

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF WHEA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE & HONORING THE MEMORY OF JANE BRUVOLD

It is with great pride and gratitude that I reflect on the recent Wisconsin Healthcare Engineers Association (WHEA) Annual Conference, held this year in the vibrant city of Green Bay. Thanks to the dedication and engagement of our members, exhibitors, sponsors, and speakers, the conference was a tremendous success. The event brought together healthcare engineers from across the state, fostering learning, collaboration, and innovation — all essential to advancing the critical work we do in healthcare facilities.

This year's conference was filled with enlightening presentations, insightful panel discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. Whether it was sharing the latest industry trends or exchanging real-world solutions, the energy throughout the event was inspiring. We also welcomed new faces and reconnected with long-time colleagues, reinforcing the strong community that defines WHEA.

As we celebrate this success, it is with a heavy heart that I must also share the news of a profound loss to our WHEA family. Our dear friend and colleague, Jane Bruvold, recently passed away. Jane was not only a remarkable professional but also, as I often called her, "the Heart of WHEA." Her tireless support of WHEA's various committees and board members was instrumental to the smooth functioning and growth of our organization. Whether behind the scenes or on the frontlines, Jane ensured that everyone had the resources, guidance, and encouragement needed to thrive.

Jane's legacy will live on in the values she instilled in all of us: service, collaboration, and community. Her dedication serves as a reminder that our work is not only about maintaining facilities but also about supporting each other as we serve our healthcare organizations.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce that next year's WHEA Annual Conference will be held in Appleton. We are already planning an engaging program to build on this year's momentum, and I hope to see many of you there as we continue to learn, grow, and honor the spirit of community that Jane cherished so deeply.

Thank you once again to everyone who made the Green Bay conference such a success. Let's carry this momentum forward, keeping Jane's memory alive by supporting one another and working together to achieve even greater things in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Matt Malmin

President, Wisconsin Healthcare Engineers Association

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# MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

### **DECEMBER**

Friday 6 Board Meeting
Friday 6 Member Services Meeting
Glacier Canyon | 1:00 PM
Friday 6 Newsletter Article Deadline
Tuesday 31 Newsletter Mailing Deadline

### **JANUARY**

Friday 31 Directory Advertising Deadline



### Memoriam – JANE BRUVOLD

LAC DU FLAMBEAU- Jane Christine Bruvold, age 69, of Lac du Flambeau, Wis., passed away on October 20, 2024. Born on April 1, 1955, Jane grew up on a dairy farm in Valders, Wis., where her determination and strong will were shaped early on-traits that she carried with pride throughout her life. She married Harlan Bruvold on August 16, 1980, and together they built a life full of love, raising their children and creating countless cherished memories.

Jane loved to travel, with a cruise to Alaska with Harlan being one of her favorite adventures. Beyond her travels, she found great joy in spending time with her children, granddaughters, family, and friends-whether it was at the lake or simply gathered together. Her wit, passion, and independence touched everyone she encountered.

Jane was also proud of her career with the Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association (WHEA), where she worked for 20 years as an administrative assistant, coordinating the work of nearly every WHEA committee, and was a tremendous resource to the organization of the annual conferences. The WHEA state board conferred Honorary Membership upon her in 2004 and she became eligible for a 20-yr award this year. She was a tremendously valuable resource to the organization and played a major role in support of numerous WHEA programs.

Jane was preceded in death by her husband, Harlan; parents, Harold and Betty Reinertson; and sister-in-law, Kari Reinertson. She is survived by her children, Ryan (Jill) Bruvold and Brianna (Andy) Makinster; granddaughters, Ivy, and Liv Makinster; siblings, Tom (Cindy) Reinertson, Mark (Sheryl) Reinertson, Peter (Lisa) Reinertson, Alan (Ellen) Reinertson and Mary (John) Brantley; as well as many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Her vibrant character and the love she shared will remain in the hearts of all who knew her.

Those who knew Jane

knew she never liked being in the spotlight. In lieu of a formal service and keeping with her wishes, her family invites you to take a quiet moment to think of your favorite memory of Jane, listen to one of her favorite songs, "Nights in White Satin," by The Moody Blues, and raise a glass in her honor. They hope you'll celebrate her life in a way she would have appreciated.

For those who feel inclined, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society to help fund research and find a cure for this disease.

"Breathe deep the gathering gloom, Watch lights fade from every room. Bedsitter people look back and lament, Another day's useless energy spent. Impassioned lovers wrestle as one, Lonely man cries for love and has none. New mother picks up and suckles her son, Senior citizens wish they were young. Cold-hearted orb that rules the night, Removes the colors from our sight. Red is gray and yellow white, But we decide which is right. And which is an illusion?"

- Nights in White Satin - Late Lament, The Moody Blues

Online condolences may be made at www.gundersonfh.com.

Gunderson Stoughton Funeral & Cremation Care 1358 Highway 51 N. at Jackson St. (608) 873-4590



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### WHEA CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

All scheduled events are subject to change. Be sure to check with your Chapter, Committee or the WHEA website for a possible schedule changes.

11/1/2024 Education & Professional Development

Committee Meeting

11/14/2024 Lunch & Learn Series Webinar

Thermal Imaging

11/14/2024 Chapter I Meeting

12/10/2024 Chapter IV Holiday Meeting

12/12/2024 Lunch & Learn Series Webinar -

Critical Environment Ceiling Grids

12/12/2024 Chapter I Meeting

For additional details on calendar events (time, location address, etc.), go to www.whea.com and click on the individual event under the "CALENDAR" tab.



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### CHAPTER V UPDATE

# THIRD QUARTER 2024 OCTOBER 22, 2024

Chapter V enjoyed a fairly eventful third quarter. It all started with our August 15 meeting at Marshfield Clinic in Rice Lake, WI - thank you for hosting. Our education was done by Trane & Complete Control regarding Building Automation Systems (BAS). They did a great job and it was very informative. We also got a tour of the facility as well, always appreciate those behind the scene opportunities.

Our final meeting of the year was held October 17 at the Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club. The training for the meeting was regarding Code Updates, presented the WHEA Code Committee Co-Chairs – Jeff Eckstein and David Soens. We elected our officers for 2025, as well:

- · President Ben Trachsel
- Vice President Mogan Weiss
- Treasurer Kelly Roshell
- · Secretary Walker Golubiff
- · Office at Large Dwight Heath
- Past President Matt Preston

Following the meeting we were able to shoot at some clay pigeons, all were hit by our shooting or the ground. We will meet again in January for our Annual Banquet, hoping to put a little spin on it with a fun activity involved as well.



Chapter V shooting clays event, 10/17/24. Standing, I-r: Matt Malmin, Dwight Heath, Kris Hahn, Paul Corey, Sam Mannhardt, Travis Klukas, John Lahti, Dave Wahlstrom, Ben Trachsel Kneeling: Walker Golubiff and Rhonda Flagstad





# 2024 FOUNDERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

### JENNY NELSON

On October 3, 2024, The Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association presented the Founders Award for Outstanding Service to Jenny Nelson.

Jenny currently serves on the WHEA State Board, is a Chapter II Representative and is on the WHEA Foundation Board. She has been instrumental in setting up multiple events and is extremely successful at fundraising for Chapter II and the WHEA Foundation. Her expertise to help raise money for the WHEA Foundation grants members funding to further their education and grow their careers.

Jenny joined the State Board as secretary in 2024 and will move into the Vice President roll for 2025. Jenny has led the way in multiple roles for WHEA and I am excited to follow her in the next few years as she becomes the President for WHEA in 2026. Jenny's career in healthcare has followed many paths and today I am fortunate to have Jenny as a colleague with me at UPH-Meriter Hospital. I would not be in my current position on the WHEA State Board had Jenny not reached out to me. The board is grateful to Jenny for all her hard work and dedication.

Jeff Weber, President, WHEA 2024







# 2024 ROBERT H. BOTTS HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING PIONEER AWARD

### **ERIC BRAUN**

The 2024 Robert H. Botts Healthcare Engineering Pioneer Award was conferred upon Eric Braun during the 2024 Annual WHEA banquet in recognition of his significant achievements and contributions to the profession of Healthcare Engineering in the field of healthcare facility maintenance, construction management and innovation.

Eric has accepted the role of putting the WHEA Sustainability and Energy Committee back together. As a commitment to this committee, one of the major roles is to provide information to the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE). Eric was instrumental in helping WHEA meet the ASHE Chapter Leadership requirements, which in turn moved us to the next, higherlevel of recognition in 2024 -- ASHE's Platinum Elite status. He also launched the first WHEA Sustainability & Energy Committee webinar to include ways to look at energy consumption and how we can work together to reduce it.

In addition to his work with the Sustainability and Energy Committee, he is also serving as the Treasurer of Chapter III. He has been a member of WHEA since 2015, and also holds membership in ASHE.











# MEETING JOINT COMMISSION FIRE DRILL REQUIREMENTS: SCHEDULING, DOCUMENTATION, AND COMPLIANCE

CODES &

The Joint Commission requires healthcare facilities to conduct fire drills every three months to ensure preparedness for emergencies and adherence to safety standards, specifically EC.02.03.03. According to the Joint Commission's OPSIG (Official Positions on Standards & Interpretive Guidance) Memo 2021.01.01, a quarter is defined as a 90-day period with minimal flexibility, necessitating that drills occur within this precise timeframe. While this strict schedule helps maintain consistency, it can make it challenging to conduct drills at unpredictable times.

To accurately simulate emergency conditions, drills should be unannounced and held at random times to avoid conflicts with clinical cases, workloads, or busy periods. Each drill must be spaced by at least one hour and conducted across all shifts to ensure that all staff members, including those working off-hours, receive proper training.

#### **TIPS & TRICKS**

Utilize Excel to track your fire drills effectively. Create a spreadsheet that logs drills over a five-quarter period, including columns for the date, time, participants, and any issues noted. Ensure the spreadsheet covers the last four completed quarters and the current (fifth) quarter. Facilities often face challenges when surveyors review fire drill data spanning multiple years. To meet Joint Commission requirements, the JCI Fire Drill Matrix should display data for the last four completed quarters plus the current quarter. Including data for this period on one sheet helps demonstrate to both the organization and surveyors that fire drills are consistently documented and properly spaced.

Matt Malmin, WHEA President, 2025 Member, WHEA Codes and Standards Committee

### **CHAPTER VI**

### LEROY BUTLER OFFERS PHOTO OP FOR WHEA CHAPTERS



LeRoy Butler made himself available to each WHEA Chapter for group photos after the 2024 Annual Banquet. Pictured here are members from Chapter VI: Front row (I-r) Kevin Feyen, LeRoy, Dan Hesse, Kortney Kenville, and Matt Bond. Second row (I-r) Brian Ernst, Donella Sarauer, Terry Sosinsky, Bill Fieck, and Weston Gumbert. Third Row (I-r) Brent Diehm, Mike Jankowski, Michael Steele





### **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The Whova app was another success at this year's annual conference. Here are some statistics:

- 52% of attendees downloaded the app this year
- There were over 1,000 messages posted via the app
- 52 community board posts
- 440 photos were shared
- 2,197 attendee profile views

The Technology Committee had a post event meeting with Whova to discuss our event and some potential ideas we had. We will review again in the next month and make our suggestion to the State Board for next year.

Basecamp is now being utilized by the State Board to hold and share important documents and information. All Chapter Presidents (and some V.P.s), Committee

Chairs and Co-Chairs have received an invite to join and add the documents they feel are necessary for the ongoing success of their Chapter or Committee. The cost is being fully funded by the State.

The Technology Committee continues to ask for input / content / pictures from all Chapters and Committees on pertinent information that can be posted on social media and for ideas on possible future technology needs. Please reach out to one of our members for further information.

Jim Benedict, Chair - Chapter I jbenedict@milwaukeecatholichome.org Katie Smith, Co-Administrator - Chapter I, Chapter II Jessica Jensen, Co-Administrator - Chapter I, Chapter III jjensen@phigenics.com Jenna Jordan, Co-Administrator - Chapter I, Chapter III jljordan@ecslimited.com





# EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EPDC

We lost a very major member of our team this fall. Jane Bruvold passed away on October 20 after a battle with cancer. She was a cornerstone to our EPDC. If you attended a training put on by WHEA, you had the opportunity to meet her. If you ever had a question that was answered, you had the opportunity to work with her. When you logged on to the web site, you had the opportunity to see her magic. With the passing of Jane, we lost a great friend, a wonderful person and a caring mother. She never allowed us to get too far from our foundation or our responsibilities. Our deepest condolences to Jane's family and to those that had the opportunity to get to know her. She will be missed.

The EPDC is proud to once again offer programs that our members have requested. We are meeting on November 1st to set our 2025 popular Lunch and Learn programs and we will send it out as soon as it is set. Our 2024 programs have been received with very good reviews. We attempt to work with our contractors or suppliers to maintain a high level of training with our very low costs. All the programs listed came from your suggestions throughout the 2024 year as responses to our program evaluations. Thank you for your continued support to the education of our members in 2025.

As a subscriber, you will receive the recorded links to all the webinars; past ones to review or watch for the first time. These may be watched at any time that you wish. Go to the Education tab at the www.whea.com site, sign up, and start your learning today. You will receive the login information for the next scheduled webinar and the links to all previous recordings. You never have to miss a program again. The cost for the annual webinar series will again be \$300 for WHEA members and \$500 for non WHEA members. Join now: www.whea.com.

**Darrell Courtney** 

Co-Chair, WHEA EPDC







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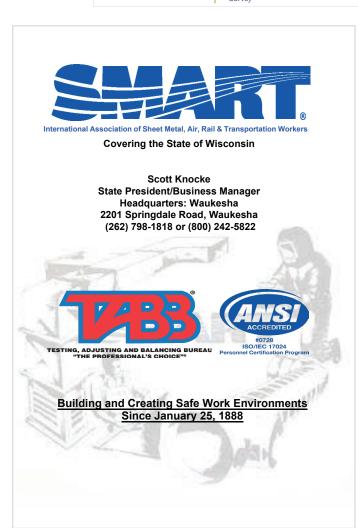
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Are you looking for a change - an opportunity to advance your career? Check here for employment opportunities available for Wisconsin healthcare facilities professionals!

You can find all Employment Opportunities, with their individual links to apply, at www.whea.com under the "About" tab. Or click here: https://www.whea.com/about/employment/

The cost to place an employment ad both in one of the quarterly newsletters and on www.whea.com is \$100 per quarter if you are a WHEA member and \$200 per quarter for non-members. If you would like to place an employment ad, contact Roger Elliott at rwelae@charter.net or 715-563-2069 for further information.

### **CURRENT JOB OPENINGS**

#### **Columbia Health Care Center**

**Environmental Services Manager:** Columbia Health Care Center located in Wyocena, WI is recognized for its commitment to excellence. We are currently recruiting for a full time Environmental Services Manager. This position plans and supervises maintenance, housekeeping, and laundry functions to ensure a safe/sanitary environment for residents, staff, and visitors.

<u>Requirements:</u> Two or more years of management/supervisory experience preferred. Three years' experience or post high school education in mechanical, electrical, plumbing and/or HVAC. Journeyman/tradesman license preferred. The position starting wage is \$26.737 - \$29.029 per hour based on experience. We offer a generous benefits package including Health, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance and WI State Retirement.

For more information contact Lori.Aldridge@columbiacountywi.gov or 608-429-4241. Full job description and applications are available at www.co.columbia.wi.us or onsite at 323 W. Monroe Street, Wyocena, WI. The Columbia Health Care Center is an equal opportunity employer.



