



## **Jennifer Buschta**

### **2022 Candidate for Advisory Board Region 9 Representative**

#### **Bio**

---

I am the Facilities Engineering Manager at Mayo Clinic AZ, overseeing Plant Operations and Engineering Design at all our local campuses. I am still a bit young on the Operations side, having only been in this position for the last 8 years. However, I have been involved in the A/E/C industry since graduating college. I was an Electrical Design Engineer on the consulting side for the first 16 years of my career. In 2014 I was convinced (or tricked - not sure which!) to move over to the Facilities side. I'm fortunate in that I still get to play with my design side and assist on project review and construction, while managing the Plant Operations here at Mayo.

I have been involved in the Central Arizona Society for Healthcare Engineering (CASHE) local ASHE Chapter since 2007-ish. I served on the Education committee for two years, was President Elect/VP for 2 years, President in 2020-2021, and am currently halfway through my 2-year Immediate Past President term.

On a personal note, I grew up in New York (state, not City). I graduated from Penn State with an EE degree, lived in the greater VA/D.C. area for more than 5 years, followed by a short 15 month stint in Philadelphia, before moving to Phoenix in 2005.

#### **Candidate Questionnaire**

---

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

As the healthcare landscape continues to change, ASHE membership is facing common challenges. It's easy to go to the big topics of labor shortages, supply chain issues, and new sustainability initiatives breathing down our necks. I'd rather talk about succession planning. How do we continue to find young shop technicians, when we can't promise the glamour that a contractor might be able to? How do we convince young Engineers and Innovators to come into a Healthcare system, when big, private sector companies (who build new, fun, and more powerful devices for us all to use to shop, search, and be digitally social on) can offer more money and more enticing perks than a health system can? How do we find young Plant Operators? Once we do find these individuals, how do we train them and keep their skill sets continually moving forward at the same rate as technology and regulatory changes? I heard some great ideas at the ASHE Leadership Forum from some other Chapters. We need to pull together at the National level to share best practices among the Chapters, more than once a year.

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

ASHE needs to ensure that the needs of all members are being met. In order to do this, I believe that ASHE needs to continue to be heavily involved in Advocacy. Our members and leaders can directly influence codes, standards, and technology in such a way to help Facility Owners and buildings be more efficient, help us use our technicians and teams smarter, all

while helping to improve the overall environment of care. ASHE's reach is 12,500+ members strong. Sharing insight, explanations, and reminders to vote on upcoming changes that are being discussed within other national organizations (NFPA, for example) is paramount in helping our members stay up to date. We have many members who sit on committees, and who suggest changes or modifications. How can we help their efforts, and also help our membership understand what's being discussed? Additionally, I believe it's important for ASHE to remember that our membership is made up of a diverse group; Facility Engineers, PD&C, and our sponsors and other affiliate members. Ensuring we are providing the correct support for all three groups with diverse discussion topics is paramount to moving us all forward together.

**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?**

Member Inclusion is the specific initiative that I would like to accomplish to help advance the ASHE strategic plan. This 2022-2024 goal lines up with my personal desire for easier communication and sharing of information. We need to continue to find ways that ASHE can help our chapters, especially those with low membership or funds. We need to find ways to work smarter together and share ideas, speakers, resources across chapters and regions. Our Chapter Volunteer Boards have demanding full time jobs. ASHE needs to help make leading a chapter easier. In Region 9, we have a state without a chapter. I'd like to work within my own Region 9 Chapters to find ways to involve the Nevada ASHE Membership into our existing neighboring chapters, or (ideally) help them get a Chapter up and running. We need to collaborate at the regional level to share the Advocacy and ASHE updates that our Committee Chairs are bringing back from quarterly meetings with ASHE Leaders, and help include the Nevada Healthcare systems into this deep bench of resources that surround them.

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

Personally, I'm the Immediate Past President of the Central Arizona Society for Healthcare Engineering (CASHE). I was our "COVID President," serving Jan 2020- Dec 2021. I feel that this experience has helped prepare me to serve as an ASHE leader. CASHE was a chapter that was pretty much running itself, almost on autopilot. I inherited a very well-oiled machine and had an amazing board and even more amazing committee chairs. Then March 2020 came around. Similarly, to ASHE and every other chapter in the country, we had to pivot, and had to figure out how to run our monthly chapter meetings. We had to find new ways to reach out to our membership and keep them engaged.

Aligning with my personal initiatives, during my vice-presidency, CASHE completely revamped our scholarship program. We stopped donating scholarship funds to students at a major state university, where we were losing the students to our general contracting partners. We shifted to trade schools, spreading the word about the Healthcare Engineer and Operations field, hoping this will provide better dividends for our local Healthcare systems in succession planning.