

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Our President – Stacia Valik

As we move further into the year, I want to take a moment to recognize the strong momentum our chapter continues to build. Your participation and engagement are what make our chapter vibrant and valuable for everyone involved.

Our March meeting was a particularly successful one, featuring an excellent presentation on **stair pressurization**. The topic provided valuable insights for many of our members. I'd like to extend a sincere thank-you to our presenter, **Jason Geagan**, for sharing his expertise with the chapter. I'd also like to thank **H&V Sales** for sponsoring the meeting and helping make the event possible. Support from presenters and sponsors like these allows us to continue offering strong technical programs for our members.

I also want to remind everyone about an exciting upcoming Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) event. Be sure to sign up for the **YEA Bandits game outing on March 13th**. It should be a great opportunity to connect with fellow members in a fun, relaxed setting outside of our regular meetings.

Looking ahead, let's keep this momentum going. With the continued enthusiasm we've seen at our meetings, I'm confident we're set up for a fantastic season. We're already looking forward to a great summer that will include our annual **golf outing** along with more engaging meetings and opportunities to connect as a chapter.

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



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.



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





Research and Promotion Progress

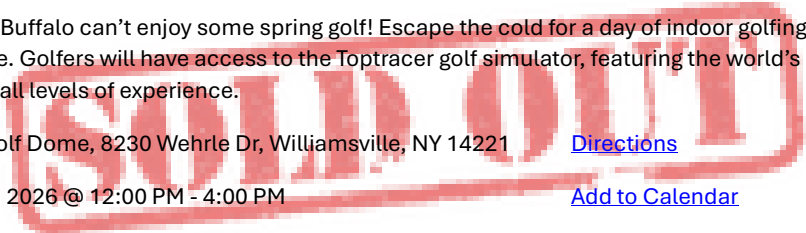
For over 100 years ASHRAE has focused efforts on research to improve quality of life by improving HVAC&R systems, and how they are applied. The research and promotion committee funds numerous studies to address topics such as sound, duct design, load calculations, thermal conductivity, energy analysis, 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: \$4,470

ASHRAE Indoor Golf RP Event

- Who: 20 golfers (5 foursomes) per timeslot
**** Spots are limited to first come first serve. If there is enough interest, additional spots may be added**
- What: Who said Buffalo can't enjoy some spring golf! Escape the cold for a day of indoor golfing and networking at Wehrle Golf Dome. Golfers will have access to the Toptracer golf simulator, featuring the world's best courses and games suited for all levels of experience.
- Where: Wherle Golf Dome, 8230 Wehrle Dr, Williamsville, NY 14221 [Directions](#)
- When: March 19, 2026 @ 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM [Add to Calendar](#)
- First Slot: 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM: Lunch is provided
- Second Slot: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM: Lunch is not provided
- How (much): \$60 per guest (first timeslot); \$50 per guest (second timeslot); \$150 Lunch Sponsorship



MARCH CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

STAIRWELL PRESSURIZATION CONTROLS

presented by: RM Manifold




Thank you to our Speakers:

Jason Geagan, Vice President of Commercial Sales at RM Manifold

This month we welcomed Jason Geagan, the Vice President of Commercial Sales for RM Manifold to discuss the purpose and objectives of pressurization in stairwells. Jason reviewed the predominant code requirements from sources such as IBC, NFPA, and ASHRAE to review how those requirements set expectations followed by strategies and equipment approaches to maintain compliance with the governing code requirements. Jason presented common options for control of components to ensure the tower remain within the dictated pressure levels during dynamic evacuation procedures and finished the presentation by highlighting common pitfalls of typical designs and how to avoid them during design, specifically how we, as engineers, can help our architectural counterparts properly prepare the architecture to maintain a pressurized shaft. We thank Jason for taking the time to review this sensitive topic with the chapter. We also thank H&V Sales for sponsoring the meeting and arranging Jason's visit, and most importantly our chapter members for joining us for this dinner meeting.

Thank you to our Sponsor:




UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING				
Date and Time	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
April 21, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Kleinhans Music Hall 3 Symphony Cir, Buffalo, NY 14201	Acoustics	 J.W.SWANSON & ASSOCIATES.LLC	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*
March 13 th , 2026 Happy Hour @ 5:30 PM; Game Start @ 7:30 PM	KeyBank Center with pre-game Happy Hour at the Labatt Bre House	Buffalo Bandits vs Colorado Mammoth		Free for Members!! (space will be limited)

* 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
March 3, 2026 5:00 – 7:00 PM	Caio Ciao 1368 Hertel Ave. Buffalo, NY 14216	Happy Hour and Discussion		Free to Members, cover your tab

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us!

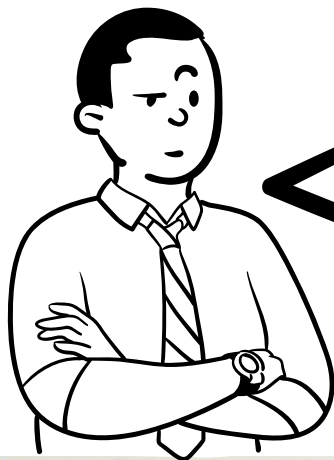
PAOE SUMMARY				
Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points	
Chapter Operations	600	1500	145	
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	1000	
Communications	300	700	355	
Government Affairs	500	1250	0	
Historical	100	500	190	
Membership Promotion	800	1400	475	
Research and Promotion	800	1050	820	
Student Activities	500	800	50	
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	525	

* Point summary current as of 03/02/2026.



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 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Stairwell Pressurization and Controls presented by Jason Gaegan of RM Manifold
November 11, 2025 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Sustainable Lab Exhaust and High Plume Dilution presented by RF Peck and Strobic Air Technologies	April 21, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Acoustics presented by J.W. Swanson
December 4, 2025 5:00 – 8:00 PM	Annual Holiday Party at the Curtiss Hotel	May 12, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Clean Room Design presented Guckian Energy Systems
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.





A LESSON IN HISTORY

CARRIER'S "FLASH OF GENIUS"

While waiting for his train on a damp foggy platform Willis Carrier's thoughts turned to an idea for a problem he'd been working on for years. *How to control the amount of moisture in the conditioned air.*

To paraphrase his description of his Flash of Genius:

As he paced in the near freezing temperature and fog it came to him that though the fog was saturated with moisture it was so cold that it actually didn't contain much moisture. So, if he could saturate air *and* control its temperature at saturation he could get air with any amount of moisture he wanted in it. He could do this by passing the air through a fine spray to create fog. He could control the temperature at saturation by controlling the temperature of the air; controlling the air temperature by using hot or cold sprays. As warm air can contain more moisture than cool air. The cold spray mist will actually be the condensing surface. This is now known as Dew Point Control.

Carrier now had his theory, but it needed a research apparatus to accomplish it. A year later he had time to return to it. He realized he had to find a special nozzle to produce a mist fine enough to saturate the air. And design eliminators to prevent unevaporated water to be contained in the conditioned air. Eventually, he designed an eliminator section and used nozzles similar to those used by farmers to spray insecticides. Photos of these patent drawings have been included in past copies of the newsletter.

The result, some years later, was the Buffalo Forge AHU from previous history articles. From these theories and research modern A/C was born and perfected.

Willis Carrier was born and raised in Angola and first employed the Buffalo Forge Company in Buffalo. Though his company split from Buffalo Forge and eventually moved to New York City, New Jersey and then finally headquartered in Syracuse, he's our guy. He died after visiting one of his first Chillers still operating to Spec decades later. He's buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery on Delaware Ave.

The source for Carrier's 'Flash of Genius' is his biography titled 'Willis Carrier - FATHER OF AIR CONDITIONING' by Margaret Ingels.

Rick Robinson - Buffalo 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 Josh Doroshenko a little bit better. Josh is currently an Engineer and Project Manager at IBC Engineering. Josh has been with IBC for 24 years. Josh has been an ASHRAE member for over 10 years and has previously served in all the officer roles, including president in 2012 – 2013.

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

A: Being able to help mentor some of the younger engineers in the company. Being able to spread my knowledge and mistakes onto the younger engineers to help them advance and make the company better.

Q: What do you love most about your job?

A: Working with different clients to help solve their design issues/problems. Working with the different team members at IBC.

Q: What originally brought you to Western New York?

A: I was one of the original three people who opened the IBC Buffalo office.

Q: What is one piece of advice you received that stuck with you?

A: Always have an open mind when it comes to designs, there's usually more than one way to meet the project's requirements.

Q: When you were our chapter President is there an accomplishment you are particularly proud of? Anything that really stood out?

A: We had a very successful CRC in the chapter's region. I always appreciated the people in the area who support the local ASHRAE chapter.

Q: How do you spend your free time?

A: Reading, golfing and spending time with my wife and 4 sons.

Q: Who is one person that influenced your career most?

A: I first started as an intern at IBC while enrolled at RIT. Aaron McConnell helped me grow from my internship until he moved on from IBC, several years after I was hired full time.

Q: What is your biggest professional achievement?

A: Having the privilege of working for the same company for my entire career and successfully completing over 150 K12 (school) related projects.

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

A: Growing up in a rural area, I wanted to be a farmer.

Q: What is your favorite book or movie (or both!)?

A: I'll read anything by James Patterson, Favorite Movie – Shawshank Redemption.

We thank Josh 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.



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	Mollenberg-Betz 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
Refrigeration				
Research Promotion	Jake Muller Emma Waechter	Stark Tech Group	716-693-4490	mullerj@starktech.com waechtere@starktech.com
Young Engineers	Aditya Sharda	IMEG Corp.	716-427-0452	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
Government Affairs	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 February 4, 2026 @ 12:00 PM

Attendees: Eben Piazza
Elizabeth Hagerty
Krista Wayne
Charlie Grochowiak
Joshua Mee
Stacia Valik
Emma Waechter
Nick Farina
Aditya Sharda
Dan Arnold

Location: Pearl Street Grille and Brewery

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

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

Next Meeting: April 8, 2026.

