing to the new requirements from the outset when project timelines extend beyond the transition.

Have a Code or Compliance Question?

The FHEA Codes & Standards Committee is here to support our members. Whether you're navigating a code interpretation, facing a regulatory challenge, or have lessons learned to share, we want to hear from you.

Reach out to FHEA! Your questions and experiences help us identify common challenges, engage regulatory agencies, and advocate for greater clarity and consistency across Florida's healthcare facilities.

Certified Healthcare Engineer (CHE)

The Certified Healthcare Engineer (CHE) program, developed by the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association (FHEA), recognizes professionals who demonstrate excellence in healthcare facility engineering and management.

Established in 1980, the CHE designation sets the standard for professional achievement, technical expertise, and ongoing commitment to the healthcare engineering field.

Why Earn the CHE?

- Demonstrates your knowledge, experience, and leadership in healthcare engineering
- Distinguishes you as a trusted, goal-oriented professional among your peers
- Signals to employers and organizations that you meet high industry standards
- Supports your continued professional growth and advancement

For more information, visit *https://www.fhea.org/certified-healthcare-engineer-che*

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UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!



January 28 & 29, 2027

University of Florida Professional Park
Gainesville, FL

To register and make reservation at Hotel Indigo, visit:
https://floridahealthcareengineeringassociation.glueup.com/event/nfpa-101-life-safety-seminar-197529/



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FHEA DISTRICT LEADERSHIP FOR 2026-7

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TO LEARN MORE, VISIT THE DISTRICT PAGES ON WWW.FHEA.ORG.

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