

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Our President – Stacia Valik

Our January meeting set a strong and meaningful tone for the year ahead; as we had a record attendance. The discussions surrounding the role of hydronic equipment in the electrification of buildings were timely, practical, and forward-thinking. As our industry responds to global decarbonization goals and evolving energy policies, it is clear that hydronic systems will play a critical role in enabling efficient, resilient, and scalable electrification strategies.



Looking ahead, the coming year offers tremendous opportunity. Future meetings will continue to build on this momentum, exploring practical pathways for electrification, integrating emerging technologies, and strengthening collaboration across regions and disciplines. Through our technical committees, standards activities, and conferences, ASHRAE will remain at the forefront of providing unbiased, science-based guidance to support a more sustainable built environment.

As we move forward, I encourage every member to stay engaged—participate in meetings, contribute your expertise, mentor the next generation, and help shape the conversations that will define our industry’s future. Together, we can ensure that ASHRAE not only responds to change but leads it. Our next meeting will be February 10th, presentation from VERTIV and sponsored by Stark Tech. The topic will be cooling today’s high performance IT Systems.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment. I look forward to the productive discussions and innovations that lie ahead in the coming 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 Members:



- Mr. Jay Nolan; Jansons Associates

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 100 years ASHRAE has focused efforts on research to improve quality of life by improving HVAC&R systems, 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. Each year, every chapter is tasked with a fund-raising goal, to contribute to this effort.

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

2025-2026 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.



JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

HYDRONICS AS A SOLUTION TO ACHIEVE ELECTRIFICATION AND DECARBONIZATION

presented by ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Chris DesRoches, P.E.



Thank you to our Speaker:


ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Chris Desroches, P.E. Business Development Manager – Heating and Cooling, specializing in hydronic heat pump solutions

At the January chapter meeting, we were thrilled to welcome our first distinguished lecturer of the year, Mr. Chris DesRoches, P.E with a sold out crowd of 50+ members. Chris traveled from the Great White North to give us an overview of the role and opportunity to use hydronics in electrification and decarbonization. With the movement towards low GWP and A2L refrigerants and electrified heating and cooling dominating the industry in recent months, Chris highlighted how hydronics can efficiently heat and cool buildings without sacrificing thermal comfort. The present used a case study between chilled beam and VRF to illustrate how electrified hydronic systems can be used in centralized heating and cooling plants, centralized ventilation systems, and terminal units leveraging low temperature heating and high temperature cooling. We thank Chris for making the trip from our friendly neighbors to the north, as well as our sponsor for the meeting, Modular Comfort Systems. We look forward to another great turnout for our next chapter meeting in February.

Thank you to our Sponsor:



UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Date and Time	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
February 11, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Big Ditch Brewery 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, NY 14203	Data Center Design		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
CHECK BACK SOON FOR EXCITING UPCOMING WIA EVENTS				

PAOE SUMMARY

Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points
Chapter Operations	600	1500	105
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	900
Communications	300	700	270
Government Affairs	500	1250	0
Historical	100	500	190
Membership Promotion	800	1400	300
Research and Promotion	800	1050	820
Student Activities	500	800	0
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	475

* Point summary current as of 01/07/2026.



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	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.



SUPER BOWL SQUARES

AFC										
NFC										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

NOTE: Scores change each quarter

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
Final

1st Quarter
2nd Quarter
3rd Quarter
Final

ASHRAE 2026 Research Promotion Super Bowl Rules

\$25 per Square. Money is due, preferably, at the time of picking your square; please make payment arrangements when selecting your square. Cash or Venmo (@Jacob-Muller-2) are acceptable methods of payment. You can email Jake Muller (mullerj@starktech.com) the number square you want or send Jake a text at 716-261-6865.

Proceeds from the pool will be donated to ASHRAE Research. Each dollar donated to Research is allocated for funding projects that help our industry advance and evolve.

Let's have some industry fun and enjoy the big game! Please forward to anyone else that may be interested.

The numbers for each square will change at the end of each quarter; each square will have four different numbers. See the breakdown of the number rotation to the side.

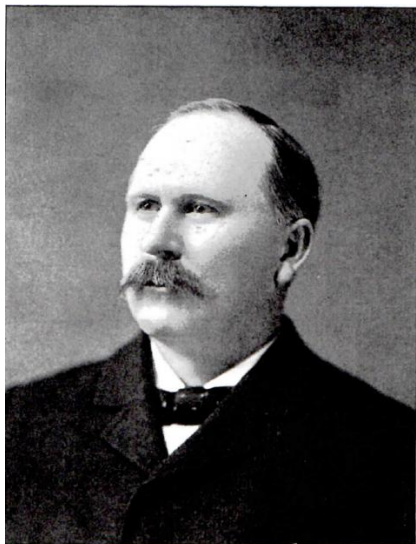
PRIZES

- \$200** - FOR END OF 1ST AND 3RD QUARTER SCORES
- \$400** - FOR END OF 2ND QUARTER SCORE
- \$500** - FOR END OF GAME SCORE

\$1,200 will be donated to ASHRAE Research Promotion.



A LESSON IN HISTORY



WILLIAM F. WENDT



HENRY W. WENDT

William Franz and Louise Wendt immigrated from Germany to Buffalo and on July 2, 1858 William was born followed by Henry on June 19, 1863. Both men went to PS-32 and Central High School now known as Hutchinson Technical High School. These brothers would grow to be great businessmen, civic leaders, philanthropists, and developers of world shaping HVAC equipment.

In 1878, William, working for the R W Bell soap company, across from a new forge bellows manufacturing factory, Buffalo Forge. Buffalo Forge, was not financially stable at the time which allowed William to buy in at a reduced rate. He was 19 years old at the time and had a mind for business. He managed to get the company on a better footing and bought the remaining interest by 1883. To improve the mechanical design and methods he introduced his then 16-year-old brother to the factory. Henry would prove to be every bit the manufacturing and design genius that William was on the business side. Henry started work at company after graduating from Cornell, having several patents for fans and machinery. The brothers were the perfect combination to make Buffalo Forge the worldwide leader in Mechanics, Ventilating, Heating and Air Conditioning.

They later built a much larger plant at Broadway and Mortimer. Henry improved the working environment by adding large ventilation fans. His concern for his workers lead the company to expand into what would become their base business – large Air Handling Units. They added the George Squire Company to reach the agricultural market, Buffalo Steam Pump, and Canadian Buffalo Forge in which William was president and Henry Secretary/Treasurer of each. The pair even published a magazine named La Hacienda to target the South American market. This enterprise lead the King of Spain to give William the Cross of Agricultural Merit medal in 1905. In 1909 William was even considered for Mayor of Buffalo.

But arguably their best move was in 1901 when they hired Willis Carrier, a newly graduated engineer from Cornell. Carrier, as has been discussed, became the ‘Father of Air Conditioning’ perfecting the technology and spreading it throughout the world. Carrier Air Conditioning Company started as a subsidiary of Buffalo Forge. Unfortunately, with the unstable conditions surrounding the beginning of WWI, the Wendts decided to let Carrier go in 1915 after which he formed Carrier Air Conditioning.

Buffalo Forge still grew to become the ‘go to’ company for AHUs. They provided fans for battleships and carriers in WWII. Later they made the fans for Kleinhan’s Music Hall, various UB buildings, Kenmore Mercy Hospital, the Houston Astrodome and the World Trade Center. In 1923 they participated in the formation of the AeroFin company.

William tried to buy into the Scranton Steel company which would become the Lackawanna Bethlehem Steel Plant. He saw it as an emerging industry. In his spare time, William was in the group that built The Tonawanda Electric Railway in 1888. Henry became very active in local charities and provided a monetary gift to every Buffalo Forge employee when children were born.

William retired in 1916 and died on October 30, 1923, whereupon Henry took over Buffalo Forge. Henry died on June 12, 1929. His sons, Henry and Edgar, then became the leaders of the Buffalo Forge Company. The family retired in whole from ownership in 1981 after a hostile take-over by Ampco-Pittsburgh. All of the Buffalo Forge buildings are now gone and the property has been converted into multi-income residential building.

Thanks and acknowledgements to the Buffalo History Museum and the Grosvenor Room of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library.

Rick Robinson, Chapter History Chair



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 Gerry May a little bit better. Gerry is currently a Senior Building Systems Engineer and Project Manager at Clarke Patterson Lee (CPL). Gerry has been with CPL for 4 years. Prior to CPL, Gerry spent over 11 years working at Wendel and over 2 years working at Robson Woese. Gerry has been an ASHRAE member for nearly 20 years.

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

A: Mentoring. I've had some fantastic mentors through the years and I'm happy to pay their lessons forward to the next generation. There's so much to learn in this business and I love seeing people improve and grow.

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

A: Using the Weather Data Viewer to get the most accurate weather data for each area. ASHRAE did a good job with that program.

Q: What is your biggest professional achievement?

A: I think it's growing the WNY Plumbing and Mechanical Tradeshow. I'm the president of ASPE Buffalo-Niagara and I've tried to use my industry connections across plumbing and HVAC to really grow the event into an industry-wide event for the area. I've been fortunate to be surrounded by a great team who have made the tradeshow into a very successful learning and networking event.

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

A: I won the top scholarship awarded by the ASHRAE Twin Tiers Chapter for my senior year project at Alfred State. My partner and I designed and installed a hot water boiler system including baseboard heat, in-floor radiant, a radiant panel, and an indirect water heater.

Q: What do you love most about your job?

A: The variety. I would go bored out of my mind if I did the same thing day in and day out.

Q: What drove you to a career in HVAC?

A: When I was a kid, we had 3D home architecture program on our Windows 95 computer. I spent tons of time designing houses for fun and even added MEP components just to fit out the design. When I was a mechanical engineering student, I took an internship position for the summer at Robson Woese which was an MEP consulting firm. I remember being asked right away if I knew how to read floor plans. I quickly figured out that I was well suited to HVAC and plumbing engineering.

Q: What is your favorite part about living in Western New York?

A: It's the people. With enough travel comes the perspective that we're lucky to have so many nice people in WNY. Hardiness, humility, kindness, and optimism seem to come more easily to WNY'ers than other areas of the country.

Q: Any words of wisdom for our members?

A: Prioritize the good in your life. We have a finite amount of time and energy, and we need to determine what good we want to invest that time and energy towards.

We thank Gerry 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.





ACE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

is Calling for Volunteers!

Are you a professional in the AEC field?

Are you passionate about exposing youth to the industry and career pathways available in Architecture, Construction and Engineering?

Then ACE Afterschool is the place for you!

There is no substitute for experience...and we need you to share yours!



What?

Assist a group of up to 20 local HS students construct wooden furniture for The Plan Room's Dog Park!

Mentor Volunteers will lead the group through each step of the construction process throughout the 15-week program, exposing them to the different phases of construction as well as introducing them to the careers, industry vocabulary, and various roles companies play in the construction industry.



When?

**Wednesdays', February-May 2026*
from 4pm-6:15pm**

*Mentor Volunteers are not required to participate in the entire 15-week program--though it is encouraged. Mentors can choose to attend any of the scheduled sessions that best fit their expertise.



Where?

The Plan Room (2075 Kenmore Ave.)



**"Working with students fills my bucket. The students have so much passion and excitement for the industry that it is exciting to watch and be a part of."
- 2024 ACE Mentor Survey Response**

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Scan or Contact Us!



Email **Jenn Van Dusen** at jvandusen@conexbuff.com



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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Become a Newsletter Sponsor Today!

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:

- 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 (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.



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
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Board of Governors	Thomas Marone	BJ Muirhead Co.	631-599-3971	tmarone@bjmuirhead.com
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Historian	Rick Robinson	Retired	716-983-6292	krickr67@gmail.com
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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: TBD.

