

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ASHRAE

Buffalo Chapter

A Message from Our President

It's a pleasure to see such a great turnout for our ASHRAE chapter kickoff meeting. What an incredible way to start the year! I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your enthusiasm, your ideas, and your commitment to advancing our shared mission of promoting sustainable, innovative building solutions.

Our kickoff meeting was a tremendous success, and that's thanks to all of you who contributed your time and energy to make it happen. Events like this remind us of the power of collaboration within our ASHRAE community—professionals coming together to share knowledge, inspire progress, and make a real impact in our industry.

A special thank you goes to our sponsor, **Siemens**, for their continued support of our chapter and their dedication to advancing technology and sustainability in the built environment. We're also very grateful to **Jeff Hodges** for his excellent presentation on **Green Lab Solutions**. His insights into sustainable laboratory design and energy-efficient systems gave us all a lot to think about as we look ahead to the projects and challenges of the coming year.

Looking ahead, I'm excited to announce our **next chapter meeting on October 21st, 2025, at 12:00 PM**. We'll be meeting at **Big Ditch Brewery**, where our discussion topic will be **Vibration Isolation** — a key element in achieving quiet, efficient, and comfortable building environments. We'll explore best practices, design strategies, and innovative technologies for minimizing vibration and noise in mechanical systems. It's sure to be another informative and engaging session, and I encourage everyone to attend.

With such a strong start, I'm confident that this will be a remarkable year for our chapter. Let's keep the momentum going — stay engaged, share your expertise, and continue supporting one another as we work toward a more sustainable future.

Thank you again to everyone who made this kickoff such a success. Here's to another great year of learning, collaboration, and innovation with ASHRAE!

Stacia Vailk
President – ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter

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Website:

Check out our website for updated chapter information at www.buffaloashrae.org

Socials:



Follow us on LinkedIn

Editor's Note:

Do you have some ASHRAE related information to share with the chapter or an HVAC related event or opportunity to advertise? If so, please reach out to the newsletter editor and discuss options for publishing in the chapter newsletter.

Newsletter Disclaimer:

The appearance of any technical data, editorial material, or advertisement in this set of publications does not constitute endorsement, warranty, or guaranty by ASHRAE of any product, service, procedure, design, or the like. ASHRAE does not warrant that information is free from errors, and ASHRAE does not necessarily agree with any statement or opinion in this set of publications. The entire risk of the use of any information in this set of publications is assumed by the user. Statements made in this publication are not expressions of the Society or of the Chapter and may not be reproduced without special permission.

YOUR CHAPTER NEWS IN ONE PLACE

The chapter has several board positions available. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the open positions, please reach out to our Chapter President: Stacia Valik



Advertise in the Chapter Newsletter!

Advertising in The Newsletter is a great way to promote your business to local industry professionals! The Newsletter currently offers a business card size (3.5" x 2") ad for \$50. Your ad will run in every issue of the newsletter for the 2024-2025 ASHRAE year! If you would like to place an advertisement in the newsletter, please follow the instructions below:

- E-mail a PDF copy of your ad to jmee@ipdengineering.com
- Please mail a check payable to ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter and address to:
ATTN: Charlie Grochowiak
ASHRAE Buffalo Treasury
132 Clinton Street
Buffalo, New York 14224



Scholarship Opportunities!



There are scholarships available from both the chapter and national levels. At the national level, applications will be accepted from Engineering or Technical students majoring in Mechanical Engineering or in a technical course related to the field of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. Visit <https://www.ashrae.org/membership--conferences/student-zone/scholarships-and-grants/scholarship-program> to see what opportunities are available.

At the chapter level, scholarships of up to \$4000 are available for students enrolled in an engineering or technical major relating to the HVAC field. Applicants must be a resident of Western New York or attending school in Western New York and be in good academic standing. Applicants must demonstrate a desire to locate in WNY post-graduation.

Additional information can be found here: https://buffaloashrae.org/images/downloads/Documents/scholarship_cover_page.doc
Applications can be found here: https://buffaloashrae.org/images/downloads/Documents/ashrae_scholarship_form.doc
For more information contact Drew Nowak at anowak@mollenbergbetz.com or Nick Farina at: nick.farina@victaulic.com.



Live Virtual Training



Check out Local Employment Opportunities!

ASHRAE is a great source to find your next career opportunity! Employers can easily post jobs at: <https://buffaloashrae.org/classifieds.php>.

- Postings are made available to the entire chapter membership through the website and the monthly newsletter.
- Postings never expire, they remain available until the employer fills the position or informs the chapter that the position is no longer available.
- There is a small, one-time fee of \$100 to post job openings. Proceeds are provided to the chapter to assist in annual chapter expenses.



Welcome to our New Members:

- Mr. John Schamberger; Stark Tech
- Mr. Evan Smith; Mazza Mechanical
- Mrs. Jeanene Vishion; Johnson Controls

We're glad you've chosen to join the ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter and look forward to meeting you at our upcoming Chapter Events



The chapter will be adding website sponsorships to our website, see below for tiers and perks of becoming a website sponsor:

- Gold level: \$1,500; includes 2 sponsors to our two largest events of the year (golf and holiday party) and logo on Buffalo ASHRAE website for a full calendar year.
- Silver: \$1,000; 1 sponsor of choice of our two largest events of the year (golf and holiday party) and logo on Buffalo ASHRAE website for a full calendar year.
- Bronze: \$500; Logo on Buffalo ASHRAE website for a full calendar year.



SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

GREEN / SMART LAB SOLUTIONS

presented by: Siemens



Thank you to our Speaker:

Mr. Jeff Hodges – National Business Development Manager for Siemens Infrastructure – Buildings

Thank you to our Sponsor:

SIEMENS

In our first monthly meeting of the ASHRAE year, the chapter welcomed Mr. Jeff Hodges, the National Business Development Manager for Siemens Infrastructure – Buildings, to discuss the basic requirements and effects of environmental controls in laboratories. Jeff provided valuable insight on occupant safety in labs and offered insight on energy usage in labs and non-lab applications. Jeff’s insight included affective measures to reduce energy consumption in lab applications without sacrificing occupant safety or regulatory compliance. We thank Jeff for offering us his time and expertise to discuss critical laboratory design, which he draws on from his 25+ years of experience in facility automations systems. We also offer thanks to our sponsor, Siemens, for their generosity in support of the chapter. Finally, thanks to those who took an evening away from friends and family to attend this meeting, enjoy a wonderful dinner at Hutch’s and kick-off what we hope will be another successful and well attended slate of monthly meetings.



1 PDH Credit!

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Date	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
October 21, 2025 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Big Ditch Brewery 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, NY 14203	Vibration Isolation Strategies	 Frank P. Langley Co. Inc.	Member: \$35.00 Non-member: \$40.00 Student: \$20.00

* Tickets purchased less than 24 hours prior to the event and at the door we will be assessed a \$10 late fee. Please RSVP prior to the 24-hour window so we can give a proper headcount to the restaurants and do not end up short or paying for extra seats.

UPCOMING YEA HAPPY HOUR

Date	Time	Location	Event Sponsor	Cost*
Wednesday October 29, 2025	5:00 PM - whenever	Resurgence Brewing 55 Chicago Street Buffalo, NY 14204	 TRANE®	Free for Members!!

* Please reach out Aditya Sharda if your firm would be interested in sponsoring a future YEA Event. The chapter strives to keep these events free of charge for attending members so we're always in search of willing sponsors. Sponsoring firms will be recognized in the preceding newsletter.

UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY EVENT

Date and Time	Location	Sustainability Tradeshow: 'Regenerative Mindset'	Additional Info
Wednesday October 15, 2025 4:00 – 5:30 PM	CannonDesign 50 Fountain Plaza Buffalo, NY 14203	This theme is a recognition that in order to improve and heal our firm, industry and planet, we need to change our mindset. It aims not just to minimize harm but to actively restore and enhance ecological and social systems. This involves designing buildings and spaces that contribute positively to their environments—ecologically, socially, and economically.	If you'd like to attend, email: kwayne@cannondesign.com CannonDesign Environmental Awareness website: EA 2025


PAOE SUMMARY

Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points
Chapter Operations	600	1500	60
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	600
Communications	300	700	55
Government Affairs	500	1250	0
Historical	100	500	190
Membership Promotion	800	1400	350
Research and Promotion	800	1050	0
Student Activities	500	800	0
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	725

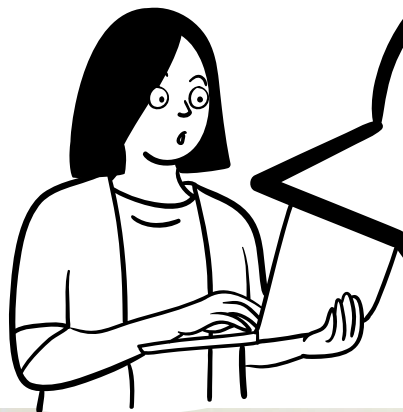
* Point summary current as of 09/30/2025.



2025-2026 CTT / PROGRAMMING

Date & Time	Presenter / Topic	Date & Time	Presenter / Topic
September 23, 2025 5:00 – 7:00 PM	Green Lab Solutions presented by Jeff Hodges of Siemens Industry, Inc.	February 10, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Data Center Design presented by Stark Tech and Vertiv
October 21, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Vibration Isolation Strategies presented by FP Langley and Mason Industries	March 10, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Monthly Meeting <i>More Details to Follow</i>
November 11, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Sustainable Lab Exhaust and High Plume Dilution presented by RF Peck and Strobic Air Technologies	April 20, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	
December 4, 2025 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Annual Holiday Party at the Curtiss Hotel	May 12, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	
January 13, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Natorium Design presented by Modular Comfort Systems	June 1, 2026 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Annual Golf Outing at East Aurora County Club

* Dates, times, locations and topics are subject to change throughout the year as meetings are finalized.



In ASHRAE meetings, we will act with honesty, fairness, courtesy, competence, inclusiveness, and respect for others, which exemplify our core values of excellence, commitment, integrity, collaboration, volunteerism, and diversity, and shall avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest. Our culture is one of inclusiveness, acknowledging the inherent value and dignity of each individual. We celebrate diverse and inclusive communities, understanding that doing so fuels better, more creative and more thoughtful ideas, solutions and strategies for the Society and the communities our Society serves. We respect and welcome all.



2025-2026 PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE CHALLENGE

What is IEQ?

Indoor environmental quality (IEQ) refers to the overall quality of the air, thermal conditions, lighting, and acoustics within a building, and how these factors affect the occupants' health, comfort, and well-being.

The Challenge

The Presidential Initiative Challenge (previously the Decarbonization Challenge) is a year-long competitive fund (\$1,000 - \$10,000) program to implement projects within local chapters that are tied to the year's presidential theme. Bill McQuade has announced his presidential theme, Indoor Environmental Quality. This year's program will be centered around implementing IEQ projects. This program is implemented through the YEA committee with grass roots outreach through the YEA chairs/committees at each chapter.

Challenge Timeline

The intent of the program is to receive, review, award, and implement the funded projects within a single society year. Applicants are expected to meet the schedule below, and incorporate the schedule into their proposed projects:

1. November 3rd, 2025: Applications due
2. December 15th, 2025: Intimation to selected chapter / team
3. January 2026: Awards made with funds going to local chapter for use on the project
4. February 2026: Winning applicants in attendance at the 2026 Winter Conference in Las Vegas to be recognized by ASHRAE President at President's Lunch
5. February 2026 and June 2026: Projects will be completed
6. Spring of 2026: Project Teams will be requested to submit a mid-project update with a short narrative and photos
7. June 2026: Project Teams will be invited to participate in a panel at the 2026 Annual Conference in Austin to discuss the implementation of their Project



Challenge Requirements

Application submissions must meet the following criteria:

1. The primary applicant must be a Full, Associate, or Affiliate member of ASHRAE.
2. All mandatory questions within the application must be completed.



Application Review

Applications are reviewed using a scoring system that awards a dedicated number of points to each question/qualification based on [this rubric](#). Only applications which submit all required documents and information will be considered. Each application will be independently scored by multiple reviewers. Consideration will also incorporate the relative impact and the scalability of the project.



APPLY NOW



A LESSON IN HISTORY

John McLive: A Remembrance

John R. McLive was Chapter President in 1969-1970. This was the 50th Anniversary of the Niagara-Frontier Chapter. This happened to be the same year that ASHRAE celebrated it's 75th anniversary.

John worked at Buffalo Forge Co. for most of his adult life. John wrote and was published by Society on the early development of heating in Buffalo, New York.

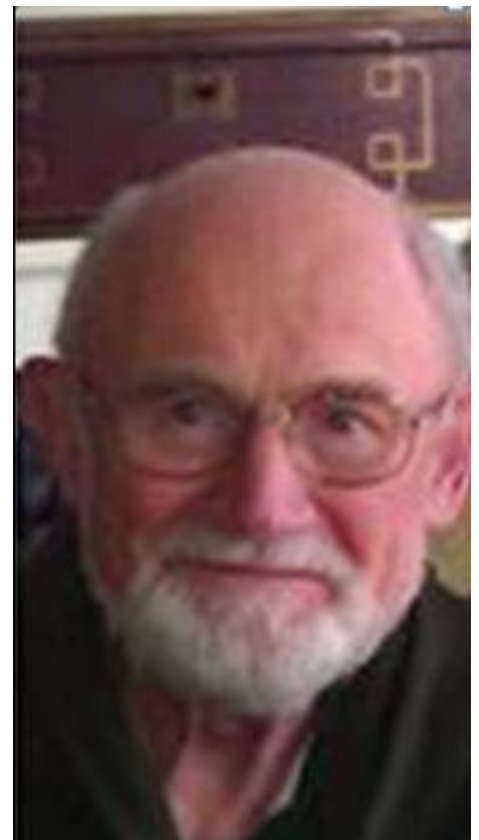
I discovered John while delving into our chapter's history. Happily, I found John was still interested in the chapter and agreed to help make a presentation for the 2019 CRC / 100th Chapter Anniversary celebration, which happened to be the 50th anniversary of his time as our chapter's president.

We took his written work and combined it with my articles to make 'Early Developments of Air Conditioning & Heat Transfer in the Vicinity of Buffalo New York.' We presented this as a looped PowerPoint for the CRC, allowing all attendees to view the material at their own pace. We latter copyrighted it and submitted it to Society and the Buffalo History Museum to become part of the collections at both entities.

Following the 2019 CRC, John continued to assist in finding more information on the history of our chapter. He was so involved I appealed to him to become the co-chairperson for the chapter's history committee. John preferred to remain in the background assisting in whatever task I had for him.

Unfortunately, John passed away on June 25, 2022 at age 88. John had quite the impact on our chapter and the HVAC industry in Buffalo. He is missed.

- Rick Robinson
Chapter Historian



Member Spotlight

Members are the foundation of our chapter. There are a lot of members of the Buffalo Chapter of ASHRAE and we want to get to know all of you! Each month we're going to ask one of our members some questions so the chapter can get to know them better.



This month we're going to get to know Drew Nowak a little bit better. Drew is currently the Executive Director of Operations at Mollenberg-Betz. Drew has been with Mollenberg-Betz for 15 years. Prior to Mollenberg-Betz, Drew spent time working for M/E Engineering and MJ Mechanical. Drew has been an ASHRAE member for 30 years and has previously served as Chapter President ('03-'04), all the officer positions, the BOG, Student President at Alfred State College, and is currently the co-chair of the scholarship committee.

Q: What aspect of your job do you find most rewarding?

A: I would say working with my colleagues to incorporate changes in our company and industry in general. Bringing creativity to the problem-solving process is exciting and rewarding for me. I love a good challenge!

Q: What do you like most about being an ASHRAE member?

A: In our area specifically, ASHRAE has historically been a close-knit group, allowing each aspect of our industry to communicate and work together no matter what your role or background might be. It has allowed many of us to move through our careers with relative ease as our job/position changes over time thanks to the professional relationships created by ASHRAE.

Q: Tell us something most members would not already know about you.

A: When I was in high school, I went to Germany as an exchange student. Unlike most of the other applicants, I wasn't at the top of the charts when it came to academics; certainly not for a lack of trying though. I was presented with the opportunity to study abroad and decided to utilize my "motto" of "When in doubt, do it". Somehow, I got in and even got a scholarship; it was then that I asked my parents if I could go to study abroad for a full calendar year. Stunned by my follow through on this "small unknown topic", they agreed. The following Junior year was the hardest thing I've ever done. I learned an entirely new culture, gained new friends and experiences and became fluent in the German language. Additionally, I learned a lot about myself and the world around me and came back to the US a completely different person. That experience has made me the person I am today. I still go back to Germany every couple years and spend time with the friends I made. I just got back from spending a week with them biking the high Alps in France and Italy. We decided before we get "too old" we would do [The Stone King](#) for 6 days...known as being the most difficult mountain biking in the world. I guess that tracks with my thoughts on a good challenge! I'm excited to see what that next challenge will be for me and my career!

Q: When you were our chapter President is there an accomplishment you are particularly proud of?

A: In a measurable sense, our chapter received the Presidential Award of Excellence with an Honorable Mention as the Most Improved Chapter in Region 1. For me though, it was going from an attendance of single digits to 80+ at our monthly meetings. We made big changes to our format and made a point to call members personally with that month's meeting invitation. Those actions breathed new life into the chapter and restored that "close-knit" level of communication. As a young engineer (and the youngest President in our Chapter history at that time), this experience was rewarding for me as I was able to have some one-on-one time with members... all of which had more experience than me! The advice and feedback I received really made the changes to our chapter happen.

Q: Any words of wisdom for our members?

A: When in doubt, do it. What I mean is, if you're presented with a challenge or an opportunity, if you're not sure, do it. If you don't, you'll never really know. A motto I live by is, if I don't do it, then somebody else will; what makes them any different from me? ...of course I reserve this to challenges in our industry. You certainly don't want me sewing on a finger or giving legal advice!



2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium

Omni Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA

April 13-14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!



After a sold-out debut, the Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium returns—bigger, bolder, and more empowering than ever!

Join us for two full days of connection, inspiration, and leadership growth with women from across the HVACR industry—from students and early-career professionals to seasoned veterans. This isn't just for engineers—it's for every woman making an impact on the built environment.

Whether you're here to build your network, develop your leadership skills, or cheer on the next generation through the Young Women in ASHRAE EmpowerHERment Award competition—YOU BELONG HERE!

Empower, Elevate, Lead. Belong!





Employment Opportunities

Mechanical Engineer

Trautman Associates

https://buffaloashrae.org/classifieds.php?record_number=6

May 28, 2024

As a Mechanical Designer, you'll specialize in commercial projects that range from groundbreaking new constructions to transformative renovations.

1. Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to design mechanical systems that meet client needs and exceed industry standards.
2. Prepare construction documents and conduct comprehensive energy modeling and calculations.
3. Ensure compliance with energy codes and regulations.
4. Conduct field surveys to assess existing HVAC, Plumbing and fire protection infrastructures.
5. Engage in construction administration activities.
6. Lead teams through project milestones.

What we are looking for in our next Mechanical Designer:

1. A bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.
2. A minimum of 5 years of professional experience.
3. Proficiency in AutoCAD, Revit, Bluebeam, and MS Office.
4. Understanding of relevant codes and standards.
5. Ability to manage multiple projects concurrently while meeting deadlines.
6. A collaborative spirit and excellent communication skills.

If you're a motivated individual who shares our values and is seeking a fulfilling career in mechanical design, we'd love to welcome you to our team! Join us at Trautman Associates and become part of our vibrant community. Apply today and let's build a brighter future together.

Contact Information

Marisa Scroger

mscroger@trautmanassoc.com



ASHRAE PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Click each badge to learn more about the benefits of each ASHRAE professional certification



Building Commissioning Professional (BCxP) Certification

ASHRAE’s BCxP certification program validates competency to lead, plan, coordinate and manage a commissioning team to implement commissioning processes in new and existing buildings.



Building Energy Assessment Professional (BEAP) Certification

The BEAP certification, an ANSI-Accredited Personnel Certification Program under ISO/IEC 17024 (#1139), validates competency to assess building systems and site conditions; analyze and evaluate equipment and energy usage; and recommend strategies to optimize building resource utilization.



Building Energy Modeling Professional (BEMP) Certification

The BEMP certification, an ANSI-Accredited Personnel Certification Program under ISO/IEC 17024 (#1139), validates competency to model new and existing building and systems with the full range of physics; and evaluate, select, use, calibrate and interpret the results of energy modeling software where applied to building and systems energy performance and economics.



Certified HVAC Designer (CHD) Certification

The CHD certification, managed under ISO/IEC 17024 requirements for ANSI-Accredited Personnel Certification Programs, validates competency to design HVAC systems to meet building/project requirements, including equipment, equipment sizing, load calculations, mechanical equipment room design, duct and piping design and layout, and develop HVAC plans for permit and construction.



Certified Decarbonization Professional (CDP) Certification

The CDP certification program validates competency of the decarbonization professional to do the following: Assess, analyze, and develop effective and sustainable strategies that reduce/eliminate the life-cycle carbon footprint of new and existing buildings.



High-Performance Building Design Professional (HBPD) Certification

The HBPD certification, an ANSI-Accredited Personnel Certification Program under ISO/IEC 17024 (#1139), validates competency to design and integrate sustainable HVAC&R systems into high performing buildings.



Healthcare Facility Design Professional (HFDP) Certification

The HFDP certification validates competency to incorporate standards and guidelines as well as unique healthcare facility requirements and design principles in HVAC system design.



Operations and Performance Management Professional (OPMP) Certification

Developed with the participation of APPA and the General Services Administration (GSA), the OPMP certification validates competency to do the following:

Manage facility operations and maintenance to achieve building performance goals, including those related to indoor environmental quality, health and safety.



WHY GET CERTIFIED?

BUFFALO CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

	Name	Company	Phone	Email
President	Stacia Valik	Stark Tech Group	716-693-4490	valiks@starktech.com
President-Elect	Elizabeth Hagerty	Cannon Design	716-774-3381	ehagerty@cannondesign.com
Vice President	Dan Arnold	JW Swanson	716-877-6900	darnold@jwswanson.com
Secretary	Eben Piazza	Emerson-Swan	716-290-1090	epiazza@emersonswan.com
Treasurer	Charlie Grochowiak	RF Peck	716-276-8933	cgrochowiak@rfpeck.com
Board of Governors	John Stuber	U&S Services, Inc.	716-693-4490	stuberj@usservicesinc.com
Board of Governors	Thomas Marone	BJ Muirhead Co.	631-599-3971	tmarone@bjmuirhead.com
Board of Governors	Nicole Smith	Cannon Design	716-774-3256	nsmith@cannondesign.com
Historian	Rick Robinson	Retired	716-983-6292	krickr67@gmail.com
Scholarships	Drew Nowak Nick Farina	Custom Sheetmetal Victaulic	716-614-7472 716-961-8844	anowak@mollenbergbetz.com nick.farina@victaulic.com
Awards	Rick Robinson Russ Stuber	Retired Retired	716-983-6292 716-693-4490	krickr67@gmail.com russStuber@gmail.com
Membership	Eben Piazza	Emerson-Swan	716-290-1090	epiazza@emersonswan.com
Newsletter Editor	Joshua Mee	IPD Engineering	716-431-5719	jmee@ipdengineering.com
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Research Promotion	Jake Muller Emma Waechter	Stark Tech Group	716-693-4490	mullerj@starktech.com waechtere@starktech.com
Young Engineers	Aditya Sharda	IMEG Corp.	716-249-0099	aditya.sharda@imegcorp.com
Student Activities				
Webmaster	Thomas Marone	BJ Muirhead Co.	631-599-3971	tmarone@bjmuirhead.com
CRC Delegate	Nicole Smith	Cannon Design	716-774-3256	nsmith@cannondesign.com
CRC Alternate	Elizabeth Hagerty	Cannon Design	716-774-3381	ehagerty@cannondesign.com
Grassroots Government Advocacy	Charlie Grochowiak	RF Peck	716-276-8933	cgrochowiak@rfpeck.com
Sustainability	Krista Wayne	Cannon Design	716-774-3459	kwayne@cannondesign.com
Woman in ASHRAE	Nicole Smith Elizabeth Hagerty	Cannon Design	716-774-3256 716-774-3381	nsmith@cannondesign.com ehagerty@cannondesign.com
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Nicole Smith	Cannon Design	716-774-3256	nsmith@cannondesign.com



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MINUTES

When: Thursday October 9, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

Attendees: Eben Piazza
Elizabeth Hagerty
Rick Robinson
Jake Muller
Emma Waechter
Charlie Grochowiak
Joshua Mee
Stacia Valik
Dan Arnold
Aditya Sharda
Nick Farina

Location: Pearl Street Brewery

[ASHRAE 2025-26 PAQE Guide, William McQuade](#)

Minutes: [ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter BOG Meeting Minutes](#)

Next Meeting: November 5, 2025.

