

# The Whistle

# FHEA

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WINTER 2008



Seems there comes a time for each of the presidents to write his final letter to the association. As I mentioned in my last letter, our past President “Hutch” told me that before I knew it the year would be over. Well, that time has come, but not without a very event filled year. I started out the year with goals for the association and a very strong and willing board. With their various talents and skills, our goals were met and in some instances exceeded.

I want to thank all the board members who stayed committed and focused through my long and involved agendas. The 2007 Board members met the challenges presented—with experience from our seasoned veterans, with fresh perspectives from the

plate on such short notice. From what I have been told he was a good stand up comic as well!!

During this year we also incorporated a new look for our quarterly newsletter the “Whistle” and our Web site [www.fhea.org](http://www.fhea.org) has some added features including online renewal. Our educational library will soon have added DVD’s of timely informative lessons that you may share with your staff to further their competencies. The commitment for this association to have a positive impact on patient care is well on its way to becoming a continuing theme for our incoming board members.

Along with thank you wishes to our supporting members, those vendors that are consistent with their support of our organization, I want to thank Alethea for her outstanding performance in this her first year as our Executive Director. Great job and we look forward to the exciting years to come. Congratulations on a fantastic first year! I also want to thank my staff at Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center for their support and assistance while I was away to attend the various meetings this past year.

## The President’s Corner

**DINO GAVAZZA, CHE, PRESIDENT**

first time members, and all with great enthusiasm and focus. I thank each and every one of you for your commitment, input and that ever present enthusiasm.

Our Spring meeting was hugely successful, with our educational presentations well received. Our annual meeting also was once again a great success with 226 booths at the trade show and educational presentations derived from previous evaluations of what you told us you wanted to hear. This meeting held in conjunction with AHCA’s was well received by both FHEA and AHCA members; clearly our continued cooperation with AHCA serves both groups well. Even though I was unable to attend and enjoy that meeting, I was informed on how well it was received. I want to thank my Vice President Mr. Dave Palmer for his outstanding job and ability to step up to the

We all know the value of “Top Performers” and my staff certainly meets those expectations.

I would like to formally introduce our members to Mr. Dave Palmer, CHE, our new Florida Healthcare Engineering Association President for 2008. Besides his ability as a comic (all kidding aside), he is a great leader with outstanding accomplishments. He has held various positions on the board over the past many years and in each of those positions he has exceeded the expectations of that post.

In closing I want to thank all the members of the FHEA for allowing me the honor and the privilege to represent you as your 2007 President of the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association – my sincere gratitude.

# Welcome New Supporting Members

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

## JOSEPH BUCCI

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## CONGRATULATIONS!



Debra Starr - Supporting Member of the Year!

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**Alethea Vitray**  
**Executive Director**

**T**he healthcare industry is in the midst of a construction boom, according to the Center for Health Design, so chances are there's a project underway, or planned soon, at your facility.

Nearly half of all construction projects run over schedule, according to the Construction Management Association of America. Projects are more complex due to high-tech advances in architecture, building systems and materials needed to provide a high performance clinical

environment. The micro-environments located throughout their buildings. To ensure this level of environmental quality continues during, and after, construction, it's essential to assemble the key players at the earliest stage of the project.

Your contractor should gather the safety director, the operations manager and various job superintendents to review your facility's specifications, establish schedules, and anticipate manpower and materials needs. Also include essential suppliers. The best partners can offer more

## Schedule for success

Such precision requires careful timelines. Keeping your contractor accountable to the established timeline can help guarantee your project meets its completion deadline.

Sometimes that may mean working after hours. When Kilborn Medical Centre in Ottawa decided to upgrade its HVAC system, the project manager worked closely with an experienced and flexible HVAC vendor to set up an after-hours schedule that would minimize disruption.

# Work Smart, Close with Contractors to Minimize Risk During Construction

—Kevin Schlif

environment. Fast-track schedules create more room for error, and contractors are left with fewer resources to address the unexpected.

These factors often converge to create delays and other issues that can result in serious negative effects for a healthcare center where the impact extends well beyond the bottom line. Expectations from patients, families and staff are high, and the cost of falling short is steep.

For these reasons, hospital executives and facility managers need to educate themselves about the advancements in the construction process and recognize the potential risks. By working closely with contractors, you can avoid possible roadblocks and ensure your project comes in on budget and on time.

## Establish key relationships

Healthcare executives must ensure their facilities meet the precise temperature and humidity require-

ments of the micro-environments located throughout their buildings. They are experts and can provide critical information and advice to help mitigate the risks mechanical contractors will face – and ensure facility's operations are kept reliable and efficient -- throughout the project.

Superior contractor-vendor relationships are based on trust and communication. In Virginia, the partnership principle was put to use in the design of two additions to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. There, hospital executives sought to reduce operating costs by re-piping the HVAC system and adding two new chillers, without compromising the performance of the current system and the comfort of patients and staff. By working closely with suppliers, including its HVAC supplier and mechanical contractor, the construction team achieved the upgrade without sacrificing the quality of care or the resources available to complete the project.

During a scheduling discussion, it's important your contractor ask a few key questions:

- What factors are driving the timeline for the construction team? For instance, if construction is planned during the summer, the project may need to be expedited. But the deadlines still must allow extra time to deal with worst-case scenarios. So work with your contractor to identify issues that could affect the schedule.
- What are the project requirements for everyone involved? As a facility manager, you have different needs and considerations than your contractor. During the scheduling process, ensure everyone's requirements are met and built into the construction schedule accordingly.
- What are the absolute deadlines? Because projects are completed

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in stages, the various construction partners become engaged at various phases. Must-know deadlines will help define must-do phases.

### Require prompt delivery

Late supply and material delivery can wreak havoc on the schedule and funding for the project, and delay installation. Your contractor should establish clear, effective and comprehensive communication with all systems representatives to ensure they have all the necessary information about the project and potential issues.

Make certain your contractor has developed key relationships with reliable vendors to minimize headaches later on. HVAC is particularly time-sensitive because the systems often lie within the core of the structure. Problems with an HVAC system can cause cascading delays on other parts of the project, potentially throwing your vision of an on-budget project out the window.

Rather than calling in suppliers at later stages, your contractor should be in tune with them every step of the way, minimizing the chance that equipment won't be on-site in time.

From the beginning of a project to the end, information is the most important ingredient in risk management. Today's complex healthcare building projects require close collaboration between hospital managers and building contractors. The most successful projects also allow all project contributors to share their expertise and experience.

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For more information, contact: Kevin Schlif, at TRANE in Orlando, by phone at 407-660-1111 or by email at [krschilf@trane.com](mailto:krschilf@trane.com).

## Meet your new president

David Palmer, CHE, is FHEA's 2008 state president. Dave is presently Director of Facilities at Winter Park Memorial Hospital in Winter Park, Florida. He has held this position since July 2000 when Florida Hospital acquired the facility. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Dave calls Florida his home having lived in Central Florida since he was one year old.



*W. David Palmer, CHE*

Dave pursued a career in the construction industry immediately after serving his country in the United States Navy. This career led to an opportunity to work as an outside contractor with Florida Hospital. He decided to sign on full time as a Florida Hospital employee in 1981. Throughout the years Dave has worked as Maintenance Foreman and as the Assistant Director of Facilities at the Orlando Florida Hospital campus. He also served as the Director of Facilities for two years at Florida Hospital Kissimmee prior to moving to the Winter Park location.

Dave is a current member of NFPA, ASHE, and FHEA. He has served as an FHEA officer for District III in the roles of Secretary, Vice-President, and President.

In his spare time you will find Dave enjoying his grandchildren. If he is missing, he is likely to be found on any of the area's golf courses.

## FHEA's Engineer of the Year: GREG HODGSON, CHE, CHFM

Congratulations to District III's Gregory Hodgson, CHE, CHFM on being selected as FHEA's Engineer of the Year for 2007. He was honored during the 45th Annual Meeting last October in Orlando, pictured here with incoming president David Palmer, CHE.

Greg serves as Construction Manager at All Children's Hospital in Saint Petersburg, Florida. He has been active in FHEA since 2002, currently serving as district representative and prior to that as district president.



60 years

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Hundreds of satisfied clients

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The numbers alone reveal the magnitude of planning and commitment involved in meeting the construction goals of our clients. What the numbers cannot reveal is the depth of our relationships. We share more than a contract with our clients. **We share vision.**

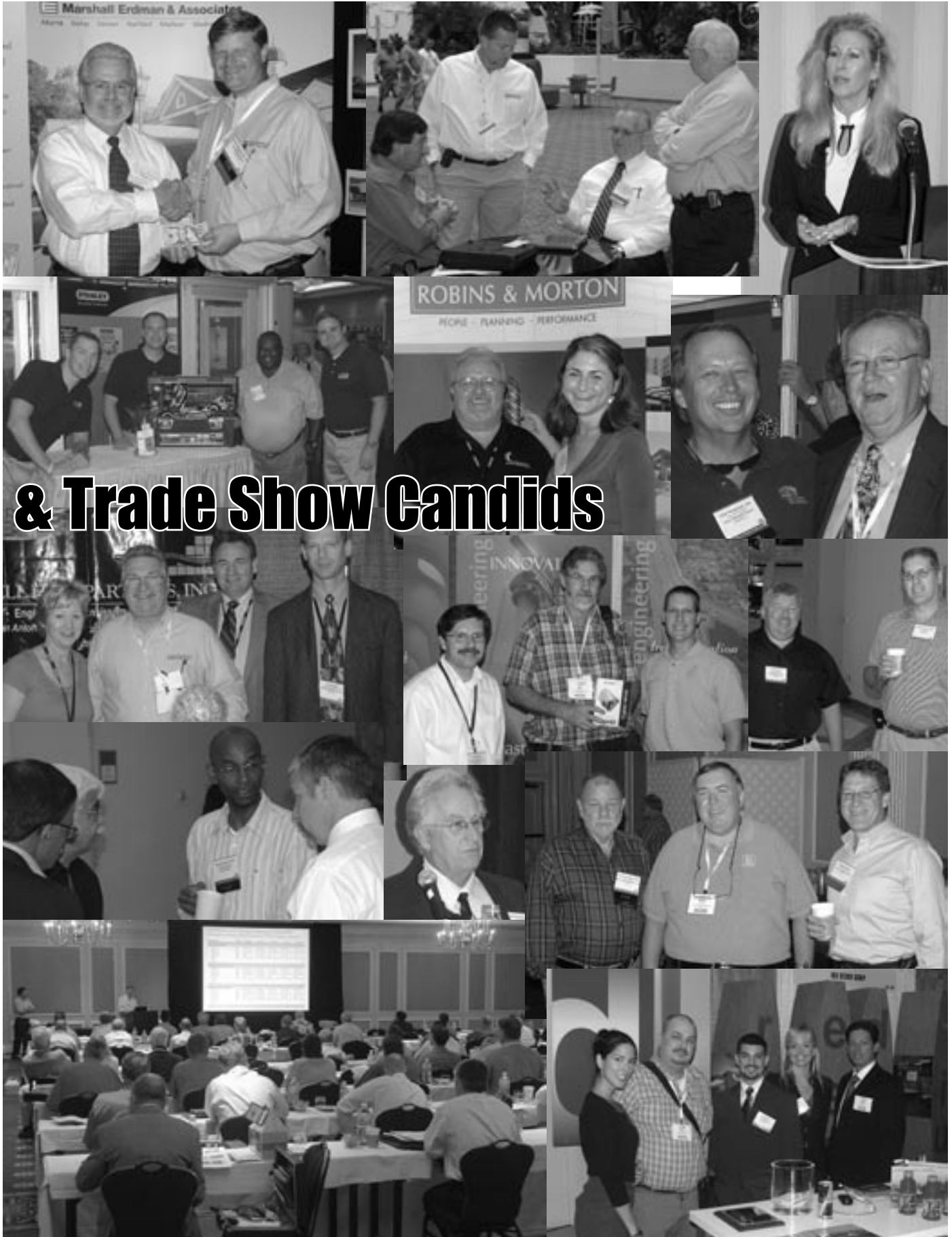


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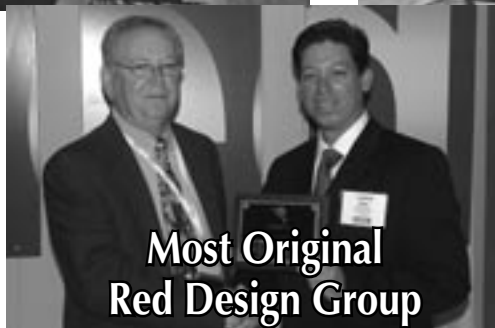
## 45th Annual Meeting/Trade Show Winners!



**Best in Show  
Link Construction**



**Most Informative  
Smith Seckman Reid  
and ASCO Power Technologies**



**Most Original  
Red Design Group**



**...and more candid inside!**