

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Our President – Stacia Valik

As we come to the end of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic momentum our chapter built this year. Our Christmas Party was a tremendous success—thank you to everyone who joined us, participated, and helped create such a warm, festive atmosphere. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their generosity. Events like this remind us how strong and engaged our Buffalo Chapter community truly is.



Let's carry that energy forward into 2026. I'm excited for what the new year has in store for the chapter. I'm confident that, together, we can continue building on the enthusiasm and participation we've sparked.

We look forward to seeing you at our January meeting as we kick off the new year with fresh ideas and renewed commitment to our industry and our chapter. Your presence makes all the difference, and we can't wait to reconnect.

From all of the officers and Board of Governors, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stacia Valik

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:

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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



Welcome to our New Member:



- Mr. Brenden Finn; Fathom Testing LLC

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

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.



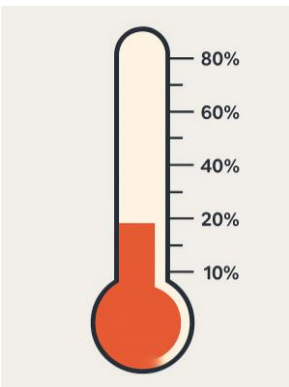
Live Virtual Training



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.



Research and Promotion Progress

For over a hundred years ASHRAE focused efforts on researching to improve quality of life through improving the way HVAC&R work, and how they are applied. The research and promotion committee funds numerous studies to address topics such as sound, duct design, load calculations, thermal conductivity, energy analysis, weather data, and fire smoke control, just to name a few. Each year, every chapter is tasked with a fund-raising goal, set by the society, to contribute to this effort.

From a chapter perspective, our main R&P fundraisers are the annual golf outing in June and the Super Bowl squares pool in February. We are proud to announce the chapter achieved 30% of the goal by 12/1/25, which awarded us additional PAOE points.

2025-2026 Buffalo Chapter Goal: **\$10,900**

2025-2026 YTD Chapter Contributions: **\$3,270**

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) is in the process of setting up meetings with our local NYS Assembly members and State Senators. These meetings will serve as introductions between ASHRAE, represented by our chapter, and our local State representatives and will facilitate future meetings on local and statewide legislative efforts. More details to follow as these meetings take place.

The GAC is responsible for organizing ASHRAE members to educate local, state, provincial, and national government bodies and officials in areas of interest to ASHRAE members, and to promote effective cooperation between ASHRAE members and government. The committee works to coordinate government affairs efforts and is responsible for developing the extent and the manner in which ASHRAE implements and pursues actions to influence government affairs and public policy.



NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

SUSTAINABLE LAB EXHAUST AND HIGH PLUME DILUTION

presented by: Strobic Air Technologies



Thank you to our **Speaker**: Ms. Sarah Leiner, North American Regional Sales Manager at Strobic Air Technologies. Ms. Leiner works closely with her reps, such as RF Peck to navigate tricky projects that include critical lab exhaust, high plume exhaust, and heat recovery systems.

Thank you to our **Sponsor**:




For the November chapter meeting, we welcomed Ms. Sarah Leiner to discuss the application of high plume high dilution lab exhaust systems. Ms. Leiner coached the group of over 40-chapter members through custom design strategies and principles of these specialized exhaust systems such as maintaining velocity, and touched out optimization topics such as variable air flow and energy recovery. She touched on adjacent topics such as life cycle costs and durability concerns and effects of vibration on system components. We thank Ms. Leiner for traveling in from Kentucky to educate the attendees on this specialized design. Special thanks for Charlie Grochowiak and the entire team at RF Peck for arranging Ms. Leiner to be available to the chapter, and for sponsoring the lunch meeting. The chapter is blessed to have great turnouts for our lunch meetings so far this year. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Curtiss Hotel on December 4th for our annual holiday party.



1 PDH Credit!

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Date and Time	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
January 13, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Big Ditch Brewery 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, NY 14203	Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization presented by ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Chris DesRoches, PE	 <i>a member of DAIKIN group</i>	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 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT


Date and Time	Location	Event	Event Sponsor	Cost
TBD	TBD	Sustainability Happy Hour – more details to follow		Free for members (cover your tab)

PAOE SUMMARY

Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points
Chapter Operations	600	1500	75
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	900
Communications	300	700	215
Government Affairs	500	1250	0
Historical	100	500	190
Membership Promotion	800	1400	450
Research and Promotion	800	1050	380
Student Activities	500	800	0
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	500

* Point summary current as of 12/1/2025.



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	Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization presented by ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Chris DesRoches, PE	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.

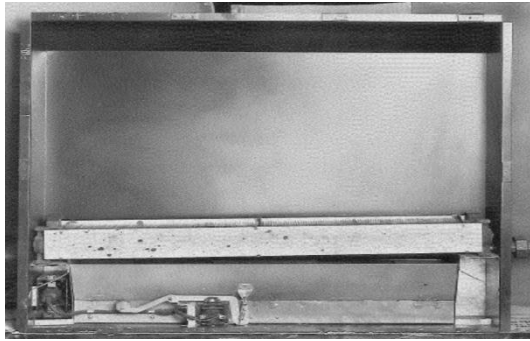


Holiday Party: December 4th



Thank You to those who attended

A LESSON IN HISTORY



The man pictured here is Edward H Cox. He was born in Buffalo in 1899 and lived in the North Buffalo area of the city. The family later moved to Hamburg where Ed graduated from Hamburg High School. Ed attended Syracuse University circa 1920 and went to work in the heating field.

In his spare time he got together with Charles Damon and invented the first Unit Ventilator. Amazing what some people do after working all day.

The invention, as seen to the side, was relatively simple -

the cast iron radiation is replaced with a fin type coil and electric fans (behind the casing) blow either room air or outside air cross it. The damper at the bottom controls the outdoor air / return air flow.

The patent letter included this simple description.

The general object of the invention is to provide a heater of this general type wherein fresh air may be drawn in from the exterior of the building and directed past the radiator and discharged out through the casing enclosing the radiator and so into the room or whereby the inlet of fresh air may be cut off and the air within the room allowed to circulate through the radiator.



The patent was awarded in 1931 and Mr. Cox approached manufacturers in hopes of getting the unit into production. There were, however, several factors working against him. It was a new idea without a track record and the Great Depression was in full force. The companies he contacted were unwilling or unable to spend money on developing new inventions or marketing them. Finally, the capability was so revolutionary – enabling one unit located in the room itself to both heat and ventilate – that standards hadn't yet been created on how the ventilation could be accomplished in this way. The patent ran out seven years later and others, like Nesbitt who made millions of them, went on to develop the Unit Ventilator.

Anyone who's ever done any school HVAC has seen hundreds of 'UVs' throughout the classrooms, gyms and offices. You can easily tell when a school has been renovated for proper, modern ventilation rates by noticing the inlet grills below the classroom windows. They have now been made to cool as well and can be found anywhere people live, learn or work.

By this time, though, Cox had started the Edward H Cox Company which originally dealt in boiler room equipment. Later as Ed's son, Jim joined the company they were moving into general heating equipment. Jim became a partner in Hydro-Air Components in the early 80's. The Hydro-Air Company manufactured Rittling products made by the company that had been started in 1946 by Charles Rittling. Walter Zurowski was heading the company, then located in Gowanda, at the time James Cox partnered with him. The Rittling Company had been awarded its own patent in 1953 for a twin tube residential baseboard unit.

By the early 90's, Jim sold back his interest in Hydro-Air/Rittling to Walter Sr though Cox continued to sell the Rittling product line. Rittling experienced good growth under Walter Jr, who took over from his father, and attracted the attention of the Zehnder Group and sold to them resulting in the Zehnder Ritting Company we know today.

Rick Robinson, History Chair
(with thanks to Bill Cox and Jim Wekenmann)



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 Tim Blackburn a little bit better. Tim is retired from Stark Tech / RL Kistler where we was a Senior Sales Advisor / Business Development for the last 23 years of his career. Prior to Stark Tech, Tim spent time working for Air Enterprises, Semco, and American Air Filter for approximately 20 years in various roles. Tim was an ASHRAE member for 33 years until his retirement in 2022.

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

A: Trust building and serving others through each project to attain more work.

Q: What did you love most about your job?

A: Teaching others the importance of having a solutions driven mentality.

Q: What originally brought you to Western New York?

A: Working for a highly regarded local equipment representative, RL Kistler.

Q: If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: Breakfast, and my favorite place to eat it is at the Olympia Restaurant.

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

A: Working on an operating room project for Catholic Health. The project required 24/7 labor to keep the Operating Rooms running during a critical HVAC renovation upgrade. This kept the revenue coming in. The project required a detailed focus to complete.

Q: What is your biggest professional achievement?

A: Learning that every team member (weak or strong) is important. Supporting everyone involved with project is the best way to make it successful.

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

A: I am colorblind

Q: Now that you are retired, what do you do with your time?

A: I Read, garden, spend time with my wife of 40+ years, family, friends, and seven grandchildren. My daughter and her family live in Colorado, it's my favorite place to travel. We make trips there a few times a year and always try to have a new experience while we visit.

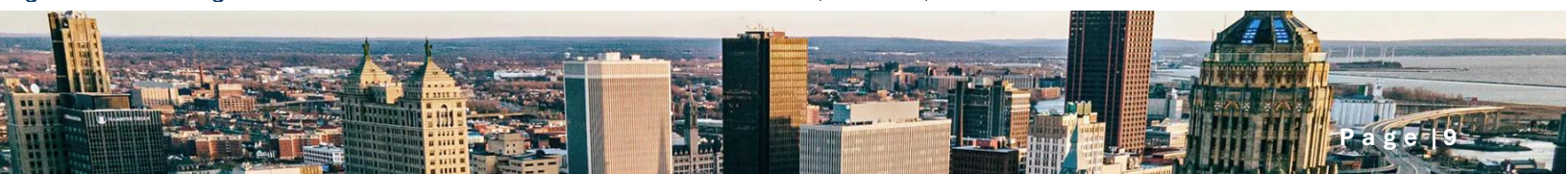
Q: When someone asks you what you did for a living how do you explain your career to them?

A: Every building and every living thing needs air to survive. My job was making sure that the people and the building got the air that they need at a reasonable cost.

Q: Any words of wisdom for our members?

A: Be curious about everything.

We thank Tim for his time in participating in the Member Spotlight. It's always fun to get to know our peers a little bit better. If you or someone you know would like to be featured in our member spotlight, please reach out to the newsletter editor.



Women in ASHRAE

2026 Leadership Symposium

2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium

Omni Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA

April 13-14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

REGISTER NOW

April 13-14, 2026 | Los Angeles California

CLICK
HERE

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



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- Follow this link to pay through the website with a credit card:
<https://buffaloashrae.starchapter.com/catalog.php?cat=2&pid=15>
- E-mail a PDF copy of your business card and a confirmation of payment to jmee@ipdengineering.com
- Or; reach out to the newsletter editor to make other arrangements to sponsor.



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
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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
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CRC Alternate	Elizabeth Hagerty	Cannon Design	716-774-3381	ehagerty@cannondesign.com
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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: January 7, 2026.

