

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## JERRY THOMPSON

For those of us who attended the 72nd Annual Conference & Exhibition, we will have plenty of stories to tell of this eventful week. Hurricane Debby was an uninvited guest to our soiree, but she didn't dampen our spirits. We pivoted when necessary to help make this one of our best events. A huge thank you to all who planned, volunteered, attended, and went with the flow when things were adjusted.

I'll let others discuss their areas of excellence within this newsletter including the education, vendor show, golf, and land-based fishing charter. Bryant Cornett, Tom Reoch, Larry Holder and team, Mike Cooke and the remainder of the Planning Committee deserve all your kudos. And of course, Dona Noblett and her team (including a very familiar-looking 14-year-old helper) knock our events out of the park every time.

I'd like to comment on a few highlights from the week.

Due to the high energy of our keynote this year, we adjusted the schedule until late morning, and based on the comments we received, that was very successful. Mark Schulman really brought the beat to NCHEA and let us all channel our inner rock star. It was an amazing sight to see hundreds of engineers on their feet and participating in public.

The gala this year was another unqualified success. The convention center gave us a wonderful meal, including some awesome desserts. The magic and humor of Michael Mario was a great cap to the evening. There were a lot of "How did he do that?" moments and some memorable phone smashing.

It was great to present checks this year to two community partners: First Tee and Kids Making It. Both are excellent organizations, and they were very appreciative of our contributions to them. Thank you to all who contributed to allow us to make an impact on our NC communities.

If you made it this far, thank you for your patience and perseverance and for humoring me by reading my ramblings. It has been a great honor to be your president for the 2nd time, and I can't begin to tell you how NCHEA has helped shape me and my family. On a personal note, I hope you will let me be a proud Dad for a moment and say how it warmed my heart to have my kids, Joshua and Shelby, there helping and interacting with so many of you. It isn't often we get to hear our teenagers tell us what a good time they had and that maybe you aren't so bad after all.

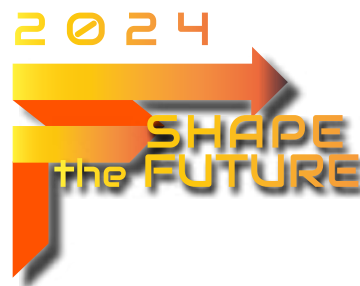
Goodbye for now, and remember to volunteer, participate, and help Shape the Future of NCHEA for those coming behind us.

Regards,

Jerry Thompson, 2024 NCHEA President



**FAMILY ROCKS!** Jerry Thompson PE SrHe, Joshua Thompson, Shelby Thompson and keynote Mark Schulman



### PROGRAM CHAIR

Bryant Cornett PE CHFM

Our Annual Conference education sessions were a great success, and the rainy weather outside may have given more people the opportunity to join us inside! We had great attendance at all of the sessions.

The keynote speaker was very moving, and we got a lot of positive feedback about the mid-morning keynote session. All in all we were pleased to be able to provide the program that had been prepared.

Our education sessions were qualified by ASHE for 13.5 CEUs, and we provided an ethics session for professional engineers with an ongoing ethics education requirement (new for North Carolina!).



# Sustainability Liaison Report

## NCHEA Earns the Platinum Elite Award

For outstanding commitment to education and membership value, NCHEA has been recognized with the Platinum Elite award level for 2023. This is the highest level the American Society for Health Care Engineering (ASHE) offers, and it reflects the dedication and hard work of the NCHEA chapter.

NCHEA's Michael Roberts and Philip Johnson stayed on top of the long list of requirements to achieve this status and made sure the organization was on track to hit every goal. "It's great for the chapter to be awarded on a national level for providing outstanding value to its members," Roberts said.

Some of the requirements included offering a minimum of 24 contact hours of educational programming, hitting goals pertaining to district meetings, and keeping members up-to-date and informed with regular newsletter offerings.

The Platinum Elite recognition comes with perks for NCHEA. There are multiple free education opportunities available to leaders that would otherwise come at a cost. Leadership can then implement the information and distribute it to the organization, adding even more value to membership.

While the Platinum designation pertains to education and member benefits, the Elite chapter status is a bonus distinction recognizing dedication to and achievement in energy management and sustainability practices.

NCHEA participates in all of ASHE Energy to Care programs and the Chapter Challenge to see which chapter reduces energy consumption the most. "NCHEA has been at the forefront of this effort displaying the qualities it takes to receive Elite status before there was an Elite designation and has received it every year that it has been offered," Roberts said.

Congratulations, NCHEA on the well-deserved Platinum Elite Award!



**Michael D Roberts PE CHFM SrHE SASHE**  
Director, Corporate Energy Services  
Atrium Health | Charlotte, NC  
NCHEA Sustainability Liaison to ASHE  
[Michael.D.Roberts@atriumhealth.org](mailto:Michael.D.Roberts@atriumhealth.org)

At the annual ASHE conference in Anaheim, CA on July 24, 2024, the North Carolina Healthcare Engineers Association was awarded as an ASHE Platinum Elite Chapter for the ninth year in a row! Congratulations to the NCHEA membership and the board for their vision to have NCHEA as a leader in optimizing the healthcare physical including ENERGY EFFICIENCY!!! The Elite designation is for excellence in promoting energy efficiency as a key part of healthcare facilities management and NCHEA has been a leader in this effort, being one of the few chapters to receive this every year it has been offered. To obtain this award, the chapter must promote energy management in chapter updates, newsletters, and conferences AND members must benchmark their energy data the ASHE Energy to Care program and participate in the ASHE Energy to Care Chapter Challenge pitting the chapters' energy reduction against other chapters. Thank you to ALL MEMBERS who participated in the Chapter Challenge this year from Wake Med, Novant Health, Iredell Health, First Health and Atrium Health.

The Chapter Challenge is a very important part of Elite award and participation of NCHEA has steadily grown from 6 hospitals from one system in 2015 to 27 hospitals in 5 healthcare systems in 2023. Although NCHEA did not win the Chapter Challenge, our participation helps national advocacy efforts by providing benchmark data that can be used for realistic energy and carbon goals. Congratulations to the Texas Association of Facility Healthcare Management (TAFHM) for winning the large chapter challenge (more than 5 hospitals) with a 0.1% reduction overall and Arkansas Association for Healthcare Engineering (AAHE) for winning the small chapter challenge (5 or fewer hospitals). This was the second year in a row each of these chapters won the chapter challenge! There was a total of 7 chapters in the large chapter competition (which included NCHEA) and 9 chapters in the small chapter competition. Currently NCHEA leads the large chapter challenge for 2025 with a whopping 5.8% reduction!!!!

The ASHE Energy to Care awards were also presented at the annual conference and North Carolina was well represented. The ASHE Sustainability Champion award is ASHE's Gold Standard Award for Health Care Facility Energy Savings. It recognizes facilities that demonstrate leadership in health sustainability. A



left to right: Jerry Thompson, Dennis Ford, Philip Johnson receiving ASHE Platinum award at the ASHE Conference

*continued on page 3*



# Sustainability Liaison Report *continued*

facility must track energy, water and greenhouse emissions; must have an Energy Star score of 75 or higher; must be an Energy Star Certified hospital; must have a published sustainability statement; must have a designated Sustainability Champion or sustainability lead on staff and must have a designated Green Team. There were 21 award winners nationally this year, up from 10 in 2023. NCHEA had a great showing with 4 Sustainability award winners, which is more than 8 of the 10 ASHE regions had! Congratulations to these NC ASHE Sustainability Award winners – Atrium Health Lincoln, Atrium Health Mercy, Atrium Health Pineville and Atrium Health Union.

The ASHE Energy to Care Sustained Performance Award celebrates facilities accomplishing sustainability goals in their health care organizations to support healthy, equitable and resilient environments and communities maintained over time. A facility must track energy, water and greenhouse emissions and must have an Energy Star score of 75 or above for 3 consecutive years or an EUI equal to baseline (2019) or lower for 2021, 2022 and 2023. NC had 24 facilities receive this award – equal to or more than any ASHE region. Congratulations to these NC Sustained Performance Award winning hospitals - Atrium Health Cabarrus, Atrium Health Cleveland, Atrium Health Kings Mountain, Atrium Health Lincoln, Atrium Health Stanly, Atrium Health Union, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Atrium Health Wilkes Regional Medical Center.

The ASHE Energy To Care award honors health care facilities for achievement in health care sustainability. In the inaugural year (2006), ASHE awarded 9 facilities. There awards have grown to over 122 recipients in 2024. This recognizes a facility that tracks energy, water and greenhouse emissions; reduced their energy consumption by 10% in a single year or 15% over 2 years or 5% in a single year if they were a previous awards winner. Congratulations to all 12 NC awards winners including these hospitals for their recognized energy reduction- Atrium Health Behavioral Health – Davidson, Atrium Health Cleveland, Atrium Health Pineville, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Lexington and Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes.

## What is keeping you from Benchmarking your Energy Data???

While plan operations departments consistently benchmark all kinds of stat – FTEs, contract cost, total budget, etc., benchmarking data is often left out. Why is that – because it isn't asked for? Are you prepared if it is?? Both the ASHE Energy to Care and the EPA's Energy Star programs have tools and dashboards to track energy and water data for FREE! Energy to Care has easy to follow instructions - [www.ashe.org/energytocare](http://www.ashe.org/energytocare). Simply input your facilities square-foot area and then enter energy data monthly and you are on your way! How can NCHEA help you in this? Let me know one reason why you don't benchmark your energy data and let me know one thing NCHEA could do to help you. I want to hear for you!



Michael Hatton, ASHE President-Elect presents award for Atrium Health to Michael Roberts

## Future Dates

**2025 Spring Seminar**  
Pinehurst Resort  
Pinehurst, NC  
February 25-28, 2025



**73rd Annual Conference & Exhibition**  
Benton Convention Center  
Winston-Salem, NC  
August 4-8, 2025



# SCOTT MARTIN CHE CHFM CHC 2024 Engineer of the Year



**DISTRICT 3**  
**SCOTT MARTIN CHE CHFM CHC**  
**DUKE HEALTH**



**MATT OLSON CHFM**  
**2024 NCHEA Emerging Leader**

## 2024 DISTRICT Engineer of the Years



**DISTRICT 1**  
**BRYANT CORNETT PE CHFM**  
**ATRIUM HEALTH**



**DISTRICT 2**  
**THOMAS HILL CHFM**  
**Moses Cone Hospital**



**DISTRICT 4**  
**MICHAEL RICH CHFM**  
**Sampson Regional Medical Center**

The 2024 NCHEA District Engineers of the Year were honored at the recent 72nd Annual Conference & Exhibition. This year the Board wished to further recognize all of those individuals for their achievements and new awards were given out during the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday. The District Engineers of the Year for 2024 were: District 1 - Bryant Cornett, Atrium Health; District 2 – Thomas Hill, Cone Health; District 3 – Scott Martin, Duke Health; and District 4 – Michael Rich, Sampson Regional Medical Center. After watching the videos from the nominees, last year's EoY Keith Einsmann opened the golden envelope and announced that Scott Martin was the 2024 EoY!

Scott is the Director of the Hospital/Clinic Division of Duke Health's Engineering & Operations in Durham. He has been in healthcare for over 30 years and worked his up from an electrician. He has been at Duke University Hospital since 2016 and was appointed Director in 2019. He leads over 155 team members across over 5 million square feet of hospital and clinic spaces.

His COO praised Scott for several different areas of excellence. His leadership of a large team in a variety of different facilities. His ability to collaborate with team members throughout the health system. His successful management of the environment of care at his facilities. Finally she praised his ability to get things done quickly and efficiently and how he and his team really shine when there are urgent matters.

Scott has been active in NCHEA since 2016 and served two years at District III filling various positions. He also helped train those who served after him. He was the NCHEA Vendor Chair in 2023 that was a record setting year for sponsorships and booths. He received his CHE (Certified Healthcare Engineer) designation in 2022 and also has achieved the CHFM and CHC designations. Scott has a passion to teach and will begin teaching this fall at Wake Tech. He is father of two successful daughters and a devoted husband. We don't hold it against him that he is a big fan of THE Ohio State University.

Congratulations to Scott for his receiving the 2024 Engineer of the Year along with the Best Trophy (G.O.A.T.).



# ASSOCIATE FOURM

**Called to Order - Wednesday, August 7, 2024, Wilmington, NC**

Meeting Called to order by Associate Board Member – Christine Fariss  
Welcome and Introduction of New Members

## Discussions

### a. Committees and Opportunities for Associate Member Involvement

- Golf Committee
- Technology Committee
- Others as Appointed by Board Members
- Support District Education & Events
- Request nomination for Associate Board Member

### b. Associate Board Member - Elect Candidates

- Nick Tribble, SKA
- Kelley Crenshaw, Siemens
- Selected candidate announced at Business Meeting 8/9/24 at Annual Conference
- Reminder for 2025: Applications are due to Districts by the Spring Seminar. District leadership may accept applications just after the Spring Seminar at their discretion.
- Voting will occur at the Annual Conference.

### c. Associate District Liaisons

- D1-Jeff Watson, ServPro (supported by Debbie Gilbert, ESP)
- D2- Daniel Flint, Siemens; Joel Thomas, Gaines Oil
- D3-Jeffrey Fuller, Monteith Construction; James King, BHDP
- D4-Kelly Crenshaw, Siemens; Cara Greening, TA Loving
- Nancy Padgett is very active supporting all Districts
- Thank you for your support!

### d. Associate Member of the Year Award

- 2025 will be the first year for this award and the policy will be posted to the NCHEA website this fall
- d. Role of Associate Members:  
You play a significant role in planning and financial stability.  
Reminder not to schedule events overlapping with NCHEA sanctioned events.

### e. Event Feedback

- Keynote speaker and scheduling later in the morning was fantastic
- More places to sit requested in the Exhibit Hall - difficult with egress requirements
- Great foot traffic and flow in the exhibit hall
- Overall program schedule flowed very smoothly
- QR code on name tag requested; NCHEA has a way to track and make notes on attendees in the NCHEA app and it was suggested to provide a tutorial on how to use this for future conferences

### f. Next Associate Fourm meeting

- Spring Seminar - Pinehurst Resort, February 27, 2025

## ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS



Christine Fariss, Viibe  
NCHEA Associate Board Member  
christine@viibedesign.com



Todd Tainter, Enpuricon  
NCHEA Associate Board Member Elect  
ttaintor@enpuricon.com

## COASTAL COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP



Alex Harwell, PE, CHFM, CHC, SASHE  
Associate Vice President, Regional Market Segment  
Leader, Dewberry

In our seventh year running for the NCHEA Community College Scholarship we set some records! Ten students were awarded scholarships

this year for a total donation of \$25,000! We have never had such a large group of highly qualified students apply to the program and the board voted accordingly to increase the scholarship amount to match rather than pick just two or three students. Despite the storm, Emily Ellis, Executive Director of the Coastal Community College Foundation and five of the students made it to the stage and through our vendor show, collecting plenty of potential future employment connections along the way! As always, we are very grateful to the NCHEA community in supporting this program every year and engaging our student-scholars in finding work in our community as well. Should you be interested in speaking to any of our students regarding employment, please reach out to Dona or Alex to connect you.

left to right: Jerry Thompson, NCHEA President; Alex Harwell, Dewberry; Emily Eure Ellis, MSW, LCSW, Public Information Officer/Executive Director, College Foundation Coastal Carolina Community College; Chad Pauls, Associate in Architecture Technology; Joshua Adkins, Associate in Electrical Engineering Technology; Tiffany Tigh, Associate in Architecture Technology; Mireya Robinson, Associate in Architecture Technology; Justin Patz, Certificate in HVAC Technology; Gabriele Golightly-Lewis, Associate in Architecture Technology (not pictured), Lecy Lespinasse, Certificate in HVAC Technology (not pictured); Tajuan Meadows, Associate in Electrical Engineering Technology (not pictured); Patrick McCarley, Associate in Electrical Engineering Technology



# FISHING CHARTER 2024 "Sharknado"

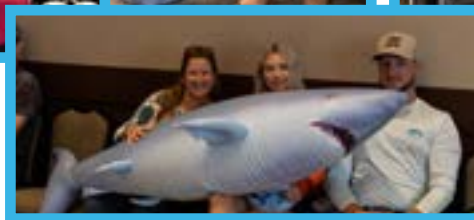
Captain Dave (Vonda Kay captain) determined that the seas were too rough for our trip due to Hurricane Debby, so we scrubbed plans on Monday evening.

I think that folks still had an awesome time, which is what all fishing folks do even when it rains. Coming together and fishing in a wading pool for plastic fish was just as competitive as the real thing! We had about 30 people captivated for 1.5 hours in a room, cheering each other on and watching with great anticipation to see if/when someone got a fish!

I was so impressed with the attitudes of everyone, regardless of the weather. We all had a great time hanging out, which says a lot for our organization and the spirit of those who fish!



**Mike Cooke CHFM CHE CHC**  
**Fishing Charter Chair**  
**Cone Health System**  
mike.cooke@conehealth.com





# DISTRICT REPORTS

## DISTRICT I CHAIR

### Clarence Jones CHFM

Carolinas HealthCare System  
Director, Plant Operations & Maintenance  
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Office: 704.512.3363

## DISTRICT I VICE CHAIR

### Michael Ladd

Atrium Health  
Director of Safety  
Michael.Ladd@atriumhealth.org  
Mobile: 919-218-4640

## DISTRICT I SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Jerry Shepard CHFM

CaroMont Regional Medical Center  
Operations Manager  
jerry.shepard@caromonthhealth.org  
Office: 864.449.4038

## DISTRICT I LIAISON

Jeff Watson | jeffw@servprowcharlotte.com  
Debbie Gilbert | dgilbert@espassociates.com

## District I Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 8, 2024  
Wilmington Convention Center

### Approval of last meeting minutes.

#### New Business:

- We celebrated our membership by giving out customized Polo shirts and customized tee-shirts to all our members to include associate members.
- We discussed Leadership changes and opportunities at the Chair and Vice Chair positions seeking interested candidates.
- Next meeting date is TBD.
- We are scheduling a bowling for Behavioral Health/ Mental Health event that the proceeds will go to a not-for-profit organization in the Watauga area. This county has one of the highest poverty rates in the state. We will clear this with Keith/Jerry/Phillip before we finalize anything.
- Other than that we had a few minutes of good fellowship.

#### District Officer updates:

- Elections for 2025 District Officers
- Chair - Micheal Ladd
- Vice-Chair - Deanne Avery
- Secretary/Treasurer - Jerry Shepard
- Liaison - Erin DeBerardinis

## DISTRICT II CHAIR

### Thomas Reoch

First Health  
Administrative Director - Facility Services, Planning, Design & Construction  
treoch@firsthealth.org  
Office: 910-715-1543

## DISTRICT II VICE CHAIR

### Thomas Hill CHFM

Moses Cone Hospital  
Assistant Director  
thomas.hill@conehealth.com  
Office: 336-832-7917 Mobile: 336-601-2655

## DISTRICT II SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Philip A. Johnson CHE, CHFM

Well-Spring, A Life Plan Community  
Director of Facility Services  
pjohnson@well-spring.org  
Office: 336-545-5383

## DISTRICT II LIAISON

Daniel Flint - daniel.flint@siemens.com  
Joel Thomas - joel@gainesoil.com

## DISTRICT III

### Lee Robeson

UNC REX Healthcare  
Lee.Robeson@unchealth.unc.edu  
Mobile: 919-369-2252

## DISTRICT III VICE CHAIR

### William Braddy

UNC Health  
william.braddy@unchealth.unc.edu  
Office: 919-812-8518

## DISTRICT III SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Ashley Head

Duke FPDC  
Project Manager  
ashley.head@duke.edu  
Mobile: 919-619-8423

## DISTRICT III LIAISON

Jeffrey Fuller | jfuller@monteithco.com

## DISTRICT IV CHAIR

### Derrick Cobb CHFM

Lenoir UNC Healthcare  
Director Engineering Services  
derrick.cobb@unchealth.unc.edu  
Office: 252-522-7041

## DISTRICT IV VICE CHAIR

### Robert Melton PE, CHFM, CHC

Cape Fear Valley Health System  
Corporate Director Engineering  
rjmelton2@yahoo.com  
Office: 910-615-6189

## DISTRICT IV SECRETARY/TREASURER

### Eddie Smyer CHFM

CarolinaEasthealth.com  
Director of Facilities Operations  
esmyer@carolinaeasthealth.com  
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## DISTRICT IV LIAISON

Cara Greening | cgreening@taloving.com

## District IV Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 8, 2024  
Wilmington Convention Center

### Approval of last minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am. Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed and approved by the district.

#### Old Business:

Last meeting was held virtually in June. Nothing to report.

#### New Business:

- New district officers were elected for 2025.
- Chair – Derrick Cobb
- Vice Chair – Dennis Mock
- Secretary/Treasurer – Eddie Smyer
- Discussion about how to get more involvement from other facilities within our district. Active members will work with vendors to try and get Novant, ECU Health Duplin, and UNC Health Onslow more involved.
- Next meeting and educational event have been scheduling for Nov 7th and 8th and Atlantic Beach. Educational abstracts being accepted currently.



The NCHCA District IV Annual Education and Fishing Event

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

Registering soon!

DETAILS:

<https://nchea.wildapricot.org/DISTRICT-IV/>

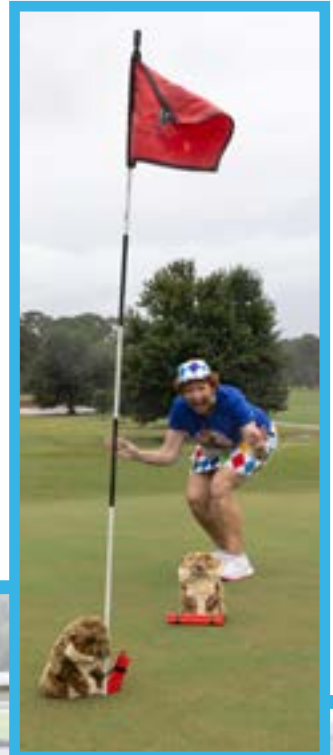
left to right: District I Atrium Health ROCK-  
STARS: Lauren Schrupf PE, Dale Burris, Brian  
Palm, Clarence Jones, and Bobby Allman

# GOLF CADDY SHACK EDITION 2024



## GOLF CHAIR

Larry Holder





# ANNUAL SPONSORS 2024



45 Years Pavion



15 Years Belzona Carolina Inc.

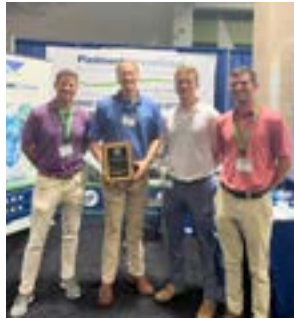
**45 Years** Pavion  
**40 Years** Lewis Boiler Supply  
**15 Years** Belzona Carolina Inc.  
 Compliant Health Technologies LLC  
**10 Years** McKim & Creed Inc  
 Piedmont Service Group  
 Roberts & Morton  
 Samet Corporation  
**5 Years** BR+A  
 Carolina Restoration Services  
 Ken Gregory Consulting  
 Little  
 LS3P  
 PDI  
 TRI Solutions Inc.



Vendor Chair  
**Thomas Reoch**  
 First Health  
 treoch@firsthealth.org  
 Office: 910-715-1543  
 nchea.vendorchair@gmail.com



15 Years Compliant Health Technologies LLC



10 Years Piedmont Service Group



10 Years McKim & Creed



10 Years Samet Corporation

Fortunately, the hurricane only had a slight impact on the overall vendor show. We lost a few vendors just before the conference started due to travel restrictions, and then we lost a few more after the first day as a result of the hurricane possibly affecting their family and/or personal property. For those that stayed, we are forever grateful for their perseverance and dedication to NCHCA. Vendors are the backbone of our organization, and we could not sustain a conference like this without their partnership.

The overwhelming response that I received during, but mostly after, the conference was this – “We cannot remember an NCHCA Conference in recent years where we had so many healthcare engineers stopping by and engaging in meaningful conversations.” For many, they thought this was the best show they have ever attended based on the sheer volume of visitors on the convention floor over a two-day time period. They all said Thursday was the best of the two days, but Wednesday was no slouch either.

I think in large part we have Hurricane Debby to thank for some of the great attendance, but I also believe that NCHCA consistently delivers a conference with superior educational material (kudos to Bryant), coupled with vendors that are offering innovative products and services that are meaningful to all healthcare engineers. All in all, I could not be happier with the results and success of this year's conference.

