

What IEHA Has Done For Me

"IEHA has helped me to do my job better, provided me with tons of knowledge, and has allowed me to make lots of friends over the years!"

*—Linda Lasseter
Director of Housekeeping
Residence Inn
Kissimmee, Florida*

What has IEHA done for YOU lately?

If you would like to contribute to this monthly column, please send your comments to ldigiulio@ieha.org.

In Memoriam

Raymond "Leroy" Gedek passed away November 4, 2008. Gedek was a member of the **Indiana Chapter** of IEHA and was an Assistant Manager at St. Francis Hospital in Mooresville, IN. Services were held on Saturday, November 8, 2008, at Lower Turkey Creek Baptist Church in Monticello, KY.

Edna Raynor Sessoms passed away on September 30, 2008. Sessoms was a past Chapter President of the **Tidewater Chapter** of IEHA. Her professional career included dedicated service to Whittaker Memorial Hospital and Newport News General Hospital, where she became Director of Environmental Services. She went on to serve in the same position at Menno-wood Retirement Community. Services were held on Monday, October 6, 2008, at the First Church of Newport News (Baptist) in Newport News, VA.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the friends and families of these IEHA members. RIP.

inside ieha

There is some fabulous news emanating out of California concerning IEHA's Self Study Program! On October 16-17, 2008, the Hospital Alliance Association (HospAA) held their annual fall conference at the Lionsgate Conference Center in Sacramento, CA. IEHA member Paulette Thomason invited IEHA CEO/Executive Director Beth Risinger to this event for the purpose of sharing the benefits of IEHA, along with providing the advantages of becoming certified or registered.



Rick Parker, a healthcare specialist employed by CleanSource, is the current chairman of HospAA, and through his efforts, he has now signed up 33 facility services directors to take the IEHA Self Study Program. In addition, Parker is coordinating efforts with IEHA's Oakland Bay Chapter to provide training to over 30 additional healthcare professionals.

Some of the excellent programs that were presented during the conference included: "Best Practices for Handling Pharmaceutical Wastes," "Floor Tech Training," "Greening the Cleaning," "Leading with Passion," "Proper Cleaning to Improve Infection Control," and "An Update on the Joint Commission's 2009 Environmental Care Standards." The speakers were very engaging and presented the material with conviction and expertise. In addition to the educational sessions, there were about 20 exhibitors at the conference.

While there, Risinger signed up several new IEHA members and developed a solid relationship/alliance with the HospAA professionals. We are looking forward to a long and successful future with this fine Association!

On October 3, 2008, the **Hawaii Chapter** hosted their 40th Annual Bosses Night event at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. The event was attended by nearly 300 people, including members, their bosses, and other department managers and guests. During the event, an awards presentation occurred, as well as dinner and a comedy act.

The Hawaii Chapter's Annual Bosses Night Dinner is a popular, well-attended, and successful gala event, sponsored each year by the Chapter. Generally, hotels, businesses, and vendor companies purchase tables of ten for this annual event that is held during the later part of the year. It is also a social event where housekeeping supervisors and assistants are invited as a "thank you" from their bosses for their dedication and hard work in housekeeping.



Johnny Chang, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Waikiki (left), and IEHA member Ivy Kwok, Executive Housekeeper at the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel (right), enjoy the annual Bosses Night event.