Providing ASHE members with the latest news and professional opportunities.

August 20, 2013

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

George Mills outlines top Joint Commission citations and tips on compliance

In the past few years, seven out of 10 top citations from Joint Commission surveys have stemmed from problems in the health care physical environment. George Mills, MBA, FASHE, CEM, CHFM, director of the Department of Engineering at the Joint Commission, recently spoke about these issues at the ASHE Annual Conference, where he was one of three plenary speakers from accrediting organizations. A new ASHE article outlines the top citations as well as Mills’s tips for compliance. ASHE will run more articles about this presentation, as well as articles on presentations from DNV and HFAP, in upcoming editions of the ASHE Insider.

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ADVOCACY UPDATE

Taking a balanced approach toward codes and standards

Hospitals are unique environments that require a balanced approach to regulation, but how do we know when health care facilities have reached optimal levels of protection and further requirements are not necessary? ASHE recently discussed this issue with ASHE Director of Codes and Standards Chad Beebe, AIA, SASHE, and William Koffel, PE, FSFPE, president of consulting firm Koffel Associates, Inc. The question-and-answer interview can be found on page 40 of the 2013 ASHE Advocacy Report.

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INDUSTRY UPDATE

Construction spending on health care expected to increase sharply next year

American Institute of Architects

A semi-annual construction forecast issued by the American Institute of Architects
(AIA) has scaled back projections for growth in spending in 2013 due to slower than expected activity in nonresidential construction during the first half of the year. However, the Consensus Construction Forecast predicted stronger institutional construction spending in 2014. The forecast predicts sharp gains in the health care sector next year, with spending projected to increase almost 8 percent. The AIA says much of these anticipated gains are likely the result of increased health care coverage provided by the Affordable Care Act.

FDA offers guidance on wireless medical devices

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued new guidance on wireless medical devices. The FDA developed the guidance for device manufacturers and others to highlight issues that should be considered to provide for safe and effective use of these devices. The document also includes topics useful to those in the health care industry, including the selection of wireless technology and considerations for maintenance. The guidance is available online or as a PDF.

New health care climate provides opportunities for facilities

Health Facilities Management
A veteran Texas A&M University architecture professor recently told Health Facilities Management magazine that the Affordable Care Act and the trend toward sustainability are providing opportunities for health care facilities to better serve patients and cut costs. The interview with George Mann, AIA, also explores the topics of health care information technology and hospital design.

ASHE HIGHLIGHTS

Voting begins for 2013 ASHE elections

Voting has begun for the 2013 ASHE elections. ASHE members can cast their votes for several positions, including the 2015 ASHE president, the associate member director, and regional directors from Regions 3, 6, 7, 8, and 10. The winner of the 2013 presidential election will serve as president-elect in 2014 and will assume the presidency in 2015 for a one-year term. The associate member director and regional directors will serve a two-year term that begins January 1, 2014, and ends December 31, 2015. Voting for the 2013 elections ends at 11:59 p.m. Central Time on Sept. 2, 2013. ASHE members recently received an e-mail with voting instructions.
Vista Awards application deadline is Sept. 30

The deadline for Vista Award applications is approaching. Since 1993, ASHE has awarded the Vista Awards to recognize teamwork in the design and construction of the health care physical environment. The awards are given in three categories: new construction, renovation, and infrastructure. Applications are due on Sept. 30, and more information is available online.

BLOG & LISTSERV UPDATE

ASHE Blog
Visit the ASHE Blog for the latest news updates and discussions on topics affecting the health care physical environment. This members-only site offers a chance to weigh in on topics by leaving comments on blog posts. You can also subscribe to the blog to get e-mail updates when new posts are published.

The ASHE LISTSERV...your professional information exchange network
Get information from your peers and colleagues by becoming an active user of the ASHE LISTSERV®. Don't miss the chance to network on the issues that impact you the most. Recently, the following topics were addressed:

- Hyperbaric cost per square foot
- Joint Commission draft standards for radiology safety
- Fire-stopping conduit
- Service and therapy dog policies
- Non-chemical water tower treatments

SAVE THE DATE

2014 PDC

International Summit & Exhibition on Health Facility Planning, Design, & Construction (PDC)™
March 16-19, 2014
Orlando, Fla.

DATES & DEADLINES

September 30
Vista Award Applications Due
asheinsider@aha.org.

To post a position in ASHE's Career Flash, e-mail ashecareer@aha.org.