

ALASHE NEWS

Issue 4

September

2025

ALASHE SHOUTOUT



A huge shout out to our sponsors! Our organization cannot run smoothly without their help and all the work they do for the society. Thank you!!



**TJC CHANGES
COMING SOON**

Reminder: TJC EC/LS standards are changing in January 2026. Be ready!

Check out the [Accreditation 360](#) page.

ACCEPTING NEWSLETTER CONTENT

Do you have an article, idea or special announcement for the quarterly newsletter?

You can submit it to Andrew Williams at rawilliams@health.southalabama.edu.



TOP NEWS

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President's Corner

A brief message from your AlasHE President

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Cold Weather Humidity Challenges

Managing humidity in cold weather is key to keeping facilities safe and comfortable.

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2025 Fall Conference

View the conference agenda and make plans to attend

CHECK US OUT:



[alashe.org](https://www.alashe.org)



[linkedin.com/company/alashe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/alashe)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



As my term as President of the Alabama Society of Healthcare Engineers comes to a close, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your support,

dedication, and commitment to excellence. Together, we've continued to strengthen this incredible organization—and I'm proud to share that, for the first time in our history, AlaSHE has achieved **Platinum-Elite Chapter** status. Congratulations to everyone who helped make this milestone possible!

Looking ahead, our **2025 Fall Conference and Technical Exhibition** will be held October 1–3 at the Hilton Pensacola Beach. We have a packed, high-value agenda this year, so we'll begin our educational programming early—Wednesday afternoon—with a deep dive into ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43.

Other highlights of the program include:

- A look at The Joint Commission's new Physical Environment chapter
- Updates on medical gas compliance
- Best practices in barrier management
- And, for the first time, a presentation from DNV on their services and survey processes

This promises to be another impactful, informative event—and we hope to see you there!

This past month, we were honored to welcome Mr. George Mills, former Director of Engineering at The Joint Commission,

to UAB. During one of our conversations, he shared a personal story that deeply resonated. He spoke about the moment he committed to staying in healthcare—watching his young son being wheeled into an operating room. That experience reminded him, and reminded me, of the deeper purpose behind our work.

As healthcare facilities professionals, we regularly focus on KPIs, sustainability, and regulatory compliance. But sometimes, we lose sight of the bigger picture—the “why” behind what we do.

At the heart of it all, our work ensures that healthcare environments are safe, efficient, and ready to support the best possible patient care. That mission is our calling. It's a purpose we can be proud of, and the accomplishments of our organizations are a testament to that dedication.

Thank you for everything you do—for your facilities, your teams, and, most importantly, the patients and communities you serve.

Thank you,
Rick Gerger, MSHA, CHFM, CHC, SASHE
AlaSHE President



Several members of the AlaSHE board went to the Healthcare Facilities Innovation Conference this year and accepted the Platinum Elite award for the chapter. Congratulations to the entire chapter for this award!

COLD WEATHER HUMIDITY CHALLENGES



Susan Dickson,
CHSP, ASP

Many of you face this challenge every winter during cold snaps, the humidity level in your operating rooms drop below the acceptable level. This drop in humidity can increase the risk of a surgical fire. Also, some equipment and supplies can be negatively affected by low humidity levels.

I thought of a way to mitigate this issue and after speaking with a few of my colleagues, who are more knowledgeable on HVAC than myself, I decided to present this idea to the group. My idea is to run the humidity level up towards the top of your acceptable range before a cold front comes into the area. The hope is that we can maintain the humidity level within the acceptable range throughout the duration of the cold front. If your organization decides to give this idea a try this winter, please report the outcome to the group.

FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, October 1

- 11 am – Registration
- 1-3 pm – ASHRAE/ASHE Guideline 43: Jonathan Flannery, CHFM, MHSA, FASHE, FACHE Senior Associate Director, ASHE Regulatory Affairs
- 4:30-6:30 pm – Technical Exhibition

THURSDAY, October 2

- 7:30 am- 4:30 pm – Registration
- 7 am – Breakfast
- 8-8:15 am – Opening Remarks: President Rick Gerger; Introduction of Platinum & Gold Sponsors
- 8:15-10:15 am – DNV: Kelly Proctor
- 10:30-11:30 am – Safe & Efficient Steam Energy: Jerry Hardin & Camron Hardin, 901 Services LLC
- 11:30 am-1 pm – Lunch & Technical Exhibition
- 1-2 pm – Using Smart Devices, Data & AI to Automate Compliance to Pass Your Next Survey: Christopher Hariz, Hexmodal

- 2:15-3:15 pm – TBA: Shay Rankhorn, CxA, Facility Diagnostics
- 3:15-4:15 pm – Medical Gas Presentation: Cary Darden, Environmental & Medical Gas Services
- 4:15-5 pm – AlaSHE Business Meeting: President Rick Gerger; ASHE Update: Ken Swanson, ASHE Liaison
- 5-6:30 pm – Technical Exhibition; Door prize drawing (5:45)
- 6:45 pm – Dinner @ Crabs

FRIDAY, October 3

- 7am – Breakfast
- 8-9 am – Sustainable Processes for Managing Life Safety Barriers: Mark Izsa, Regional Manager/Healthcare-Mid-Atlantic, STI Firestop
- 9-11 am – Joint Commission Update
- 11:10-11:55 am – Platinum Sponsor Presentation; Closing Remarks, Door Prizes & Adjourn