

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A Message from Our President – Stacia Valik

As we move into the final stretch of our ASHRAE year, I'm proud to share that we are closing in on our Research Promotion goal. This milestone reflects the generosity, commitment, and shared purpose of our members, who continue to support advancements in the HVAC&R industry through research and innovation.

While we are nearing our target, we are not finished yet. With our upcoming ASHRAE Golf Outing in June, we have a strong opportunity to not only meet but exceed our goal. This event is always a highlight of the year — bringing together colleagues, partners, and friends for a day of connection and friendly competition, all while supporting a meaningful cause. I encourage everyone to participate, invite guests, and help us make this year's outing one of our most successful yet.

As this ASHRAE year comes to a close, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our current officers and volunteers. Your dedication, time, and leadership have made a lasting impact on our chapter and its continued success.

It is also my pleasure to announce and welcome our incoming officers, who will carry this momentum forward into the next year. I am confident that under their leadership, our chapter will continue to grow, innovate, and serve our members and community with excellence.

Thank you all for your continued support and engagement. Let's finish the year strong.

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.

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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. Robert Garra; CannonDesign

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/scholarship_cover_page.pdf
Applications can be found here: https://buffaloashrae.org/images/downloads/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: **\$6,540**



2026 ASHRAE Annual Conference

June 27-July 1 | Austin, TX







APRIL CHAPTER MEETING RECAP

ACOUSTIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR HVAC SYSTEMS

presented by: J.W. Swanson and Associates



Thank you to our Speakers:

Dan Arnold P.E. – Sales Engineer for JW Swanson and Associates
Peter Murrer P.E. – Principal at M/E Engineering
Matt Peters – Project Executive at JW Danforth

The April chapter meeting provided all guests with an opportunity to learn how sound can impact an HVAC system design and equipment selection. With a brief history of Kleinmans Music Hall and how HVAC was integrated into the architecture, our presenters walked the group through the recent air handling unit equipment replacement project. Through the lenses of engineer, equipment provider, and installer, we learned how all parties in a project both positively and negatively impact the acoustic performance of an HVAC system. Members were guided through the project from inception to completion as our presenters informed us on what strategies were used on this HVAC system to ensure the system does not negatively impact the acoustics of the Music Hall. We also learned how to ensure proper design and installation practices are maintained, and what to look for during installation to avoid costly rework to address acoustic shortcomings. We thank all of our presenters for their detailed interpretations of this project and echoing some of their lessons learned. We also thank the 50+ members who were able to join us during their lunch hour to learn a little more about acoustics and some Buffalo historical nostalgia.

Thank you to our Sponsor:



UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING				
Date and Time	Location	Topic and Speaker	Event Sponsor	Cost*
May 12, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	Big Ditch Brewery 55 E. Huron St. Buffalo, NY 14203	Clean Room Design	 GES GUCKIAN ENERGY SYSTEMS EQUIPMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	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*
April 27, 2026 12:00 – 1:00 PM	REGISTER HERE	YEA Webinar: IEQ An Integrated Approach		Free for Members!!

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

UPCOMING WIA EVENT				
Date and Time	Location	Event	Event Sponsor	Cost
CHECK BACK SOON FOR EXCITING UPCOMING WIA EVENTS				

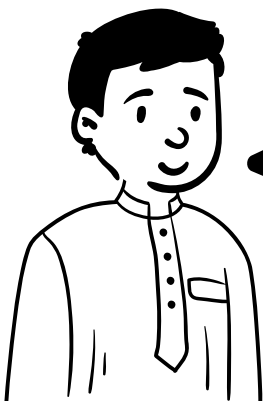
PAOE SUMMARY				
Category	Minimum Points	Par Points	Total Points	
Chapter Operations	600	1500	145	
Chapter Technology Transfer	550	1500	1000	
Communications	300	700	385	
Government Affairs	500	1250	0	
Historical	100	500	190	
Membership Promotion	800	1400	450	
Research and Promotion	800	1050	820	
Student Activities	500	800	50	
Young Engineers in ASHRAE	300	900	525	

* Point summary current as of 03/30/2026.



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 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM	Acoustics Considerations for HVAC Systems 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.



Colorado
Mammoth



10

FINAL

13



Buffalo
Bandits



On March 13 our YEA members gathered for a night of good times, beverages, and good conversation while taking in a Buffalo Bandits lacrosse game. The group enjoyed a Bandits victory over the Colorado Mammoth helped by 4 goals from star forward Dhane Smith and another 3 goals from forward Tehoka Nanticoke. Matt Vinc made 45 saves on the night as the Bandits, rounding into form as the playoffs draws near, never trailed against the 3rd place Mammoth. Special thanks to Nick Farina from Victaulic for sponsoring the game and to all of our YEA members that joined us for the night.



A LESSON IN HISTORY

AN EXEMPLARY GROUNDBREAKING ARCHITECT



Allow me to introduce a truly extraordinary man, Robert Traynham Coles, FAIA who I was lucky enough to work with on his Alumni Arena building at UB's Amherst Campus. His design was cutting edge at the time and as the designer he was present at all the job meetings. He was never critical or overbearing but informative and helpful. So, he made an impression.

Unfortunately, Robert passed away in May of 2020 after a long and fruitful life.

Turns out he was a groundbreaker both as an excellent Architect but, more importantly, an advocate for minorities and women in the architectural field.

His obituary in the Buffalo News mentions that he was advised, in high school not to pursue a career in architecture as there weren't any Black people in the field. This, evidently, just made him more determined to be one. He went to the University of Minnesota where he got his degrees in 1951 and 1953 and was also a founding member of the schools NAACP chapter. In 1955 he got his master's degree in architecture from MIT. He studied abroad with a Rotch Travelling Scholarship. He worked for several architectural firms in Boston for some time and then came home to Buffalo in 1961 when he designed the JFK Community Center. The center was noted by the AIA as 'one of the best designed buildings in Buffalo of all time' in 1965. Quite the commendation considering the architects and buildings Buffalo is known for. By 1963, he had started his own firm.



He was a founding member and secretary of the National Organization of Minority Architects which mentored and opened doors for aspiring minority and women architects. A local architect, with his own firm - Ed Watts, credits Coles as a major influence on his decision to become an architect.

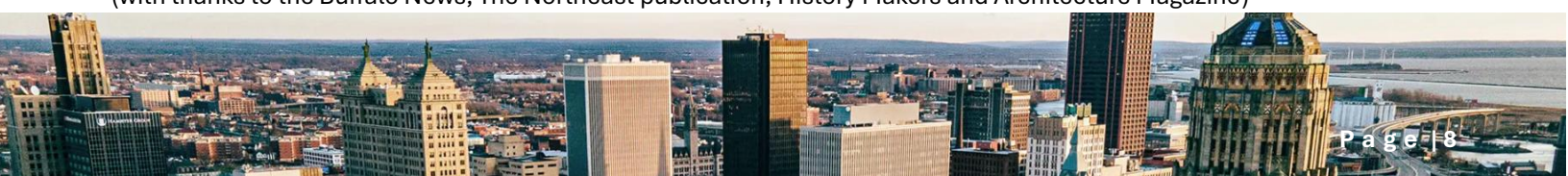
In addition to the JFK Community Center, his designs in Buffalo include among many others, the Merriweather Library on Jefferson Avenue, the UB Natatorium which was added to the aforementioned, Alumni Arena and his own modernist home at 321 Humboldt Pkwy. He also designed notable buildings in Rochester, New York City, Washington, D.C. and Providence, RI.

Coles was established as a great architect as shown by his numerous National, State and Local AIA awards and citations including the Whitney M. Young Jr, James Williams Kidney Award, Robert and Louise Bethune Award, the Edward C. Kemper Award and the Diversity Award from the Buffalo/WNY Chapter AIA among others. In addition, he also started numerous community organizations here and in Rochester to further his efforts help minorities and women.

After serving the AIA as Deputy Vice President for Minority Affairs, he became a Fellow of AIA in 1981, and in 1994 became the first African American chancellor of the AIA College of Fellows. Coles also taught architecture at the University of Kansas and Carnegie Mellon University. He was also an author; writing 'Architecture an Advocacy' in 2016.

Truly a man who was not only a superlative architect and industry leader but also a man with an ongoing effort to help those in need of an advocate. He is recognized in Buffalo for his worldwide impact having the Utica LRRRT station named in his honor. However, this was a person that should have been more widely celebrated and held up as someone to emulate. A fine Buffalonian who possessed qualities few people do.

- Rick Robinson, Buffalo Chapter Historian
(with thanks to the Buffalo News, The Northeast publication, History Makers and Architecture Magazine)



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 Wildrick a little bit better. Brian is currently a Senior HVAC Designer at Salas O'Brien fka M/E Engineering. Brian has been with Salas O'Brien for 4 years. Prior to Salas O'Brien, Brian spent time working for Watts Architecture and Engineering and Buffalo Engineering. Brian has been an ASHRAE member for 15 years.

Q: What do/did you love most about your job?

A: Getting to point at buildings and tell friends or family, "I built that."

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

A: Connecting with people involved in different aspects the field at meetings and events.

Q: What is your favorite restaurant in the area?

A: Depends on the type of food I'm looking for but Chef's is up there.

Q: What is your favorite travel destination?

A: Most beautiful, Okinawa, Japan. Regular trips, anywhere warm the more tropical the better.

Q: What originally brought you to Western New York?

A: School, I went to ECC; graduated in 2010.

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

A: I went to Germany in high school and got to see the Berlin Wall.

Q: How do you spend your free time?

A: Volunteer Firefighter consumes most of it. I am a Captain with Ellicott Creek Volunteer Fire Company.

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

A: As hard as we try, the systems won't be perfect. We can't make everyone happy, all the time; we can only make some of the people happy some of the time. If you don't accept that, you'll drive yourself crazy.

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

A: I take an Architect's building and figure out how to heat and cool it.

Q: What drove you to a career in HVAC?

A: Working as a helper at my brother's mechanical contracting company. My brother, Dave, was a big influence on my career.

Q: If you weren't in the HVAC field, what job would you want?

A: Full-time Firefighter.

We thank Brian 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.





MARCH RP GOLF EVENT

Thanks to all the members who joined us on March 19th for an afternoon of simulated golf and good times. The chapter rented out fully enclosed golf simulators at the Wehrle Golf Dome for the afternoon to give members an opportunity to get a head start on their golf game for the summer. Between the two available time slots, the capacity crowd of 40 chapter members enjoyed an afternoon of simulated golf on the Top-tracer Golf Simulator, food, and networking with their industry colleagues.





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
Treasurer	Charlie Grochowiak	Mitsubishi Electric Trane	716-429-6395	charlieg95@gmail.com
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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
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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 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: May 6, 2026.

