



Narsimha Irrinki, MS, PE, CHFM, CPE, CPD 2022 Candidate for Advisory Board Region 9 Representative

Bio

Narsimha Irrinki has been working in healthcare facilities for over 30 years. He is currently working as a Support Services Administrator at Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center. He oversees Engineering, Environmental Services, Security, Food Services, EH&S, Emergency Management, and Capital Planning. Prior to this position, Narsimha was the Director of Engineering at San Mateo Medical Center, and Assistant Director of Engineering at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. He also works as a Life Safety Code Specialist with The Joint Commission and has been surveying Life Safety, Environment of Care and Emergency Management standards for over 17 years.

Narsimha has been an active member of ASHE and serves as the Advocacy Liaison and Member Tools Task Force (MTTF). He is currently serving as the state President of California Society for Healthcare Engineering (CSHE), and the third term President of CSHE Silicon Valley Chapter. He is also a member of Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE), American Society of Plumbing Engineers (ASPE), American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He has reviewed and published articles in Health Facilities Magazine, and The Joint Commission EC News. He was an editorial member and published articles in AFE Journal.

Narsimha has a master's and bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Mechanical Engineer (P.E.) in California. His other credentials include Certified Healthcare Facility Manager (CHFM), Certified Plant Engineer (CPE), Certified in Plumbing Design (CPD), Healthcare Construction Certificate, and Certified Green Building Professional.

Over the span of 30 years, Narsimha contributed to several fields of healthcare facilities management. He has extensive experience in policy and procedures development, planning, design, commissioning, operation and maintenance of central plant type MEP equipment, building controls and energy reduction strategies. He continues to find ways to develop both professionally and personally by staying current with the industry standards. Narsimha is looking forward to serving on the ASHE Board to help grow membership, advocacy, education, and networking opportunities.

Candidate Questionnaire

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

In my 30 years of experience, I have observed a sea change in the healthcare landscape, and it continues to evolve. A major challenge that ASHE members currently face is the emergence of new infectious diseases that exacerbate difficulties that the health care industry has faced thus far. For instance, we all have seen significant staff burnout during the pandemic that caused worsening staffing shortages. These challenges manifest in making it harder to recruit competent workforce and employee retention. Other challenges we all face include limited budgets, rapid technology advancement, aging infrastructure, regulatory compliance,

catastrophic equipment failures, and disaster management. At the same time, regulatory compliance, patient-care experience, quality and safety add to these challenges.

Also, the challenges faced by members who are new to the healthcare industry are pronounced and require a different type of solution.

Each of these challenges require innovative solutions to be developed based on strategic planning and critical thinking skills. Another well-known solution that can be easily applied is the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis tool to proactively estimate the probability of risk and develop mitigation tools. Irrespective of the challenges, it is critical to stabilize the hospital operations and reduce the impact to patient care.

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

ASHE can do the following to meet the needs of all members:

- Implement eco-system of tools and resources that address daily operational challenges. These tools and resources should be practical, easy to use, low-cost and yield solutions that are easily implemented
- Offer training in core foundational courses that address the current demands of the industry. These courses should be developed and taught by subject matter experts
- Develop certifications and knowledge banks that test and provide deeper knowledge of regulatory compliance. These certifications include the NFPA Life Safety Code, Health Facilities Code, Safety, Security, Hazardous Materials and Waste, Utilities, Medical Equipment and Emergency Management Standards
- Provide additional networking opportunities that bridge established industry leaders and younger generation members who are eager to seek mentorship
- Develop more co-sponsored education and networking events with local chapters. This will encourage more ASHE members to participate in local chapter activities
- Elevate the facility member status by AHA/ASHE outreach to organizational leadership

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?

The ASHE 2022-2024 Strategic Plan provides a road map for the members of the organization for the next 4 years. I would like to accomplish the following specific initiatives to advance this strategic plan:

1. Optimization of Health Care Facility Operations
 - a. Advance the use of Predictive and Fault Diagnostics Tools
 - b. Create a National Standard on Facility Operational Metrics
 - c. Continue ongoing Benchmark Studies for Facility Metrics
2. Member Inclusion
 - a. Create member hotline for members to address any challenges related to operations and regulatory compliance
 - b. Develop a mentorship program for younger generation members

- c. Increase scholarship programs to attract future talent
- 3. Career Advancement, Succession Planning, Workforce
 - a. Develop a job bank and clearing house for job placement
 - b. Provide intensive coaching for career advancement
 - c. Develop a talent strategy program that focuses on employee value proposition
- 4. Capital Planning
 - a. Develop a client and consultant playbook for guidance on capital planning and construction
 - b. Provide project exploration tools and resources to learn about the best practices and nationally acclaimed projects
 - c. Create national standards on construction techniques

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

My 30 years of work experience as a chief engineer, life safety code surveyor and in other leadership roles, prepared me for this position. Helping my dad build our house developed my personal interest in engineering, and construction. Since then, I have built a solid foundation in all aspects of facilities management and especially regulatory compliance.

I oversaw a construction of a new central plant. It was a challenge to simultaneously operate and transfer services from the old plant. I developed SOP's and contingency plans to make a smooth transition to the new plant without impacting patient care.

In another project, the fire marshal demanded installation of a fire pump due to low fire flow and antiquated fire trucks. After brainstorming and studying nationwide practices, I proposed a loop system to increase the flow. The challenge was to convince the fire marshal as this may delay the project and affect professional relationship. After intense deliberations, the fire marshal agreed to delete the fire pump saving the hospital one million dollars.

I also gained extensive experience by meeting ASHE members during my surveys.

I believe these professional and personal experiences have prepared me to join the ranks of the ASHE leadership.