



Jeffery T. O'Neill, AIA, ACHA, CHFM 2022 Candidate for Advisory Board Region 2 Representative

Bio

Jeffrey T. O'Neill is an experienced leader and executive with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and healthcare planning, design, and construction industry. Skilled in Facility Management, Renovations, New Building Construction, and Building Code Development, and graduated from The Catholic University of America in 1991 with a Bachelors of Architecture degree. Served as a Staff Architect at the Philadelphia Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Philadelphia from 1992 to 1998.

From there, progressed to Program Manager – Healthcare and principal at VITETTA, a full-service A/E design firm, until 2006. At that time, at Penn Medicine as a Senior Project Manager in the Real Estate, Design and Construction department, with progressive leadership, culminating as Senior Director of Facilities at Penn Medicine's Pennsylvania Hospital, where oversaw capital project implementation as well as operational departments in Engineering, Security, Environmental Services, Food & Nutrition, and Safety & Emergency Management, until July of 2022.

Currently in the role of Vice President of Plant Operations / Facilities at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, NJ with responsibility of large capital project implementation and facility operations.

Professional society involvement includes a member of ASHE, active with the Academy of Architecture for health in the American Institute of Architects. Also involved in the Committee for Healthcare and International Existing Building Code hearing committee, for the International Code Council (ICC), as it related to building code development as it relates to healthcare construction. Certifications include the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American College of healthcare Architects (ACHA), and a Certified health facility manager (CHFM) through the American Hospital Association.

Candidate Questionnaire

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

The primary challenge for the ASHE membership, as well as healthcare institutions across the country, is that there is a great need for succession of leadership in healthcare facility management. Many of the current director-level leadership are set to retire, and there is a need to fill those roles. At the same time, there are talent pools out there that are unaware of healthcare facility management as a career, and how rewarding it can be. Attracting talent to the field, considering contemporary concerns of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, is an untapped area to bring into the field. The merging of these two imperatives represents an opportunity, but a great challenge to the membership.

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

ASHE of course is more than just facility managers. It includes membership of consultants, constructors and ancillary fields that ensure the rich education of the membership. With new talent coming into the field, education for beginners, intermediate, and expert levels can be had. These areas are of regulatory compliance, the science of facility management, and the creativity of design. The focus of the Planning, Design & Construction (PDC) conference can be infused with all levels, and is an exciting, creative time of the year. The Annual, with its focus on facility management, is a ripe area for best practices to be shared and celebrated. Each of these conferences are the centerpieces of the education ASHE provides, and these brands can be expanded year-round into virtual settings, particularly at the regional level, to engage the changing workforce.

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?

ASHE can develop tools for leaders at the Regions to educate facility managers and associated consultants and contractors. Supporting events and mixers with tools developed at the PDC and Annual forums can be brought to the local level for those that may not be able to attend the centerpiece conferences. Particular focus on bringing those messages to the local level, and provision of important education, can provide the tools for all hospitals to effectively manage their facilities, and prepare consultants and contractors to that setting.

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

I have had the good fortune to work on both the consulting and healthcare institution sides of the profession. As an architect, I cannot think of a more impactful and rewarding area to practice than in healthcare. The physical environment has a direct impact on the well-being of patients, and the efforts around regulatory compliance, design, management and maintenance of the facility all goes to the larger mission of safety and a healing environment. It is important for our ASHE colleagues to remain connected to the healing mission, and how our work impacts on it.

As a leader at ASHE, I would hope to promote those principals of safety in our work, engage those currently in the profession, with a mind towards those new or interested in it, to see just how exciting it is to be involved in the healing mission. It has been my experience that connection with peers, either of similar roles or experts, has informed success in both the project and maintenance realms. I hope to foster those connections for continued and shared successes moving forward.