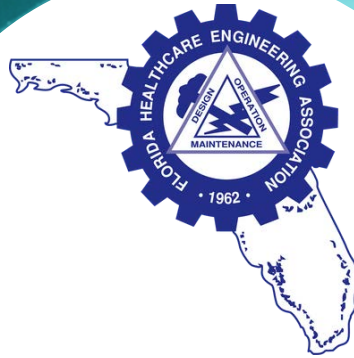


# THE WHISTLE

## FLORIDA HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION



### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**John Newman**  
*CHE, CHSP*



#### From the President

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of The Whistle and the President's Corner. I am thrilled to be the 2025-2026 President of the Florida Healthcare Engineering Association, and it is an honor to serve in this role representing an amazing group of healthcare professionals.

I'd like to start by sharing my gratitude for all the FHEA leadership that has served before me including our outgoing board members. We have built an amazing organization, and it is my goal to help contribute to our continued success. I'd also like to thank our incoming board members for their willingness to serve our organization, and I look forward to the great work that lies ahead in the coming year. Thank you to the Meeting Management Group for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to keep us on track and coordinating another fantastic conference.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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FHEA Board of Directors: 26

Thank you to both our active and supporting members for the time, talent, and resources you continue to contribute to the FHEA which also has a positive impact on the healthcare industry in Florida. Finally, thank you to my leadership at AdventHealth for allowing me the opportunity to dedicate the time necessary to serve in this capacity at FHEA.

*(Continued on next page)*

### Congratulations to Larry Peterson! By Edgard Niebles



I would like to congratulate Larry Peterson, CHE, CHFM, CHSP on his retirement from his role as ASHE Liaison for FHEA. Larry has served faithfully in this position for the past 7 years, offering invaluable leadership, advocacy, and representation. His dedication to our mission and his work in strengthening the connection between FHEA and ASHE has helped elevate our chapter's visibility and performance on the national stage. *(Continued page 3)*

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

The FHEA is an organization with a goal to provide its members with the education, resources, and professional networking required to thrive in the healthcare engineering field. One way we do that is by hosting two state conferences each year with our most recent one being held in May at Renaissance Sea World in Orlando. I especially want to thank our exhibitors, sponsors, members, the Board of Directors, and our staff for their contributions in helping this event be a huge success. The FHEA Trade Show was sold out and we want to thank all Supporting members who had exhibits and/or sponsored. The FHEA offered up to 10 continuing education units for ASHE, Florida Architects, Florida Interior Designers, and Florida Professional Engineers. We had an amazing lineup of educational sessions, the venue was exceptional, and the golf tournament, along with our casino night, just made the entire event very enjoyable. It was wonderful to catch up with folks from around the state and meet many of the new members who came to an FHEA meeting for the first time. If you were unable to make it, get ready to mark your calendars!

Our next state conference will be the 2025 FHEA Fall Expo & Training Camp, November 8 – 11, at the Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg and it will be action-packed. We encourage you to plan on arriving Saturday and be a part of the FHEA Fishing or Golf tournaments on Sunday or attend the CHFM Review Course which will be held from 8:30am – 4:30pm. The Certified Healthcare Facility Manager credential continues to be a benchmark professional designation in our industry so don't miss this opportunity to take the CHFM Review Course. Educational sessions will be held on Monday and half a day on Tuesday. If you plan to sit for the CHFM Exam, it will be on Tuesday, beginning at 12:30pm. Details for the entire conference will be available soon, so watch your email, Facebook, LinkedIn, and our FHEA website. Make sure to save the date!

The FHEA is built on integrity, excellence, and knowledge. As state and district activities are planned, our board strives to meet our FHEA Mission: "To promote and develop the professional role of the healthcare engineer through effective communication, educational opportunities, and the establishment of professional standards." In the upcoming year, we will continue to work hard to provide our members with access to relevant educational topics, professional networking, and effective communication to allow for streamlined information sharing across our organization to help foster the growth and development of our members. Last year, the FHEA offered 42 continuing education credits between the two state conferences and district meetings. Our membership increased to 1,230 – up 5% from the previous year. For the upcoming fall conference, we will be offering up to 8 continuing education credits for ASHE, Florida Architects, Florida Interior Designers, and Florida Professional Engineers. So plan now to become involved in the FHEA, both at the state level and in your district and stay up to date by visiting [www.fhea.org](http://www.fhea.org) or reaching out to our staff at the FHEA office, [info@fhea.org](mailto:info@fhea.org)

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as president for this upcoming year and we look forward to seeing you in St. Petersburg in November.

John Newman, CHSP, CHE  
FHEA President

**Larry Peterson (Continued from page 1)**

Under Larry's guidance, our chapter remained engaged, informed, and aligned with ASHE's strategic goals culminating in continued Platinum level recognition. We are truly grateful for his years of selfless service, and we wish him all the best in this next chapter of life.

My name is Ed Niebles, and I am honored to step into the role of ASHE Liaison for FHEA. I look forward to continuing the great work Larry has accomplished and serving as your bridge to ASHE resources, events, and national initiatives. Together, we can strengthen our impact and support the growth of our members and the health care facilities we serve.

As we celebrate Larry's legacy, it's also a great time to ensure you're registered for ASHE's Health Care Facilities Innovation Conference, taking place July 27– 30, 2025, in Columbus, Ohio. This event is ASHE's premier annual gathering, offering essential insights, networking, and professional development for health care facility leaders. Make your arrangements now to take full advantage of this flagship event.

Let's continue building on the strong foundation Larry helped establish through advocacy, engagement, and participation in key events like the Innovation Conference.

**COMING IN NOVEMBER - THE FHEA DINE-AROUND!**

As part of the 2025 FHEA Fall Expo & Education Conference, we will be offering the opportunity on Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, after the Opening Welcome Reception, for you to join other attendees (in small groups) for a Dutch-treat dine around.

You may be asking, "What is a dine-around?" Dine-arounds are informal dinners at local restaurants that provide an opportunity for networking and stimulating conversation. These dinners usually have no specific topic and are great to get to know others. Dine-around participants are responsible for the cost of their meal, drinks, and associated tip.

Since this is a first-time event for the FHEA, we will be offering a limited number of restaurants with 8 – 10 attendees allowed for each, SO when registration opens, be sure to sign up if you are interested in participating. If you sign up, and do not come, there will be a \$25 no-show fee that will be assessed.

We hope our dine-around evening will be a fun time for you to network and get to know other FHEA members.

## 2025 FHEA FALL EXPO & TRAINING CAMP

(as of July 1, 2025)

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2025

3:30pm	Board Meeting
6:00pm	Dutch Treat Reception in Hilton Lobby Bar
7:00pm	Board Dinner

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025

8:00am	FHEA Golf Tournament at Bardmoor Country Club FHEA In-shore Fishing Tournament, leaving from St. Petersburg Municipal Pier
8:00am	Continental Breakfast for CHFM Attendees
8:30am - 4:30pm	CHFM Review Course
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch for CHFM attendees
4:00 - 5:00pm	Supporting Members' Forum
5:00 - 6:00pm	Welcome Reception
6:30pm	Dine-around - a separate registration will be available to sign up for small group dinners at several restaurants. The dinner cost is on your own.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

7:30 - 8:30am	Continental Breakfast
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## 2025 FHEA FALL EXPO & TRAINING CAMP

(as of July 1, 2025)

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

<p><b>8:30 - 8:45am</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome to the Conference</b> John Newman, CHSP, CHC, CHE, FHEA President</p>
<p><b>8:45 - 9:45am</b></p>	<p><b>Passing Back to Move Forward: Rugby Lessons in Leading Hospital Facilities Teams</b> Speakers: Tony Echazabal, RA, CHFM, CHSP, Cleveland Clinic; Bobby Baird, FASHE, CHFM, CHC, CHSP, CHE, UF Health Shands; Kirk Dickson, CHFM, CHE, AdventHealth</p>
<p><b>9:45 - 10:45am</b></p>	<p><b>Failure is NOT an Option: Risk Management for Healthcare Facilities</b> Speaker: Mary Beth Reed, GAF/Siplast</p>
<p><b>10:45 - 11:00am</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b></p>
<p><b>11:00am - 12:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Mastering Accreditation: A Collaborative Approach to Healthcare Compliance</b> Speakers: Joe Mensik, JLL; Terrence Wright, Moffit Cancer Center; John Raisch, Moffit Cancer Center</p>
<p><b>12:00 - 1:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch</b></p>
<p><b>1:15 - 2:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Technology Panel: What's Working, What's Not, and How Organizations Can Plan for the Future</b> Speakers: Christopher Hariz, Hexmodal; Cindee Azer, CLSS-HC, TJC Facilities Coordinator: Tyler Ferguson, National Firestopping Solutions</p>
<p><b>2:15 - 3:15pm</b></p>	<p><b>Know Your Next Move: Designing Surgical Space for Growth with Data-Driven Planning</b> Speakers: Jennifer Greisen, Aesculap; Bobby Baird, FASHE, CHFM, CHC, CHSP, CHE, UF Shands</p>
<p><b>3:15 - 3:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Break</b></p>

## 2025 FHEA FALL EXPO & TRAINING CAMP

(as of July 1, 2025)

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

3:30 - 4:30pm	<b>The Facts About Classical Reliability-Centered Maintenance in Healthcare's Compliance Area</b> Speakers: Jim Carrel, Forum Reliability; Devin Hugie, Forum Reliability
4:30 - 6:45pm	<b>Expo Reception</b>

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025

7:30 - 10:00am	<b>Expo Continental Breakfast and Door Prize Crawl</b>
10:00 - 11:00am	<b>Aerobiology 102</b> Speaker: Dr. Linda Lee, UV Angel
11:00am - 12:00pm	<b>Beyond Legionellosis: Minimizing Patient Risk with ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 514</b> Speakers: Margaret Jasinski, Phigenics; Cole Kirmes, Phigenics
12:00pm	<b>Box Lunches</b>
12:30 - 4:30pm	<b>CHFM Exam</b>

*The FHEA reserves the right to change and/or modify the times, speakers, or topics due to unforeseen circumstances.*

**2025 FHEA FALL EXPO & TRAINING CAMP****CHFM (CERTIFIED HEALTH CARE FACILITY MANAGER)**

**The CHFM (Certified Health Care Facility Manager) Exam Review Program and the CHFM Exam will be Offered at the Upcoming 2025 FHEA Fall Expo & Training Camp**

- CHFM Review Program: Sunday, November 9 8:30am – 4:30pm
- CHFM Exam: Tuesday, November 11 12:30pm

In addition to our regular FHEA Training Camp, we will be offering the CHFM Exam Review Program. Registration for the all-day CHFM Review Course is only an additional \$100 for Training Camp attendees who are also current FHEA Active Members (a continental breakfast and lunch are included).

When you register for the 2025 FHEA Expo & Training Camp, you must also provide your ASHE member number (as you must be a member of ASHE to sit for the exam) if you will be taking the CHFM Exam Review Program.

Please note: Registering for the Exam Review Course does NOT register you for the exam. To register for the CHFM exam, you must complete an application form and pay for the exam fee. Once you register for the CHFM course in St. Petersburg, a link for sitting for the CHFM exam will be sent to you.

Download the CHFM handbook and detailed information at [AHA CC-CHFM-Handbook.pdf Certified Health Care Facility Manager \(CHFM\) | AHA](#)

Training Camp and Conference registration will be available soon, so when it opens, don't delay. Space will be limited and registration for the exam must be received by September 26. Onsite applications will not be accepted.

## 2025 FHEA FALL EXPO & TRAINING CAMP

### FALL EXPO TABLETOP EXHIBITS AND SPONSORSHIP

#### SPONSORSHIPS

- Sunday Welcome Reception Drink Tickets: \$2,500
- Monday Morning Break: \$2,500
- Monday Continental Breakfast: \$2,500
- Monday Lunch: \$3,000
- Monday Afternoon Break: \$2,500
- Tuesday Expo Breakfast: \$2,500
- Tuesday Box Lunch: \$ 2,250

#### Tabletop only: \$995

Includes one company representative, One 6' table with spandex covering, two chairs, waste basket, and 5 amps/120 volts of power (2 outlets)

#### Sponsorships include:

- Expo tabletop and priority set up for Expo table location,
- One additional company representative,
- Listing in The Whistle and on the website,
- Listing in the conference program, listing on the conference app and Event signage

**PURCHASE HERE**

**EXPO SCHEDULE**

**RULES & GUIDELINES**

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS



**Hilton Bayfront**  
**333 1<sup>st</sup> St. SE**  
**St. Petersburg, FL 33629**

Located in the heart of the St. Petersburg Waterfront District, across from the Salvador Dali Museum, and Al Lang Stadium, the hotel offers spacious accommodations with signature amenities. The downtown trolley passes by the hotel's front door, providing links to Tropicana Field stadium. The palm-lined courtyard is home to a heated pool, and there is a 24-hour fitness center. Cure cravings at the 1st St. Coffee Co., Tangerine Restaurant, or Dali Lounge.

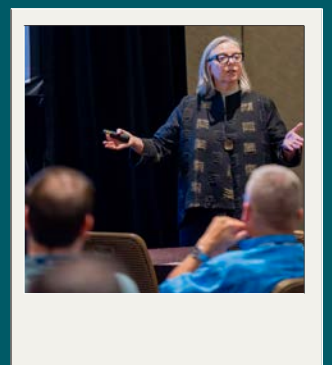
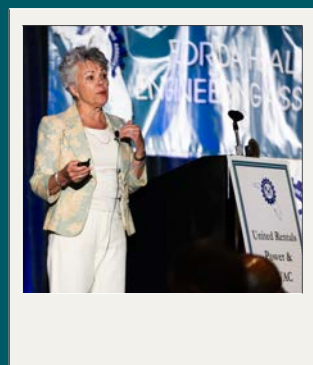
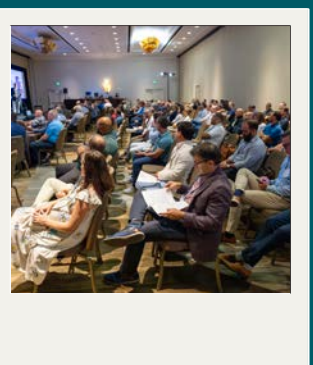
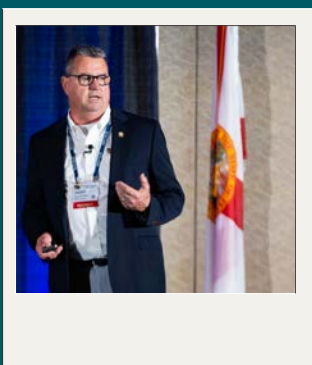
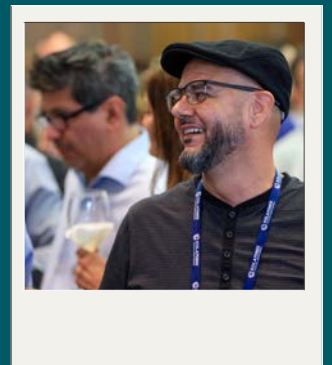
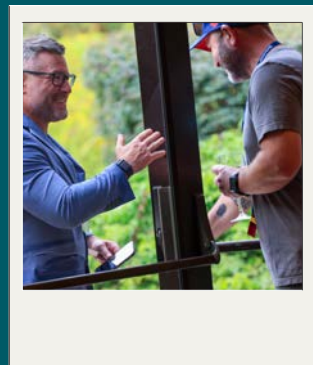
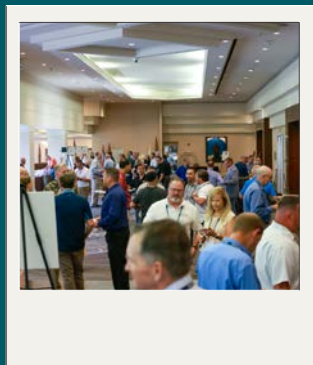
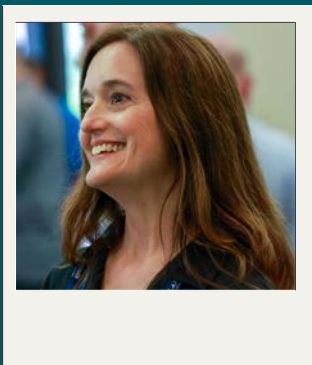
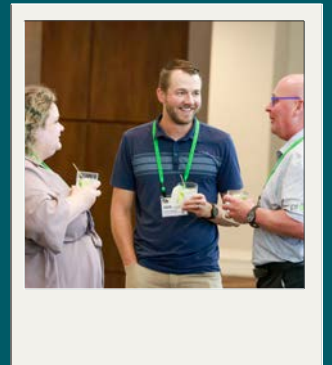
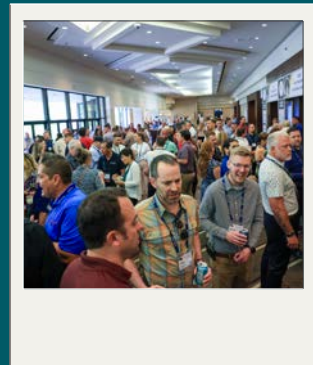
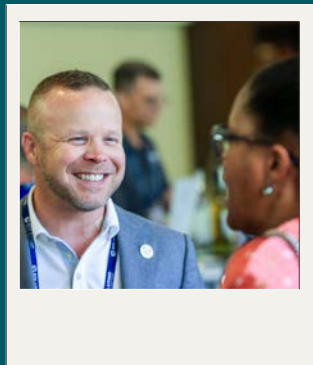
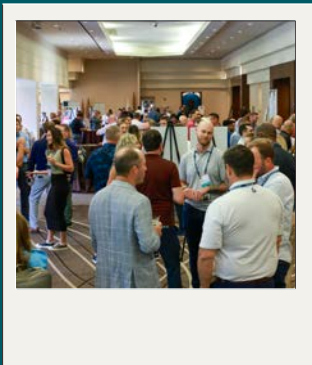
Our run-of-house FHEA group rates are \$189 + tax per night. FHEA attendees must book through the link, <https://group.hilton.com/fy79m4> or call 800-445-8667 – Be sure to identify yourself as an attendee at the FHEA Conference to receive our group rate. The hotel room cut-off date is October 24, 2025.

#### PARKING:

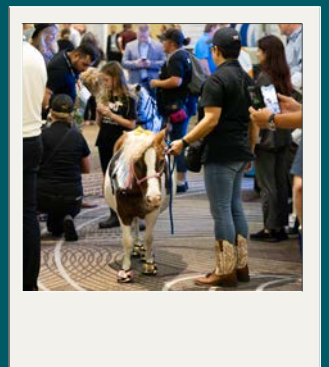
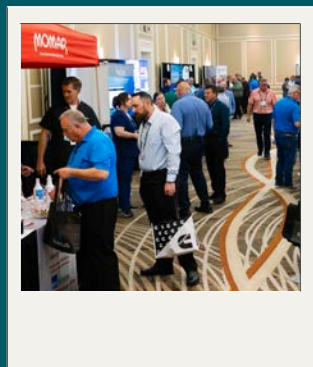
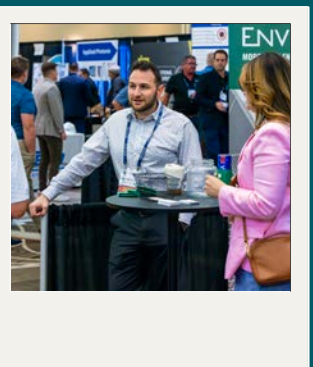
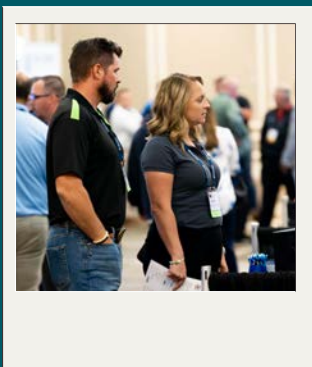
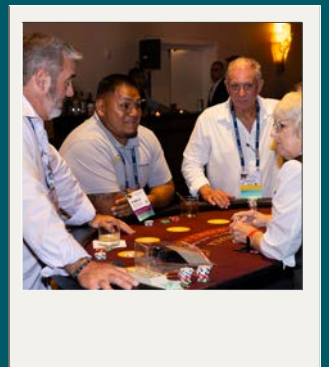
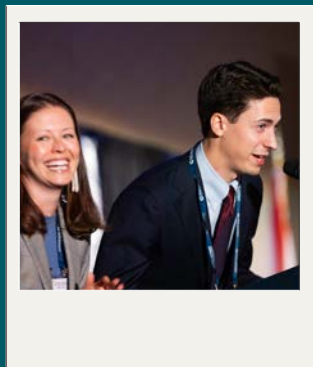
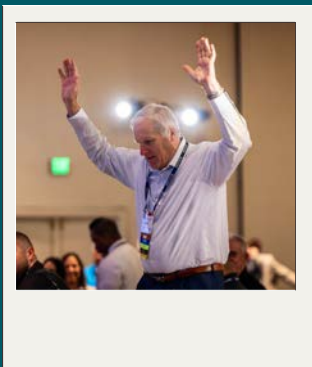
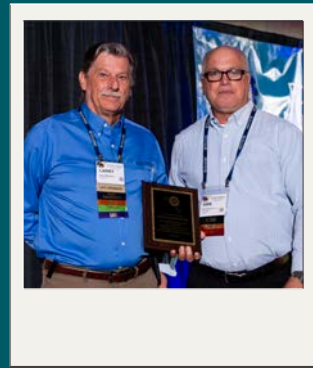
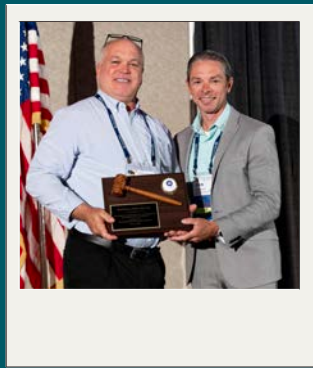
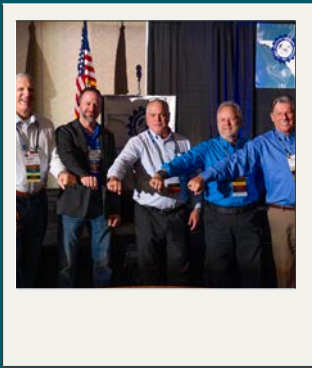
The Hilton only offers valet parking. Our FHEA group rate for valet parking will be 20% off their published fees (currently, \$42.00 per day). If you would like to self-park, there are several parking garage options that are within a ½ block of the hotel behind the property - note that some lots are for day use only. Please see the posted map for self-parking locations.

## 2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

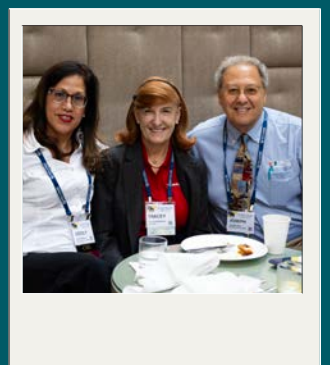
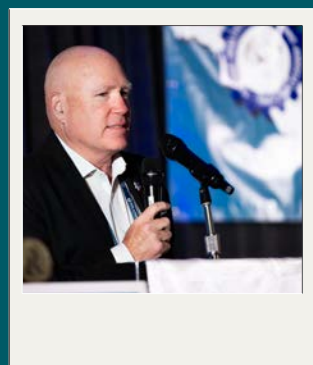
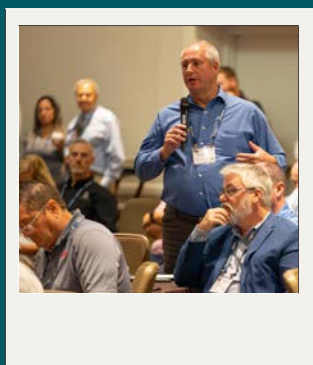
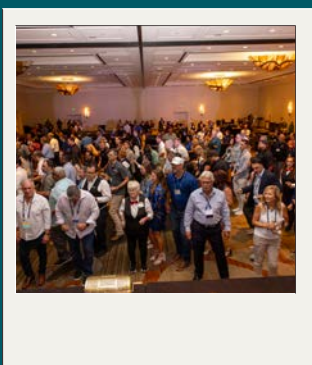
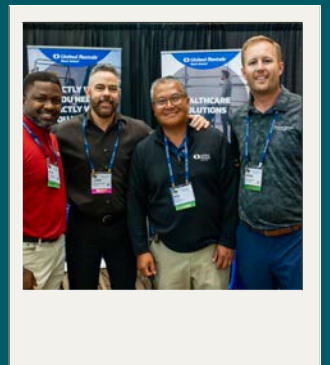
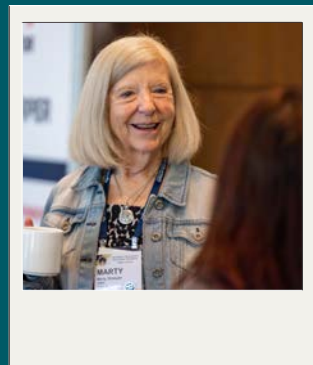
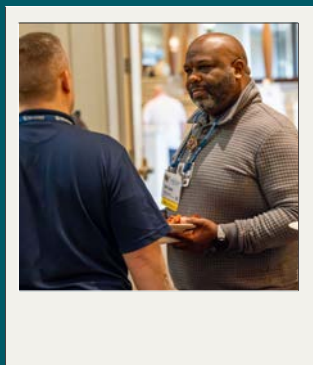
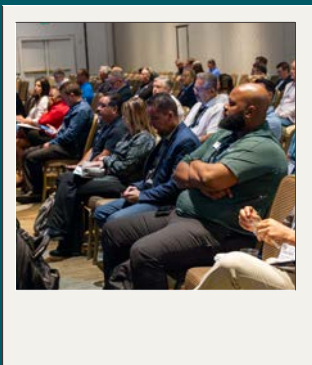
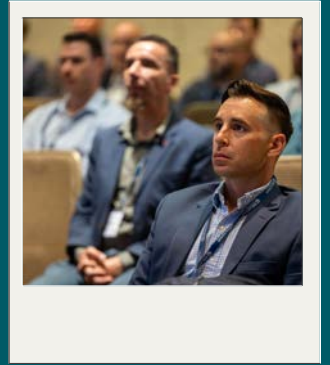
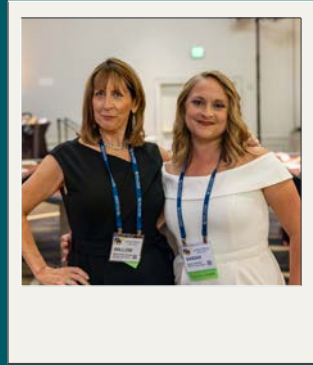
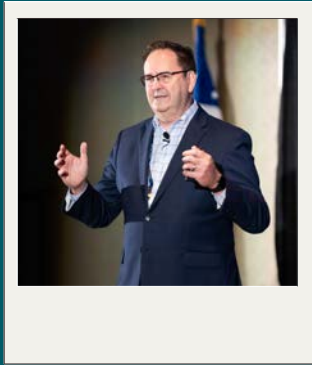
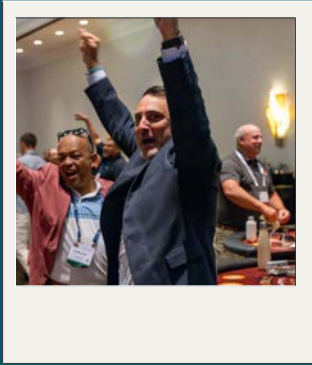
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## 2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



## 2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Thank You!

2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

VIP SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



Magic Shields



SILVER SPONSORS



Thank You!

2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

SILVER SPONSORS



SOPREMA



BRONZE SPONSORS



FLOORING SYSTEMS



CONFERENCE EVENT SPONSORS

Sunday Board Dinner



Monday Breakfast



Monday Welcome Reception



Tuesday AM Break



Tuesday Trade Show Reception



Wednesday Break



Tuesday Casino Party



*Thank You!*

## 2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

360 Energy Solutions  
 A-1 Orange Exterior Building Services  
 AAF International  
 Accurate Lock and Hardware  
 ACF Standby Systems/GENERAC  
 Advanced Roofing  
 Affiliated Steam & Hot Water  
 Air Source Corporations  
 Ajax Building Company  
 Allegion Pioneers in Safety & Security  
 American Portable Air  
 Andrews Filter Supply  
 Applied Photonix LLC  
 Aquatools  
 Aquis  
 ARC Facilities  
 Asahi/America, Inc.  
 Ashberry Water Conditioning  
 ASSA ABLOY Entrance Systems US Inc.  
 Belfor  
 Belimo  
 Bender  
 Best Roofing  
 Bethel Products LLC  
 BlueTeam  
 BMS CAT  
 Boller Technologies Unlimited, LLC  
 Brady Infrared Inspections, Inc.  
 Brooks Building Solutions  
 C.A.R.E. Cleaning and Restoration Experts  
 C.L. Burks Commercial Roofing  
 Carolina Filter Supply  
 ChemTreat, Inc.  
 Chillmaster  
 Clean Work Booth, Inc.  
 Coastline Power Solutions  
 Commercial Flooring Distributors, Inc.  
 Commercial Products Corp.  
 Communication Access Services, Inc.  
 Compliant Healthcare Technologies (CHT)  
 Comprehensive Energy Services  
 Convergint  
 Cummins  
 Cypress EnviroSystems  
 Detex Corporation  
 Door Specialties  
 Duct Dynasty Clean Air LLC  
 Duro-Last  
 Enecon  
 Engineered Energy Equipment, Inc.  
 Envinity, Building Energy Solutions  
 EOLA Power  
 Eskola Roofing & Waterproofing  
 EVCOR, USA, LLC  
 Evergreen Medical Services  
 Everon  
 First Onsite Property Restoration  
 FlexCart Company  
 Florida Power & Light Company  
 Follett Products, LLC  
 Forbo Flooring Systems  
 FSI  
 Gerflor USA  
 GHP, Inc.  
 Grainger  
 Graybar  
 Green Air Environmental of Central Florida  
 Harper Limbach  
 Henry, a Carlisle Company  
 Hepacart, Inc.  
 Hexmodal  
 Hightower Industries  
 Hilti  
 HVAC RNTL  
 HydroCorp  
 IB Roof Systems  
 Idn Armstrongs  
 IMI Climate Control  
 Industrial Engineering  
 Inpro Corporation  
 Integrated Cooling Solutions  
 Integrated Power Services  
 Jantech  
 Jeron Electronic Systems, Inc.  
 JLL, Healthcare powered by ATG intelligence  
 Kept Companies  
 Kurita American, Inc.  
 Legrand  
 Lektraflor  
 Life Safety Enterprises Inc.  
 Magic Shields  
 Mainscape Inc.

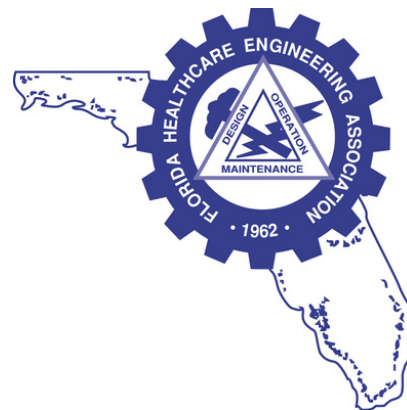
Thank You!

2025 FHEA TRADE SHOW & ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE  
TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

Medical Technology Associates, Inc.  
 MediTrac CMT  
 Miracle Method  
 Modern Containment Systems  
 Momar, Inc.  
 Nabco Entrances, Inc.  
 National Firestopping Solutions  
 NetPlanner Systems, Inc.  
 Our Fresh Air, Inc.  
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## Canceling Hotel Reservations for FHEA Conference – What to Do?



Why is this question an important one? This year, for the recent 2025 FHEA Trade Show & Annual Education Conference, although we booked enough rooms at the Renaissance, we still ran out because cancelations were not made on a timely basis.

You may ask, “How did this happen?” The basic answer is that people book rooms, often more than one for colleagues, and then cancel the rooms after our reservations cutoff date with the hotel. Once those rooms are canceled, they go back into the hotel’s general sales inventory, and they are no longer available for our attendees – especially if the hotel sells out.

Our FHEA office receives regular reports weekly from the hotel where our conference is held, usually beginning about 8 - 9 months prior to the meeting. The reports list the numbers of rooms picked up per night as compared to our contracted block as well as the names of people who have reserved rooms. Staff goes through the list of people who have rooms, and if there are multiple rooms reserved under one name, those folks are contacted to either release the rooms if they no longer need them OR they are asked to put the actual person’s name on the reservation who will be occupying the room.

This year, we watched our room count go up substantially. Rooms were beginning to run out at the Renaissance, so everyone who had a room reservation was asked to release the rooms to our office rather than canceling with the hotel so we could reassign the unneeded rooms to those on our waiting list. More than 56 room nights were reassigned to people who wanted to attend the conference.

Some groups have strict rules for making room reservations at the headquarters’ hotel to try to avoid this issue, i.e. not allowing reservations to be made until conference registrations have been completed and paid, canceling room reservations if there are multiple rooms under the same name, allowing exhibitors to a limited of the number of rooms they can book, etc.

The FHEA would like to avoid having to institute any of these listed policies, SO, we would appreciate you making room reservations only as needed, and if you are not going to use your reservation, release it at least 30 days out from the conference start so it will be put back in the FHEA block and can be reserved by others who want to attend.

## Introducing AHA DataQuery AI™ Unlock the Nation's Most Trusted Hospital Data—in Seconds!



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Customize reports to focus on the insights that matter most to you.

## JOINT COMMISSION STANDARDS RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT UPDATES



Joint Commission (JC) announced on June 30, 2025, that it is making significant updates to its standards used by hospitals and critical access hospitals to guide compliance with JC accreditation requirements and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) Conditions of Participation.

The change, which consolidates and rewrites JC's Life Safety and Environment of Care standards to improve alignment with the Conditions of Participation, will require careful review by health care facilities managers working to remain compliant with JC accreditation requirements.

ASHE is committed to supporting health care facilities professionals as they implement this change and is updating several resources and education courses to help the field understand and reference the updated JC standards. Read below for a summary of the JC standard modifications, the impact on the field, and what ASHE tools and resources are available to help facilities professionals through this change.

### Key Changes in Structure

The accreditation restructuring, titled "Accreditation 360: The New Standard," includes a complete overhaul of the standards numbering system and elements of performance, making prior versions of the standards vastly different from the newly published standards.

For example, one of the most notable changes for facilities managers is the restructuring of the Environment of Care (EC) and Life Safety (LS) chapters into a single, unified chapter titled "Physical Environment." Additionally, the total number of standards and elements of performance have been significantly reduced, simplifying compliance requirements. Previously, the EC and LS chapters contained 44 standards with 396 elements of performance. Under the new JC structure, these have been consolidated and the number of elements of performance have been reduced by 46% for critical access hospitals and 48% for hospitals.

In total, JC said it is removing 714 requirements from the hospital accreditation program. And in a move towards greater transparency, starting in July, Joint Commission standards will be available online and will be searchable by the public.

Full details on the standards update are available on Joint Commission's website [here](#), including accreditation requirements, crosswalks, survey process guides, disposition reports and more.

### What This Means for Compliance

At first glance, it may seem that JC has reduced compliance requirements. However, these requirements have been consolidated, not eliminated, into broader standard categories, ensuring greater alignment with CMS' Conditions of Participation as well as [K-Tags](#) and [A-Tags](#) from CMS's Survey Operations Manual.

While the standard numbers and organization are changing, the core substance of the standards remains largely intact. JC has been approved as a national accrediting organization by CMS and must ensure that its accreditation standards are in alignment with the Conditions of Participation, which incorporate the NFPA 99, Health Care Facilities Code, and NFPA 101<sup>®</sup>, Life Safety Code<sup>®</sup>, along with additional referenced codes.

The updated standards will take effect on January 1, 2026, though JC has noted that it understands there will be a learning curve in the field and that they will not cite hospitals for references to the old standards as long as the requirement is still being met. ASHE advises that health care organizations take steps now to ensure they are prepared for the revised structure if participating in JC's accreditation program.

[Read the Full Alert »](#)

## WHO'S REALLY IN CHARGE? UNDERSTANDING AHCA VS. CMS OVERSIGHT



**By Tony Echazabal, RA, CHFM, CHSP, CHE  
FHEA Codes and Standards Chair**

It's a true honor to serve as your new Codes and Standards Chair for FHEA. I want to begin by recognizing and sincerely thanking Phil Cardone for his years of dedicated service in this role. Phil has been a constant source of high-quality updates and insights, and we're all better for his leadership and commitment to our professional community.

As I step into this role, I want to focus on a topic that continues to cause confusion and compliance headaches across our industry: navigating the roles of AHCA (Agency for Health Care Administration) and CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services). If you've ever been caught between differing interpretations from these two authorities, you're not alone.

While CMS is the federal agency that certifies healthcare facilities for Medicare and Medicaid participation, AHCA is Florida's state licensing authority. Both have substantial—and sometimes overlapping—influence on healthcare operations, construction, and compliance.

Let's simplify the dynamic:

- AHCA opens the doors. It licenses your facility, enforces the Florida Building Code (FBC) and Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC), and must approve your design and construction through the Office of Plans and Construction (OPC). No AHCA license means you're not legally allowed to operate in Florida.
- CMS keeps the doors open. It ensures ongoing compliance with federal Conditions of Participation, including Life Safety Code compliance, patient rights, and infection control standards. Without CMS certification, you can't bill Medicare or Medicaid.

One common misconception: If AHCA approved it, we're good. Not quite. CMS, either directly or through accrediting bodies like The Joint Commission or DNV, may still cite findings based on different code editions or interpretations, particularly since CMS often references older versions of NFPA codes (e.g., 2012 LSC) while AHCA enforces the latest Florida codes.

So, what's the strategy?

Design and operate for both. The most stringent requirement typically prevails, and being proactive about this dual compliance helps prevent costly rework, citations, or delays in occupancy.

In future columns, I'll dive deeper into specific code updates, field survey experiences, and practical strategies to stay ahead of evolving regulations. I also welcome your questions and ideas to keep this section interactive and focused on what matters most to you.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve in this role. Here's to staying compliant, informed, and always survey ready.

## THE SHIFT FROM FALL PREVENTION TO FRACTURE PREVENTION: A NEW APPROACH IN HEALTHCARE



At healthcare trade shows worldwide, the concept of fall prevention dominates discussions. Institutions dedicate substantial financial and logistical resources to strategies aimed at reducing the number of patient falls, as the impact of falls is particularly severe within healthcare institutions. Falls are the leading cause of injury for adults aged 65 and older, with one in four older adults reporting a fall each year, resulting in over 14 million falls annually. This issue is further underscored by 38,000 deaths from falls in 2021 and 3 million emergency department visits due to fall-related injuries. However, reports from healthcare facilities in Japan reveal a concerning reality—despite extensive efforts, fall prevention measures have only resulted in a marginal 0.2% reduction in falls. Conversations with administrators around the globe echo this disappointing trend, leading to a stark revelation: fall prevention simply isn't effective.

Recognizing the shortcomings of existing strategies, Japan is pioneering a paradigm shift from fall prevention to fracture prevention. This transformative approach began with Hiroshi Shimomura, the founder of Magic Shields. With a background as a lead engineer at Yamaha Motocross Racing, Shimomura specialized in safety innovations for motorcycles, including the development of metamaterial structures to absorb impact. His focus shifted to healthcare after his grandmother suffered a fracture from a fall, prompting him to engineer a solution that would provide effective impact reduction while maintaining stability and eliminating trip hazards.

From this moment, Magic Shields emerged, offering a thin yet highly effective flooring solution—just 10mm thick—to prevent fractures. Healthcare facilities implementing these solutions can choose between wall-to-wall flooring for new construction and remodels or mat installations for existing buildings. Both versions eliminate trip hazards by featuring sloped edges starting at 0mm and rising to 10mm, ensuring smooth transitions. The firm surface promotes user confidence, providing stability for individuals using wheelchairs or walkers.

Today, Magic Shields is Japan's leading manufacturer in fracture prevention, spearheading the nation's shift toward this innovative strategy. With over 1000 healthcare clients, the company's impact is undeniable. After completing a survey of 100 facilities utilizing the Magic Shields mat, there was only one fracture documented. One study conducted in Hiroshima over one year and four months evaluated 11 hospitals with 230 deployed mats. The results were striking: there were 2,418 falls in rooms without the mats, leading to 93 fractures, while 193 falls occurred on the Magic Shields mats—resulting in ZERO fractures.

Given the overwhelming success of fracture prevention compared to traditional fall prevention methods, more healthcare providers around the world are embracing this logical transition.

Magic Shields products are now warehoused in North Carolina, continuing their mission to revolutionize fall-related injury prevention.

*To learn more, visit [www.magicshieldsusa.com](http://www.magicshieldsusa.com) or [www.magicshields.co.jp](http://www.magicshields.co.jp) and discover how this groundbreaking shift can make a real difference. Doug McNeill, VP of Global Sales, Magic Shields, [doug.mcneill@magicshields.co.jp](mailto:doug.mcneill@magicshields.co.jp)*

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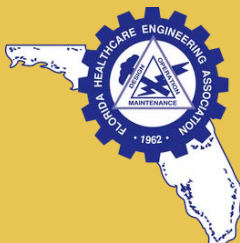
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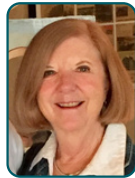
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