



BAY BREEZE BULLETIN



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President's Message

Happy New Year! As we turn the page to 2026, it's the perfect time to embrace fresh opportunities and new beginnings. Thank you to all our members for your incredible participation and support throughout the past year. You are the heart of our community, and we couldn't do this without you.

If you haven't had the chance to join us at a previous event or meeting, we'd love to see you at the next one! These events are great way to meet fellow members, learn something new, and feel the energy of our community first-hand.

This year promises to be packed with exciting events you won't want to miss! Those events include engaging social gatherings to informative HVAC&R technical presentations. There's something for everyone. Our focus isn't just about learning; they're about connecting, sharing ideas, and being part of the conversations that shape our industry. It's what makes ASHRAE so important to our community.

Mark your calendars, stay tuned for announcements, and make sure you're part of the action. We're looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Jacob Saxinger

2025-2026 San Jose Chapter President

[Check Out Our Other Newsletter Issues Here](#)

Member Shout Out!



This page is all about celebrating those who go above and beyond. Your efforts make our chapter stronger and our community better every single day.

Seriously, I cannot thank you enough for all you have done this year and for years to come! Our chapter doesn't flourish without your support.

Jacob Saxinger

2025-2026 San Jose Chapter President

Do you know someone who deserves a shout out?

Recognizing the hard work and achievements of our members is an important part of building a strong, connected chapter. If you'd like to highlight a member's contribution (whether it's a recent accomplishment, volunteer effort, or something that deserves applause) please reach out to our Communications Chair. Send an email with the member's name, details of their achievement, and any photos you'd like to share.

Your input helps us celebrate the people who make our chapter thrive!

Cat Wood
 Communication Chair
 2025 - 2026
catherinecwood118@gmail.com

www.sjashrae.org



SARAH ROCK

With a deep passion for the chapter's success, Sarah played a key role in shaping an outstanding ASHRAE season of meetings. Her fresh perspective brought new energy to the team, and her contributions were instrumental in developing the season pass, making a lasting impact on the chapter's planning and engagement.



SIGRID DERICKSON

Sigrid took on the enormous task of reaching out to past presidents and compiling a detailed timeline of the organization's history. Always ready to lend a hand in any way possible, she exemplifies dedication and teamwork. Her leadership and commitment make her an outstanding role model for engineers and a source of inspiration for women in the industry.



CAT WOOD

Cat has done an outstanding job keeping everyone informed about meetings, events, and social gatherings, ensuring strong engagement across the board. She revitalized the website with a user-focused design that makes navigation intuitive. Her commitment to accountability and support has been invaluable in helping the leadership team stay on track and deliver for the chapter.



JANUARY TECHNICAL MEETING

Heat Pumps & Headaches: What We've
Learned So You Don't Have To

Presented By
Blaine Flickner



RSVP ONLINE

[HTTPS://SJASHRAE.ORG/
MEETINGINFO.PHP](https://sjashrae.org/meetinginfo.php)

Date:	Wednesday - January 14, 2026
Location:	Delta Hotels Santa Clara Silicon Valley 2151 Laurelwood Rd, Santa Clara, CA 95054
Time:	
Check-In and Social	5:30 PM
Dinner	6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

This session offers practical guidance for designing and implementing air-to-water heat pump systems for central plants. Key topics include explaining the variety of different system types, early design considerations and control approaches that drive performance and reliability. The presentation includes lessons learned from real-world projects built in the Bay Area—highlighting what works, what doesn't, and how to avoid common design and installation pitfalls.



JANUARY TECHNICAL MEETING

SPEAKER

Blaine Flickner P.E.

**Heat Pumps & Headaches:
What We've Learned
So You Don't Have To**

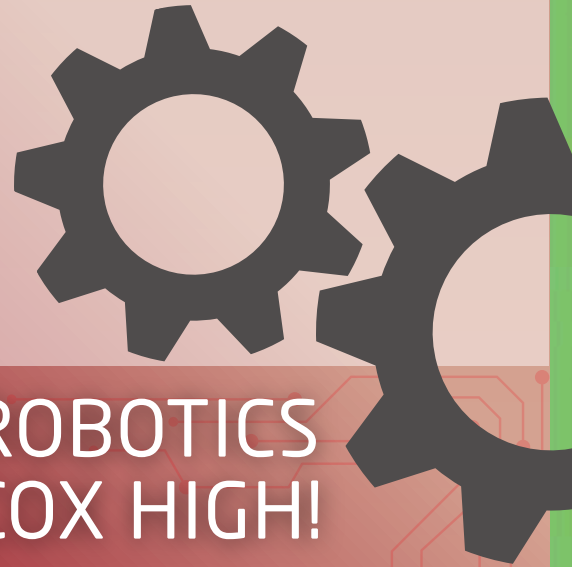


SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

After concentrating in HVAC&R at Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo Blaine started his career as an engineer at Johnson Controls in 1990. Switching to the HVAC construction side of the industry in 1996. From CalAir to UMI and now at SVM, Blaine has spend the last 30 years specializing in the design-build construction of offices, R&D buildings, corporate campuses, Data Centers, clean rooms, biopharmaceutical facilities, and architecturally intricate projects.



ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT



VOLUNTEER FOR THE ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT AT WILCOX HIGH!

WILCOX HIGH SCHOOL IS HOSTING A *FIRST* TECH CHALLENGE ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT ON **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026**, AND THEY NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS!

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- NO EXPERIENCE IN ROBOTICS OR ENGINEERING REQUIRED.
- ROLES RANGE FROM **JUDGES AND REFEREES** (MOST CRITICAL) TO OTHER EVENT SUPPORT POSITIONS.
- SOME SHIFTS ARE HALF-DAY, OTHERS FULL-DAY (8 AM – 6 PM).
- **BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED!**

HOW TO SIGN UP:

- CREATE OR LOG IN TO YOUR FIRST ACCOUNT.
- FILL OUT YOUR VOLUNTEER PROFILE.
- GO TO **VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION** → **EVENT VOLUNTEERING**.
- CLEAR FILTERS, SEARCH FOR SANTA CLARA, AND SELECT **SANTA CLARA QT#1 – WILCOX HIGH (1/17/2026)**.
- CHOOSE UP TO 5 ROLES YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE. ROLE DESCRIPTIONS HERE.
- COMPLETE THE YOUTH PROTECTION SCREENING (SECURE AND FREE).

HELPFUL LINKS:

- [VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTIONS](#)
- [EVENT DETAILS](#)
- [GAME ANIMATION FOR THIS YEAR'S CHALLENGE "DECODE"](#)

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

SUDS JAIN: 408-499-2955
KAREN HARDY: 408-315-5580

JOIN US AND HELP INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF INNOVATORS!

San Jose ASHRAE Presents

ENGINEERING THE ICE



Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour and technical talk on arena refrigeration systems—then stick around for the hockey game, post game country concert and some cool fun on ice!

Learn, explore, and chill with us—literally!

FEB 21, 2026 | AT 4:00 PM

TECH CU Arena, 1500 S 10th St, San Jose CA 95112

Ticket and registration details coming soon.



Communications

What is the Communications Committee?

The Communications Committee is like the marketing team for the ASHRAE chapter. We market membership, events, and ASHRAE participation. Additionally, we keep our members updated on the latest information and oversee the chapter website and social media.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Communications Committee, reach out to our Chair!



Cat Wood
 Communications Chair
 Webmaster
 2025 - 2026
 catherinecwood118@gmail.com

New Year, New Contact Info?

We've all heard the phrase "New Year, New Me," but what good is a new you if we can't reach you? Now is the perfect time to get organized and make sure **your email** and filters are **up to date**. After all, we don't want your next event invite or newsletter getting lost in the abyss. Take a minute to check your details. You'll thank yourself later!

And you might as well also follow us on LinkedIn and Instagram if you aren't already. Scan the QR codes below to connect with us!



ASHRAE San Jose Chapter



SANJOSEASHRAE

Cat Wood

2025-2026 San Jose Chapter Communications Chair & Webmaster



Chapter Technology Transfer Committee

What is the Chapter Technology Transfer Committee?

The Chapter Technology Transfer Committee (CTTC) focuses on the efficient transfer of technical and research advancements throughout the HVAC&R industry.

If you're interested becoming a member of the CTTC, reach out to our CTTC Chair!



Sarah Rock
CTTC Chair
2025 - 2026
srock@svminc.com

Calling All Professional Engineers!

We're looking at hosting a special **Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony** this April, just before our monthly meeting, and we want to **gauge interest**.



If you're a registered Professional Engineer or have already been inducted into the Order of Engineers and received your engineering ring, we'd love to hear from you!

This is a great opportunity to celebrate your achievement and connect with fellow professionals.

Interested? Reach out to srock@svminc.com and let us know so we can make this event memorable!

Reminder to Please Share Your Technical Meeting Ideas!

It only takes a minute! Your ideas help us bring in speakers and topics that support your professional growth and keep our chapter at the forefront of HVAC&R knowledge.

Fill out the form on our [CTTC page](#).

Sarah Rock

2025-2026 CTTC Chair



Government Affairs

What is the GAC?

The Government Affairs Committee (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.

If you're interested in volunteering for the Government Affairs Committee, reach out to our GAC Chair!

ASHRAE Government Affairs

Stay informed on the latest news. Subscribe to ASHRAE's bi-weekly Government Affairs Update!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

or visit

<https://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs/government-affairs-updates>

www.sjashrae.org

ASHRAE Announcements

ASHRAE Participates in Congressional Data Centers Briefing

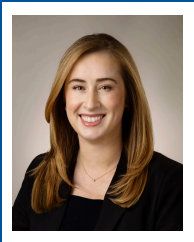
On December 8, Marcus Hassen, Chair of the ASHRAE Standard 90.4, Energy Standards for Data Centers Project Committee, presented at a Congressional briefing entitled “The Data Center Boom: Growth & Sustainability Considerations.” Hosted by the Green Building Initiative, the session explored the rapid growth of U.S. data centers, along with the economic opportunities, infrastructure challenges, and sustainability considerations shaping this critical sector. Hassen discussed how ASHRAE Standard 90.4 and the resources of ASHRAE Technical Committee 9.9 have become foundational to how data centers are designed, operated, and optimized for resilience, sustainability, and performance, and in guiding stakeholders to navigate instances where tradeoffs around these issues emerge. More data center resources from ASHRAE are available [here](#).



Marcus Hassen, Chair of ASHRAE Standard 90.4 Standing Standard Project Committee, outside the Congressional briefing.



Government Affairs



Elise Kiland
GAC Chair
2025 - 2026
ekiland.ashrae@gmail.com

ASHRAE Government Affairs

Stay informed on the latest news. Subscribe to ASHRAE's bi-weekly Government Affairs Update!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)

or visit

<https://www.ashrae.org/about/government-affairs/government-affairs-updates>

Local Announcements

Nonprofit Launches Refrigerant Workforce Development Initiative in California

The North American Sustainable Refrigeration Council, a nonprofit organization working with grocery stores to facilitate the transition to lower-global warming potential refrigerants, recently announced a new workforce development initiative in California. This F-gas Reduction Incentive Program is focused on addressing the shortage of qualified refrigeration technicians in the state by providing funding and technical support for school programs, equipment, training courses, and a new online platform for technical resources. The council is also planning multiple recruiting events and workshops in 2026.

21 State and Local Governments Send Letter Opposing U.S. EPA Refrigerant Transition Rule

On November 21, the Attorneys General of 19 states, including California, as well as the Attorney General of Washington, D.C. and Chief Legal Officer of New York City, sent a comment letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) opposing its reconsideration of existing federal refrigerant technology transition requirements. Originally established by the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020, the technology transition regulations require the eventual phaseout of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85% by 2036. However, the EPA's recent proposed regulation would extend the compliance deadlines and allow for further use of HFCs, adding more greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. The comment letter opposes these changes and requests that the EPA withdraw the proposed rule



Historian

What is the Historical Committee?

The Historical Committee is responsible for preserving and documenting the history of the chapter. This includes its activities, achievements, and contributions to the HVAC&R industry.

If you're interested becoming a member of the historical committee, reach out to our Chapter Historian!



Sigrid Derickson
Historian
2024 - 2026
SDerickson@southlandind.com

Local History Highlight - Nest Labs

The integration of smart technology into HVAC systems marked a turning point in energy efficiency and user convenience. Much of that transformation can be traced back to Nest Labs, a Silicon Valley startup founded in 2010 by Tony Fadell and Matt Rogers in Palo Alto, California [1]. Nest's flagship product, the Nest Learning Thermostat, launched in 2011, introduced a revolutionary concept: a thermostat that learns user behavior and adjusts settings automatically to optimize comfort and energy savings [4].

Prior to Nest, thermostats were largely manual or programmable, requiring users to set schedules themselves. Nest leveraged machine learning algorithms, Wi-Fi connectivity, and an intuitive design to create a device that could adapt to household patterns, integrate with smartphones, and provide real-time energy usage insights [4]. This innovation aligned perfectly with growing consumer demand for sustainability and convenience [5], and it quickly gained traction in residential HVAC systems worldwide.

Nest's success also catalyzed the broader smart home movement, influencing competitors and accelerating the adoption of IoT-enabled HVAC controls. In 2014, Google acquired Nest Labs for \$3.2 billion, signaling the strategic importance of connected devices in energy management and home automation [2]. Today, smart thermostats are standard in many homes and commercial spaces, reducing energy consumption and supporting global sustainability goals [3].

Nest Labs transformed thermostats from static devices into intelligent systems, helping pave the way for integrated building automation and data-driven energy optimization.

Sigrid Derickson

2024-2026 San Jose Chapter Historian



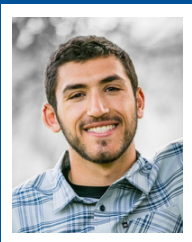
Membership Promotion

What is the Membership Promotion Committee?

The Membership Promotion Committee works to recruit new members, retain existing ones, and engage members in ASHRAE activities. The committee promotes membership benefits, tracks renewals, welcomes and recognizes members, and collaborates with other committees to build a pipeline from students to professionals. These efforts strengthen the chapter by growing participation and supporting our membership goals.

If you're interested becoming a member of the membership promotion committee, reach out to our chair!

*Why did the air handler start a podcast?
It had a ton to circulate.*



Jacob Penzo
Membership Promotion Chair
2025 - 2026
jacob.penzo@pragmaticpe.com

www.sjashrae.org

Keep Your Benefits Active: Review Your Membership Status!

Happy New Year from the Membership Promotion Committee!

As we kick off 2026, we want to remind all members to **renew your ASHRAE membership** and continue enjoying the benefits of being part of our professional community. Renewal emails will be sent to members whose memberships are expiring soon. Please keep an eye on your inbox and renew promptly to maintain access to resources, networking opportunities, and technical content. If you're the type of person who doesn't want to forget, set up **auto renewal** so you can save the time and hassle of keeping your membership up to date!

Remember to take advantage of your **access** to the ASHRAE Handbook, standards, and research that support professional growth. Additional benefits include **discounts** on conferences, certifications, and educational programs, as well as access to online tools, publications, and a global community committed to sustainability and innovation.

If you didn't have the opportunity last year, we encourage you to get involved in chapter events as we have some great technical sessions coming up this year! Technical sessions, and social gatherings are a great way to stay connected with friends in the industry, meet new people, share knowledge, and strengthen our local HVAC&R community. Your participation makes a difference and helps our chapter thrive!

Jacob Penzo
2025-2026 MP Chair

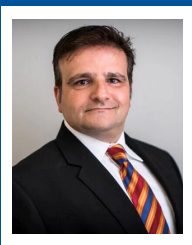


Student Activities

What is the Student Activities Committee?

The Student Activities Committee's primary mission is to promote awareness of ASHRAE and related careers among students from K-12 through college. The committee supports student branches at universities, organizes educational and networking events, and encourages participation in ASHRAE programs such as scholarships, competitions, and mentorship opportunities.

If you're interested becoming a member of the student activities committee, reach out to our student activities chair!



Sargon Ishaya
 Student Activities Chair
 2025 - 2026
sargon@pragmaticpe.com

Competition Deadlines

2026 Design Competition

for a new university campus building in Denver, Colorado

Deadline: May 4, 2026*

2026 Applied Engineering Challenge

for innovative residential heat exchange system between domestic hot and cold-water systems

Deadline: May 4, 2026*

*Teams recommended to register at least 30 days prior

Start Getting Involved in ASHRAE

Interested in joining ASHRAE but not sure how to start getting involved? Check out our blog post to learn more about ways you can participate:

How Students Can Engage with ASHRAE on Their Own Terms—Without Breaking the Bank

And you can connect with ASHRAE society on the social media accounts listed below for updates, cool opportunities, and more!

Student Facebook Page



Student Instagram





Young Engineers in ASHRAE

What is the Young Engineers in ASHRAE Committee?

The Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) committee focuses on engaging members 35 and younger through networking, technical tours, and social events. It promotes leadership development and career growth by connecting young engineers with training programs, mentorship, and society-level initiatives.

If you're interested in volunteering for the YEA Committee, reach out to our Chair!



Janan Mirza
YEA Chair
2025 - 2026
Janan.Mirza@therma.com

YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0 (Spring 2026)

Location: Nashville, TN
Dates: February 27 - March 1, 2026

REGISTRATION OPEN UNTIL JANUARY 31ST

Are you interested in expanding your knowledge, meeting fellow engineers and having some fun along the way? Look no further than YEA Leadership Weekend! YEA Leadership Weekend is an opportunity for you, the future leaders of ASHRAE, to learn more about Society, develop soft skills and network with other young professionals. Over 1,100 YEA members have already taken advantage of this great opportunity. See more details [here](#).

YEA Leadership Weekend 2.0 (Summer 2026)

Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada
Dates: May 30-June 1, 2025
Registration open early 2026

YLW 2.0 is designed to provide additional, more advanced resources to YLW alumni. Ralph Kison is back to facilitate and expand on the skills he taught previously. As YLW alumni, you've had the opportunity to use the resources and connections you gained at YLW to not only grow your professional careers, but develop your participation within ASHRAE. The purpose of YLW 2.0 is to continue that growth and development, and hopefully inspire even further leadership skills and aspirations! See more details [here](#).

Keep up-to-date on the latest ASHRAE YEA Society news and events here:

[ASHRAE YEA](#) | [YEA Facebook](#) | [YEA LinkedIn](#) | [YEA Instagram](#)

Ring in the New Year, Not the Alarm! Think Before You Click!



- **Pause Before You Click**
 - Always hover over links before clicking. If the URL looks suspicious or unfamiliar, don't proceed.
- **Verify the Sender**
 - Check the email address carefully. Scammers often use addresses that look similar to legitimate ones.
- **Use Strong, Unique Passwords**
 - Avoid reusing passwords across accounts. Consider using a password manager for convenience and security.
- **Update Your Devices Regularly**
 - Keep your operating system, apps, and antivirus software up to date to patch vulnerabilities.
- **Beware of Urgent or Emotional Language**
 - Scammers often create a sense of urgency ("Act Now!") or appeal to emotions. Take a moment to verify before responding.
- **Don't Share Sensitive Information via Email**
 - Legitimate organizations will never ask for passwords, banking details, or social security numbers via email.
- **Report Suspicious Activity Immediately**
 - If you receive a questionable email or message, report it to your organization's IT contact or designated security lead.