

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Our President – Stacia Valik

I'd like to start by saying how proud I am of our Buffalo Chapter and the incredible momentum we've built together. At this year's Chapter Regional Conference, our chapter was recognized with several outstanding honors — we brought home the Limelight Award, the Black Ink Award, and the RP Full Circle Award! These achievements are a testament to the dedication, teamwork, and passion within our chapter.

A huge shoutout goes to the individuals who made these recognitions possible:



- **Eben Piazza**, our Member Promotion Chair, for his outstanding work in growing and engaging our membership.
- **Joshua Mee**, our Newsletter Editor, for continually delivering excellent chapter communications through our newsletter.
- **Jacob Muller**, our Research Promotion Chair, for his exceptional efforts in fundraising and supporting ASHRAE's mission through RP.

Thank you all for the time, effort, and energy you put into making the Buffalo Chapter thrive. Your commitment truly makes a difference.

Last week, we also hosted our first YEA Happy Hour of the year at Resurgence, sponsored by Trane. It was a great turnout and a fantastic networking opportunity for our younger members. Thank you to our YEA Chair, Aditya Sharda, for organizing such a successful event!

Looking ahead, our next monthly meeting will be on November 11th at Big Ditch Brewing Company. RF Peck will be sponsoring, and presenting on, High Plume Lab Exhaust Systems — a highly relevant topic for many of us involved in lab design and ventilation projects. We're looking forward to another great meeting, so please join us if you can! Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to ASHRAE and our Buffalo Chapter. Let's keep the momentum going and make this another successful event!

Stacia Vailk
President – ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter

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Website:

Check out our website for updated chapter information at www.buffalodashrae.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:

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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!

The Newsletter is currently seeking sponsorships. With a \$50 donation to the chapter, your business card (3.5" x 2") sized advertisement will be printed with each issue of the newsletter for 12 consecutive months. It's a great way to promote your name and your business to nearly 400 local industry professionals! If you would like to sponsor the newsletter, please follow the instructions below:

- Please mail a check payable to ASHRAE Buffalo Chapter and addressed to:
ATTN: Joshua Mee
500 Corporate Pkwy, Suite 120
Buffalo, New York 14226
- E-mail a PDF copy of your ad to jmee@ipdengineering.com, or mail a business card with payment to the address above.



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.



Live Virtual Training



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.

2025-2026 Scholarship Recipients:

The Buffalo Chapter awarded 4 scholarships to a college students this year as part of the Kenneth E. Champagne Scholarship Fund. The scholarship was provided for the 2025-2026 college year. Below is a little bit of information on each recipient:

- Alex Smith is from Hamburg and currently a senior at Michigan State University where he is progressing towards a bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering with and expected graduation this spring. Alex spent the summers of 2023 and 2024 interning with Stark Compression and spent this past summer interning at NASA. Alex is very involved at MSU, participating in 5 extra circular activities and serving as a Learning Assistant.
- Aaron Johnson is originally from Rensselaer, New York and is currently studying industrial engineering at Buffalo State where he is also a member of the Men’s Hockey team. Aaron is a senior with an expected graduation this coming spring. Aaron interned in this past summer with Danforth in the acquisitions department. Aaron is very interested in moving into industrial and process design after graduation with a specific interest in ice rink design.
- Luke Ingham is from Williamsville and stayed local, enrolling at Canisius Univeristy. Luke has an expected graduation this coming spring with a major in finance. Luke is very interested in moving into the HVAC industry post graduation where he can applied his skills in communication and problem solving.
- Our final receiptient elected not to be highlighted.

Congratulations to the four recipients of the ASHRAE chapter scholarships this year. We look forward to the four of you completing your degree and hopefully joining the Buffalo-area HVAC workforce. Good luck on the 2025-26 school year!



SPONSORSHIP *Opportunities*

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.





Welcome to our New Members:

- Mr. John Jacob; Johnson Controls Inc.
- Mr. Zachary MacDonald; Carrier Corporation

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

2025 ASHRAE BUFFALO CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY

December 4, 2024 | 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Curtiss Hotel
210 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY, 14202
[Add to Calendar](#) [Get Directions](#)

- 3-hour open bar
- Valet parking
- Rooftop view
- Dinner served at 6:45pm
- Attire: Cocktail formal (no jeans)
- Spouses and partners welcome!

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS: \$100

Please note seating is limited and we expect tickets to sell out!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

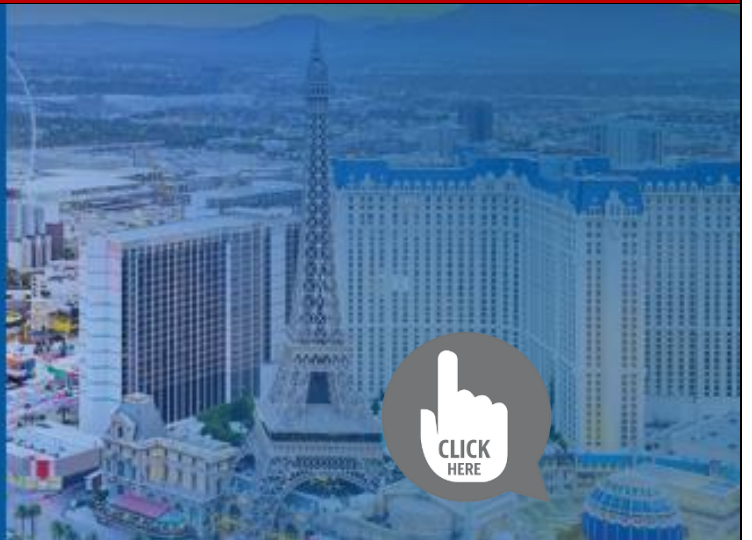
Bar Sponsor: \$400
Dinner Sponsor: \$400
Table Sponsor: \$150

Please contact Lizzie Hagerty (EHagerty@CannonDesign.com) if your company would like to take advantage of our sponsorship opportunities.



**2026 ASHRAE
WINTER CONFERENCE**

LAS VEGAS, JAN 31 - Feb 4, 2026 | AHR EXPO, FEB 2-4



OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

VIBRATION ISOLATION

presented by: Mason Industries

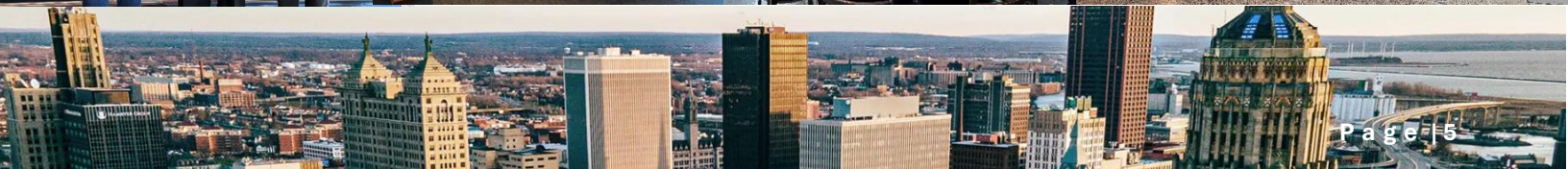


Thank you to our Speaker:

Raj Prime – Regional Sales Engineer for Mason Industries with over 20 years specializing in vibration and acoustical isolation, seismic restraint, and piping expansion compensation and is currently a voting member on ASHRAE TC 2.6 (Sound and Vibration)


The first of this year’s slate of lunch meetings was a practical introduction to the fundamentals of vibration isolation. Approximately 30-chapter members were educated on topics such as vibration theory, isolation methods, and how wind restraint systems and code requirements can impact vibration isolation design practices. As part of the lecture from Raj Prime, some real-world examples were discussed along with successful mitigation strategies and common pit falls of isolation design and how to avoid them. Raj presented a scaled rotary machine to demonstrate how different isolation methods impact the resulting mitigation. The chapter thanks Raj for taking time to provide an educational refresher on a topic most of us likely do not spend enough time considering. We all also thank F.P. Langley company for arranging Raj to be available for this month’s meeting and providing sponsorship. Special thanks as always to those chapter members who were able to pull away from their workday and join us for this lunch meeting. We look forward to another well attended ASHRAE year.

Thank you to our Sponsor:



1 PDH Credit!

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Date and Time	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
November 11, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Big Ditch Brewery 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, NY 14203	Sustainable Lab Exhaust and High Plume Dilution		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 EVENT

Date and Time	Location	Event	Event Sponsor	Cost*
CHECK BACK SOON FOR EXCITING UPCOMING YEA EVENTS				

* 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 WIA EVENT


Date and Time	Location	Event	Event Sponsor	Cost
November 18, 2025 5:00 – 7:00 PM	Lucky Day 320 Pearl St. Buffalo, NY 14202	WIA Happy Hour		Free for Members (cover your own tab)

PAOE SUMMARY

Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points
Chapter Operations	600	1500	60
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	600
Communications	300	700	160
Government Affairs	500	1250	0
Historical	100	500	190
Membership Promotion	800	1400	425
Research and Promotion	800	1050	55
Student Activities	500	800	0
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	550

* Point summary current as of 10/27/2025.



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	Natatorium 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.





OCTOBER YEA EVENT

We had a great turnout for the first YEA Event of the year. Thanks to Aditya Sharda (pictured above and to the right), our new YEA chairperson for organizing the happy hour at Resurgence Brewery on Wednesday October 29th. Special thanks to our friends at Trane, including Mike Tasevski (pictured to the right) for sponsoring the food and drinks. YEA is a great opportunity for young professionals in the HVAC industry to connect and network, and we look forward to future events being as successful as this one.



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 Brian Zintel a little bit better. Brian is currently a Principal at Buffalo Engineering. Brian has been with Buffalo Engineering for 14 years. Brian has been an ASHRAE member for 10 years.

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

A: I enjoy the problem-solving aspect—finding innovative solutions that balance performance, sustainability, and cost. And as a principal, it's incredibly fulfilling to lead a team and collaborate with architects, owners, and contractors to bring that shared vision to life.

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

A: The opportunity to connect and collaborate with various members that occupy other spaces in the industry.

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

A: Most people would not know that I was born in Adak, Alaska.

Q: How do you spend your free time?

A: I enjoy boating, golfing, running, and wine.

Q: Tell us a little bit about a project you worked on that you really enjoyed?

A: One project I really enjoyed was assisting Erie County in expediting the code review and permitting for the new Bills Stadium. Reviewing the designs for a marquee project of this magnitude was both challenging and highly insightful. It was rewarding to contribute to a high-profile project that required careful coordination, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of building codes and MEP systems

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: Alfred State College

Q: What drove you to a career in HVAC?

A: I stumbled into this career path. I was afforded an opportunity to intern with J.W. Danforth during my junior year of college. The internship offered a new perspective into an industry that I generally was unaware of.

Q: What are some future goals and aspirations for your career?

A: Looking ahead, my primary career goal is to continue driving the growth and success of Buffalo Engineering. I want to expand our firm's presence into larger and more diverse markets.

Q: What did you want to do when you were young?

A: I grew up in a military family, having spent most of my time living on a naval base in Norfolk Virginia, I wanted to pilot F-16 fighter jets.

Q: What will you do when you retire?

A: I'm very passionate about antiques and watch collecting. I love curating pieces that reflect the eras and styles I admire—it's a hobby that combines curiosity, patience, and a love of history, and it's how I plan to enjoy my retirement.



Women in ASHRAE 2026 Leadership Symposium



April 13-14, 2026 | Los Angeles California

2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium

Omni Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA

April 13-14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

REGISTER NOW



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!



April 13-14, 2026
Los Angeles California



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 (HBDP) Certification

The HBDP 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
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Young Engineers	Aditya Sharda	IMEG Corp.	716-249-0099	aditya.sharda@imegcorp.com
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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: Wednesday November 5, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

Attendees: Nicole Smith
Eben Piazza
Elizabeth Hagerty
Charlie Grochowiak
Stacia Valik
Dan Arnold
Emma Waechter

Location: Pearl Street Brewery and Grille

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

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

Next Meeting: December 10, 2025.

