



## **Donald Page, ME, MBA**

### **2022 Candidate for Advisory Board Region 5 Representative**

#### **Bio**

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My name is Don Page, ME, MBA, I am the Director of Engineering at Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) in Vincennes, Indiana. I have had the opportunity to fill this role for the past 12 years of my professional career, the passion to be successful for the patients and their families keeps me inspired to do all I can for the communities we serve. My responsibilities at GSH include oversight of Bio-medical engineering, plant operations, general maintenance, and all renovation/construction projects. Most importantly I fill the role of being a “caregiver” to whoever needs assistance within the facility whether that is a patient, family member, or co-worker. My goal at work is pretty simple; “Make a Difference”, three little words that have a big impact. Whether it’s construction of a multi-million dollar facility, working with problem solving teams, or simply giving someone directions in the hall, all contribute to the simple “Make a Difference” goal. This is something anyone can do without much effort and regardless of their position.

During my career I have had the opportunity to build a new 5 story patient tower (Gibault Memorial), along with renovations throughout much of the remaining space. I have completed many other projects of varying sizes throughout my career, working with department leaders and staff to ensure we are meeting their needs. I am very excited about a current project where we are working on a “pre-fab” concept for the HVAC replacement in our main surgery suite, our goal is to minimize downtime and maximize revenue generation during the installation. Lastly, building a strong, cohesive engineering team has also been a priority to ensure we provide the best service possible to our patients and co-workers. The past 5 years I have served on the ISHE (Indiana Society of Healthcare Engineers) board in various capacities, currently being in the position of past president, and ASHE Liaison. In 2020 I received the “Engineer of the Year” award from ISHE, and in 2022 I was honored to receive the “MAX” award. This award recognizes the recipient’s dedication to ISHE and healthcare engineering. Prior to serving as president I was the “Midwest Healthcare Engineering Conference” committee chairperson for 2 years.

As far as interests and hobbies it can be summed up as “all things outdoors”. I enjoy running, golfing, pickleball, hiking, and hunting. For the past 6 years I have also been refereeing high school basketball as a way to stay connected to the game I truly enjoyed playing for many years. I also enjoy woodworking, tinkering in my shop and driving the 1960 Ford Thunderbird that my son and I restored.

#### **Candidate Questionnaire**

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

An issue that is plaguing every aspect of healthcare, industry, and service organizations is the shortage of labor. Obtaining and/or retaining quality skilled and non-skilled labor has become a real challenge for healthcare providers regardless of the position. Along with finding laborers in general, the wages now being required to hire, or retain, the employees continues to increase at

an alarming rate which has a direct impact to the bottom line. How do you offset the increase in operating budget in labor wages at a time when margins are continuing to decrease?

Sustainability and Energy cost reduction efforts are now expected rather than the optional “right thing to do”. The ever increasing costs of natural gas, oil, and electricity are difficult to offset without the capital funding to support the endeavors. The challenge lies in competing with direct patient care capital requests as we try to address sustainability and energy cost reduction efforts.

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

One of the most challenging endeavors for ASHE is providing “low-cost” educational opportunities for “all” the members. Although ASHE does an awesome job with educational material, and the cost, what else can be done to make it even more readily available? As things get tougher in the facilities the last thing we want are members dropping out because of financial cuts that have to be made. I would also look to further engage members at the chapter level(s), with the regional advocacy leaders. This is potentially an opportunity to gain further insight into what ASHE can do to assist them with the “every day” battles that they are facing at the facilities. ASHE has many “toolkits” available to the membership now, but continuing to expand these toolkits, to support standardization, will be a big help to the members. I would also encourage the continued efforts to address common issues with other agencies such as; CMS, NFPA, etc.

## **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?**

Membership growth is always an initiative that provides opportunities. When you look at the ASHE marketing data, 2021, 38% of membership is at the facility director level. When you continue down the list you see only 12% of C-suite, and only 7% at the supervisor level. Knowing the importance of “supervisors” to the healthcare organizations I would like to see advancement in this area of participation. Getting the tools, that ASHE provides, in their hands will not only make them more valuable to their respective organizations, but it will help prepare them for advancement when the opportunity presents itself. Additionally, when you look at the “primary job responsibility” distribution list you see that safety, energy, and environmental management only make up 8% of the members (6% being in safety), yet the major topics in healthcare are dealing with the environment and energy conservation efforts. How can we get them more involved?

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

Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana has provided me the opportunity to serve as the Director of Engineering for the past 12 years with responsibility over renovation projects, construction oversight, plant operations, biomedical technician group, and maintenance. During this time we constructed a new 5 story patient tower and renovated a significant amount of the existing facility, along with many other projects. This developed a strong understanding of codes and standards that are required as it pertains to healthcare facilities in general. I have also served on the ISHE (Indiana Society of Healthcare Engineers) board for 6 years, where I am currently serving as the past-president and ASHE Liaison. I am currently serving, past 5 years, on the board of the Knox County FQHC (Family Qualified Health Center), which included the development of a health center. This center provides healthcare services to indigent patients of the community who would otherwise not have a provider available to support their needs. By

serving on these Governing Boards, and other committees throughout the organization, I have developed my leadership skills further and increased my desire to serve, and lead, in other capacities when the opportunity presents itself such as the ASHE advisory board. All of these experiences share the sentiment of teamwork and that regardless of my role, the collaboration efforts contributed to me gaining relationships and experiences to potentially serve as an ASHE leader. And my experience is constantly growing because I am dedicated to learning.