



September 2016

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New Website Launched!

The ASHRAE NYC board is excited to announce the launch of our new website platform. The team made extensive efforts this summer to revamp the website and make it easier to use for our members. The board encourages any feedback you may have. www.ashraeny.org

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President's Report



Welcome to back to ASHRAE NY Chapter.

I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready for an exciting year at ASHRAE.

I am honored to be starting my term as your 2016-2017 president to bring you great meetings, technical events, publications, tours and community projects related to our HVAC industry.

My primary goal this year is to perform the best practice of HVACR industry, using our knowledge and experiences, to share with our members of National and Local chapters to be better engineers.

We are going to start our September meeting with an ASHRAE Distinguish Lecture, Mr. Christopher Edmonson, who will present "Key Impacts of ASHRAE standards (90.1, 188-2015 and 189.1) in Water Side Design" followed by our Society President Tim Wentz in our October meeting.

We are bringing back our chapter technology award where our members can present their design challenges that they face in new and existing HVAC projects as well as advertise the quality works of their firms. *We highly encourage you to participate in this event.*

Also, in October we already have set our first community project of the year with Habitat for Humanity a site construction located on Dean Street, Brooklyn, with an all day seminar oriented to healthcare industry.

They will be many more exciting events in the future.

I am here to serve the chapter, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any members of our ASHRAE Board.

Jose R Rodriguez, P. Eng.

ASHRAE NY Chapter President 2016-2017

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Dinner Meeting

Date: September 27, 2016

Time: 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Club 101, Park Avenue @ 40th Street

Cost: \$35 for ASHRAE Members, \$40 for non-member



Credits: 1.5 PDH

Speaker:



JAMES CHRISTOPHER EDMONDSON
CEO
James M. Pleasants Company, Inc.
Greensboro, NC

Description: Many ASHRAE Standards have become building code in North America. Engineers, Contractors and Owners are expected to apply these Standards to their buildings. In many cases, we find in the real world of HVAC Hydronic systems a lack of awareness and understanding of basic important sections. This seminar will take a common sense approach to specific sections of ASHRAE 90.1, 188?2015 and others that have a direct impact on Water side HVAC installation and design. The goal of this talk is to approach from that real world view point a few of the key issues explaining why they are needed from an energy and health standpoint.

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Tours



Date: Thursday October 20th 2016

Time:

3:00 – 3:15 PM : Gathering and Greeting

3:15 – 3:30 PM : Systems Overview

MEP Highlights

Lessons Learned

3:30 – 4:30 PM : Job Site Tour

Location:

56 Leonard St. Lobby

56 Leonard Street, New York, NY 10013 between Church Street and West Broadway

Take the 1 train to Franklin Street, walk south 1 block, turn left on Leonard St. Entrance is on the south side of Leonard St.

OR

Take the 4/5/6 to City Hall, walk west on Chambers, turn right on Church, then left onto Leonard.

Cost: Free

Limited Tickets. Please contact Brian Marman (brian.marman@lendlease.com) to reserve a spot.

PLEASE NOTE: All attendees are required to have proper footwear to walk the site. Shoes/boots do not necessarily have to be construction boots, but should have a leather top with a rubber sole at a minimum. Attendees should also bring their own hard hats, reflective vests, and protective eyewear.

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Winter Conference

The Conference dates are Jan. 28-Feb. 1 at Caesars Palace with the Expo being held Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The two events are expected to draw thousands of industry professionals from around the world, drawing on the record breaking attendance from the 2011 Conference and Expo held in Las Vegas for the first time.

To register for the Conference, which includes free access to the Expo, visit www.ashrae.org/lasvegas.



Photo Gallery

Would you like to see the images from our last meeting?



Contact Us



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ASHRAE Reaches Highest Membership in 14 Years

ASHRAE, long known for its contributions to the built environment technology industry, now boasts more than 56,000 members. ASHRAE membership is individual based, reflecting the Society's diverse representation of building system design and industrial processes professionals around the world.

"This growth reflects ASHRAE's influence on building standards and best practices around the world," Tim Wentz, ASHRAE president, said. "Our members recognize that the Society increasingly provides opportunities to network with the global built environment's best and brightest."

In 2016, ASHRAE reached 56,105 members, its highest in 14 years. ASHRAE currently has 181 chapters, 41 sections and 234 student branches around the globe, with members in 130 countries.

Seventy nine percent of ASHRAE's total membership is based in the U.S. and Canada, while 21 percent is from other countries, an increase from 18 percent from two years ago.

ASHRAE's Region-at-Large, which encompasses the Middle East, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Africa and Europe, had the largest percent gain in membership in the Society year of 2015-16.

"From expansion into residential markets to providing resources for the quickly changing refrigerant industry, ASHRAE will continue to use the expertise of its members to further the technology of tomorrow," Wentz said. "At the same time, ASHRAE is partnering with other organizations dedicated to working toward a more sustainable environment, creating a worldwide best-practices databank of innovative and successful technologies that will serve the built environment community."

ASHRAE currently has more than 130 published standards and guidelines and is one of only six standards-developing organizations in the U.S. that can self-certify that its standards have followed American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) standards development procedures.

The Society is also one of the only HVAC&R organizations that maintains its own research program, which currently has 56 active research projects with a combined value of more than \$9 million. That research is overseen by some 100 technical committees representing 4,200 people.

ASHRAE produces hundreds of publications, including the ASHRAE Handbook, books on specialized topics within the field, and various CDs and DVDs. The Society also publishes the peer-reviewed monthly ASHRAE Journal, quarterly High Performing Buildings and bimonthly Science and Technology for the Built Environment.

Through the ASHRAE Learning Institute, ASHRAE offers more than 100 courses in a variety of formats, including eLearning, professional development seminars, short courses and self-directed learning courses. In addition, ASHRAE offers six certification programs for individuals.

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 55,000 members worldwide focus on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow's built environment today. More information can be found at www.ashrae.org/news.

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Community Service



ASHRAE NYC is once again participating in a Habitat for Humanity NYC build day on October 26th at their newest development, the Dean Street residences in Brownsville, Brooklyn. It is a 15 unit multifamily complex set to open in 2017. Over 20 members from ASHRAE will be participating as this event is always extremely fun and rewarding. We are continually strengthening our relationship with Habitat for Humanity providing over 100 hours of peer review services for their 57 unit Sydney House multifamily project in the Bronx, over 100 hours of existing site evaluations, co-branded awareness events, donating over \$40,000 and now our 3rd build day. It has been a strong partnership and one we hope to continue! If you are interested in involvement with the Habitat/ASHRAE partnership, please contact Ben Rodney (benjamin.rodnev@hines.com)

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WIE: Women In Engineering

Parental Leave Initiative: A Critical Issue for Professional Service Firms

Michelle M. DeCarlo, Associate, Jaros Baum & Bolles (JB&B)

Chair of ASHRAE NY Women in Engineering Committee

When former ASHRAE NY President Lorey Flick Roberts created the Women in Engineering Committee (WIE) her primary purpose was to keep women in the engineering field. One major issue at the forefront of WIE's ongoing conversation is paid parental leave. This discussion is not limited to women, however; many men with new or expanding families are also interested in and affected by this important topic.

While critics argue that paying for parental leave is an added burden to businesses, the numbers suggest otherwise. A few years after California instituted paid medical leave, 91 percent of employers surveyed said the policy either increased profits or had no effect, according to the Center for Economic and Policy Research. The California survey also found that more than 95 percent of those who took a family leave returned to work at the end of the leave period, and more than four-fifths returned to the same employer they had worked for prior to the leave. These results just reinforce the simple fact that paid parental leave promotes employee retention with no negative effects on the company.

New York State Parental Leave Policy (passed April 4, 2016)

A new state law passed last month will mandate paid time off for employees to bond with a new child, including adopted and foster children. Beginning on January 1, 2018, employees in New York State are entitled to up to 8 weeks of paid leave a year. This increases to 10 weeks in 2019 and 2020, and to 12 weeks thereafter. In 2018, a worker will receive 50% of his or her average weekly wages up to a cap that is equal to 50% of the **statewide average weekly wage**. This amount will increase over the following 3 years to 67% of the worker's average weekly wages, capped at 67% of the statewide average weekly wage. It is important to note that compensation for engineering professionals is typically higher than average.

New York's Parental Leave Policy is more comprehensive than the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). This federal law requires companies larger than 50 employees to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or childbirth, to care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care. The most obvious difference is that the New York policy is a *paid* leave policy, and it also does not exempt firms with fewer than 50 employees.

Jaros, Baum & Bolles Case Study

As a member of the Jaros, Baum & Bolles Incentives & Benefits Committee, I wrote a proposal for paid parental leave that was submitted for partnership consideration. In March of this year, JB&B implemented this new parental leave policy for full-time employees who have been employed with the company for 3 years. With the goal of broadening access to parental leave benefits by older as well as same-sex couples, the firm decided to include adoption and surrogacy. For example, a man in a same-sex relationship could qualify under the maternity clause when adopting or using a surrogate. Similarly, a female in a same-sex relationship could access the paternity benefit. For maternity leave, including adoption and surrogacy, we now provide 7 weeks of full salary, paid through short-term disability, where applicable, with the remainder of the salary supplemented by the firm. For paternity leave, we provide 2 weeks of full salary.

JB&B is the exception to the rule. According to a survey of ASHRAE NY member companies, very few offer *any* form of paid parental leave.

ASHRAE New York Women in Engineering Committee Recommendation

At a time when finding qualified staff is often difficult, all professional service firms should be thinking and talking about how we can better support our employees. The forthcoming New York State benefit is a momentous step in the right direction, but it may still fall short of adequately supporting professional engineers. This is because the wage caps included in the law are likely to limit their pay to an insufficient fraction of their normal rate.

Firms should not wait for the new law to go into effect, nor should our industry accept its provisions as the absolute best we can do for our people. In the interest of hiring and retaining the most qualified and talented staff – be they women or men – every firm should support new parents by offering an appropriate amount of financial and job security through a forward-looking parental leave policy.

With enactment of the new state law still nearly two years away, ASHRAE NY recommends that firms take the initiative and promptly institute a parental leave policy that at least equals the stipulations of the impending legislation. Statistics and experience show that it's the right move to make, not only for the good of employees, but for the firm's bottom line.

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All Day Seminar Recap



The 2016 ASHRAE New York All Day Seminar was held on 20th April, 2016. This year's theme was 'High Performance Buildings – Old & New'. The event was highly attended and well received with over 80 attendees. ASHRAE New York would like to thank our gracious sponsors for the event – Rathe Associates, Gil-Bar and Con Edison, for their marvelous venue.



The speakers included ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturers, representation from the Mayor's Office and other notable industry experts. The seminar started with an overview of the Mayor's Office's 80x50 plan and continued on to elaborate on the different incentives/ technical expertise available for projects looking to adhere to the same. Remaining half of the day focused on technical sessions built on the different aspects crucial to achieve the 80x50 plan like efficient Dedicated outdoor air systems, Radiant cooling systems and Condensing boilers. The Q&A sessions with all speakers were very interactive and informative. The seminar ended with dedicated time for networking where guests got an opportunity to discuss the day's proceedings further with the speakers and other attendees like themselves.



We at ASHRAE New York would like to thank all registrants for their presence and participation in making the event a great success. All your post-event feedback has been noted and will be acted upon in next year's seminar.



Stay tuned to the Newsletter for more information on this year's All Day Seminar!

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BEEEX: Building Energy Exchange Updates

GREEN LIGHT TRAINING SERIES

September 16, 2016

A four-part training series on lighting retrofits. From energy code and regulation considerations and selection of LED technology to development of the right retrofit strategy.

[Lighting Codes & Regulations](#) - 9 to 10:30 am

A survey of the lighting requirements of NYC and NYS energy codes, as well as local laws and regulations that impact lighting systems, including an overview of the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan.

[LED Lighting: Evaluation & Selection](#) - 11 to 12:30 pm

Guidance on the operation and selection of LED luminaires, with special focus on light output efficacy, color, and expected life, as well as replacement strategies.

[Advanced Controls: Types & Functions](#) - 1:30 to 3 pm

Guidance on the benefits and differences of available control typologies, with emphasis on maximizing functionality and savings through appropriate application.

[Lighting Retrofits: Strategies & Applications](#) - 3:30 to 5 pm

Guidance on planning and executing lighting retrofits within a "Good, Better, or Better Yet" framework, with emphasis on the cost effectiveness and relative benefits of the solutions.

Also upcoming at BEEEX:

[Sustainability in Healthcare Facilities](#)

September 14, 2016 | 9 - 10:30am

A presentation by industry experts of how sustainability efforts in the healthcare sector lower energy use. Registration required.

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BuildingEnergy NYC



Attend the [BuildingEnergy NYC Conference + Trade Show](#), NYC's fastest-growing event for professionals and practitioners working on energy efficiency initiatives and high performance buildings. Hosted by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA), this year's event will be held on November 3rd at the TKP New York Conference Center. Register today at nesea.org/benyc16.

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St. Louis Technical Conference Recap

At the St. Louis technical conference in June, ASHRAE BOG member Mina Agarabi and retired energy geek Tom Sahagian presented "A Better Writer is a Better Engineer: TC 7.3 O&M Management Perspective on Good Communication". To the

surprise and delight of both, more than 70 people attended, despite the non-technical nature of the seminar and the fact that it was scheduled for 8:00 on a Sunday morning.

Successful engineers require many communication skills that are not generally taught either in engineering school or on the job. Mr. Sahagian focused on the value and importance of good writing skills and the need for engineers to communicate technical ideas clearly to non-technical people. Ms. Agarabi stressed the need for effective two-way verbal communication with clients and building operators. She explained why listening is essential for effective communication in O&M. Asking the right questions can help gather better information and helps others learn as well.

The sorry state of engineering writing provided ample fodder for Mr. Sahagian's presentation. He showcased several real-world examples of common writing errors and demonstrated how they could be avoided. He reserved his greatest scorn for the excessive use of the passive voice, jargon and wordiness, which render the typical engineering report a chore to read, difficult to understand and ineffective at making its case.

Although the seminar title alluded only to writing, verbal communication is just as important and also easily compromised. Ms. Agarabi took the audience step by step through a project here in NYC that went astray at several stages because of basic communication lapses. This particular project was complicated by the fact that the client had hired a consultant who needed to justify their existence and thus contributed mightily to the problem.

The seminar was well-received and concluded with a number of interesting comments and questions from the audience. Not bad for 8 o'clock on a Sunday morning!

Presenter Bios:

Mr. Sahagian has more than 30 years of experience with all facets of energy efficiency, including the design, installation, maintenance and commissioning of both steam and hydronic heating systems in multifamily buildings. He is the author of NY State's Clean Boilers manual and served on former mayor Bloomberg's Green Codes Task Force. Prior to entering the efficiency field he was an editor at Popular Mechanics magazine.

Ms. Agarabi is the Principal Mechanical Engineer at Agarabi Engineering PLLC, a consulting firm focused on operations and maintenance, ongoing Cx and energy efficiency. Ms. Agarabi has several years of experience troubleshooting, optimizing and designing both steam and hydronic heating systems in large multifamily buildings. She currently is serving a second year on the ASHRAE NYC board of governors.

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Technology Awards

ASHRAE New York Chapter invites members to submit a recent project for possible New York Chapter / Regional Technology Award. The submitted project should have been completed / occupied prior to September 2017. The owner of a particular project should be aware that his / her building is entered for a Technology Award. Please [click this link](#) for the application.

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