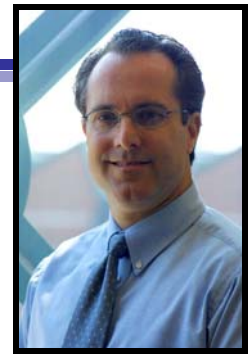


Making a Difference The Caring Spirit of I.E.H.A.



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Meade, world-renowned anthropologist

By: Stephen Ashkin, as published in *Executive Housekeeping Today*, November 2006, pp 10-11

Each month, *Executive Housekeeping Today* gives me the opportunity to share some thoughts relative to green. Over the past few years, we have covered a variety of issues ranging from Green Cleaning to Earth Day to energy to the anniversary of the disaster in Bhopal, India. But this month, I hope you'll allow me to do something different. This month, I want to **thank YOU!**

As a Green Cleaning consultant who over the past few years has traveled the world making hundreds of presentations and assisting dozens of organizations annually, I believe I.E.H.A. members are distinguished for the sincerity of purpose that you bring to ensuring cleaner, safer and healthier facilities. While all of the organizations I work with are very professional, capable and dedicated to providing the best possible services or products, I.E.H.A. members truly stand out in my mind for your sincere desire to serve others and to really make a difference.

Simply put, I.E.H.A. members appear to share a common vision that "thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

I was reminded of this very recently as I stood before a large gathering of I.E.H.A. members to receive the esteemed accolade of the 2006 William D. Joyner Achievement Award at I.E.H.A.'s banquet last month in Chicago. I feel privileged and thankful to be selected for this award, established in honor of the many achievements of William D. Joyner, to recognize a person who has helped I.E.H.A. achieve growth, research, technical assistance, articles in EHT and written books or guidelines. There is no greater accolade I could receive from managers of healthcare, hospitality, educational, and other large facilities than to be recognized with an award that truly exemplifies the word achievement"- just as Dr. Joyner did throughout his career.

Also during the awards ceremony, I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Joyner's widow, Susan. She brings honor and great integrity to her husband's legacy and inspired me to work even harder to set a good example for the award and to encourage others -just as I believe I.E.H.A. members do -to follow in Dr. Joyner's footsteps.

Dr. Joyner, a consultant, lecturer and motivator for the facilities management industry, was known for many personal kindnesses and for the help and advice he offered to others over the years. He en-

joyed a long career as a manager of environmental services and housekeeping operations.

While I believe that I have already achieved a lot and have been recognized with a number of important awards, I am again inspired to emulate Dr. Joyner's professional enthusiasm and wisdom. A typical lecture to encourage everyone by Dr. Joyner, authoritative and drawn from the latest thinking on management practices, was made memorable by its liberal sprinkling of witticisms, earthy jokes and anecdotes, and personal recollections from his long career. His seminars were always packed with cleaning professionals who delighted in his worldly, no-nonsense advice for advancing their careers and overcoming life's ordinary trials and tribulations.

But as I sat in the banquet during the awards presentation with my acceptance speech in hand, I listened to Ken Walvoord, Director of Custodial Services at the University Nebraska-Lincoln, who was completing his heartfelt remarks after receiving the Margaret Barnes Diamond Award for his outstanding achievement and long-time commitment both to I.E.H.A. and our profession. Ken's comments really made me think of what my legacy might one day mean. How can we, as individuals, really make a difference as Dr. Joyner and Ken Walvoord have done and are still doing?

I was truly touched as I made my way to the podium and shook hands with Darryl Hicks, President-Elect of I.E.H.A. and Director of Environmental Services at St. Luke's Hospital; Beth Risinger, CEO/Executive Director of I.E.B.A., and finally received my award from Hazel Reese outgoing President of I.E.H.A. and Director of Campus Services at the University of South Carolina. Looking out over the group, I was moved to be in the company of such an outstanding gathering.

Thus, I would simply like to again thank all of you and let you know that I think you're really special people. I am glad to be a part of I.E.H.A. As we begin to close out 2006, I would like to encourage everyone to take solace knowing that we all share a kindred spirit and that together, we really can change the world. Thank you.

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The Ashkin Group is one of the nation's leading consulting firms working to green the cleaning industry. A 25+ year veteran of the cleaning industry, Steve Ashkin is the author of *Green Cleaning for Dummies* and a tireless advocate for environmentally preferable cleaning products. Often referred to as the "father of green cleaning," Ashkin has played a pivotal role in setting industry standards, promoting environmentally preferable products, and advocating for socially responsible practices. For more information or to subscribe to his e-newsletter, *DestinationGreen*, visit

www.ashkingroup.com.