



Skanda V. Skandaverl, MBA, FASHE, BSM 2022 Candidate for President-Elect

Bio

Skanda Skandaverl has over thirty-two years of progressive experience in all stages of the healthcare industry and is currently serving as the Division Director of CommonSpirit Health. He oversees Facility Management, Energy and Infrastructure in Midwest divisions. Skanda strives to enhance the healthcare industry to ensure that all healthcare services are delivered with efficiency. Prior to his career in healthcare, Skanda worked in the electrical construction industry, where he acquired invaluable skills and extensive international experience in construction. He has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to improving the quality of the healthcare industry.

Skanda is active, regionally and nationally, in various healthcare organizations. He has been an active member of the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) since 1990 and continues to hold various positions with ASHE. He graduated from the ASHE Leadership Institute in 2008. Skanda was the President of the Kansas City Area Healthcare Engineers (KCAHE) and Kansas Hospital Engineers Association (KHEA) from 2003 to 2005 and 2005 to 2006 respectively. ASHE selected Skanda as the Region Eight Emerging Leader in 2004. When Skanda was in Virginia, working for Sentara Healthcare System, he served as the President of Virginia Society Healthcare Engineers (VSHE) Hampton Chapter and represented region three on the ASHE board. Skanda was the president for Nebraska Society of Healthcare Engineers (NSHE) in 2017. He served on the ASHE Healthcare Executive Leadership Council, was on the faculty of many healthcare engineering conferences, including ASHE. Skanda has written numerous articles and spoken at many conferences and served on the ASHE Board 2018 to 2021 representing region eight. Skanda continues to serve on ASHE committees.

Skanda holds a diploma in Electrical Engineering, a bachelor's degree in Management and an MBA. He is a Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM), Certified Healthcare Constructor (CHC) and a Fellow Member of ASHE (FASHE). He is a member of American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and is a firm believer in continuing education and professional growth to further his contributions within the healthcare industry.

Candidate Questionnaire

1. As the health care landscape continues to change, what are some of the common challenges facing the entire ASHE membership?

The healthcare delivery system has been continuously changing and we need to proactively embrace those changes to best prepare for the possibility of future health related epidemics.

One of our challenges is to maintain and upgrade many of our aging infrastructures with proper ventilation systems for patient care and to be in compliance with many changing codes and standards.

The other pressing issue is the shortage of healthcare facility professionals. Recruiting and retaining talented facility staff has become a challenge. As the baby boomers retire, we do not have enough technical staff entering the healthcare workforce to offset the loss of talents and skills necessary to lead our healthcare facility teams.

We need to train and retain our staff with continuous education to be the future facility leaders. We need more virtual educational courses and conferences for our members. ASHE has several online courses and we need to expand the curriculum to cover all of our areas.

Networking and communicating with other healthcare communities is vital to our survival in the event of a future healthcare crisis. We must build a communication framework to share the information in a timely manner.

2. What can ASHE do to ensure that the needs of all members are being met?

The demographic of membership is changing. We must reach out to all of our members and address what is important to them. There are opportunities for collaboration amongst ASHE chapters, associates and vendor members. This is important so we understand their issues and address their needs and concerns.

We need to work together to build a coalition so we can strengthen our stand in healthcare to face any future challenges.

ASHE must expand the Leadership Institute to accommodate more courses and provide more resources to ASHE staff so we can support all chapters with educational programs.

There is an overlying fear of joining healthcare environments after the pandemic. We need to ensure that it does not deter any professionals from entering healthcare facility engineering.

We are spending an enormous amount of time and money to be in compliance with codes and standards that do not necessarily support patient care. American Hospital Association, ASHE and other experts in the industry should join forces in our advocacy efforts and work with regulatory authorities to remove or modify the burdensome codes and standards.

Our members need our support at all times and ASHE must have the resources and bandwidth to support all of our chapters and members.

3. The Advisory Board sets the vision and strategic direction for the organization. What specific initiatives would you like to accomplish to help advance the ASHE strategic plan?

I will uphold our strategic vision:

Optimization Facility Operation: I will work with leadership forums and chapters to encourage our members to participate in ASHE programs that provide in-depth knowledge in the best facility operations.

Member Inclusion: I will work with the ASHE Board to add more resources so we have the capacity to serve all our chapters. We will provide more educational programs to the chapters.

Career Advancement: I will encourage members to obtain ASHE credentials that provide confidence and respect among peers in the healthcare world. Continuing education is vital for

our members for career development and to understand the new codes and standards. Our members will be viewed as valued professionals to support our leadership.

Capital Planning: One of the major challenges our members face is managing aging infrastructure due to deferred capital funds. I will work with ASHE to provide more educational programs to incorporate capital planning and best practices into facility operations.

Regulation: The ASHE advocacy team is already working on this area and has made remarkable success. I will accelerate this advocacy program, teaming up with experts in the industry, using meaningful data and working with regulatory authorities to reduce code conflicts.

4. What professional or personal experiences have helped prepare you to serve as an ASHE leader?

I have been working in the healthcare industry for 32 years. I have served on numerous committees, task forces and the ASHE Board for six years representing regions three and eight. In my role as the Division Director with CommonSpirit Health, I currently serve 34 hospitals in diverse locations across four states in the Midwest. Visiting with members at the chapters and addressing the issues at our facilities, provides me with unique insight into our professional challenges.

I have served as the President of four ASHE chapters and understand the chapters' needs. I have served on the Healthcare Executive Leadership Council (HELC) and gained the opportunity to know many other executives in similar, large organizations while understanding their challenges.

Over the years, I have worked with many ASHE presidents, board members, healthcare professionals, vendor partners, and ASHE staff and faculty. Many of them are my mentors and I am indebted to them for their support and guidance in my professional life. I am fortunate to have the support of my organization and my family on this journey.

I am very passionate about our industry and ASHE. I am prepared to take on the ASHE Presidency and lead ASHE to the next level.