

# ASHRAE DAYTON NEWSLETTER

ISSUE III  
MARCH 2026



**AI in Action: Daily Tools  
Transforming Engineering  
and Construction**

**Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am - 1pm**

**Helix Innovation Center  
40 West Stewart Street  
Dayton, OH 45409**

**Tracey Jumper** is a Certified Commissioning Professional with 25 years of experience. She will be presenting on AI in Action: Daily Tools Transforming Engineering and Construction. In the ever-evolving world of engineering and construction, understanding the latest AI tools is crucial for staying competitive.

In this presentation, she will provide a concise yet comprehensive overview of the AI-powered tools that are transforming daily operations for building mechanical and electrical design engineers, HVAC vendors, and contractors. We will explore how AI is revolutionizing key areas such as project management, design optimization, construction monitoring, predictive maintenance, quality control, and administrative and documentation tasks.

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ASHRAE

**Use the link below to  
sign up for our March  
Chapter Meeting**



**[ASHRAE March  
Event Brite Sign Up](#)**



**Find us on [LinkedIn](#)  
&  
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## Letter from the President

Hello Dayton ASHRAE Members! I hope this message finds you well as we head into March and the start of a busy spring season. Last month, members attended the 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference and AHR Expo in Las Vegas. It was a great opportunity for learning and networking across our industry. If you weren't able to attend, the next Winter Conference will be held in Chicago in January 2027. A special thank you to Chris Miller of Solid Blend Technologies for presenting at our February chapter meeting on water treatment. Our chapter continues to grow and thrive because of the dedication of our volunteers. If you have ever considered becoming more involved, I encourage you to reach out to any of our officers or committee chairs. The door is always open to those who are interested in giving back to our industry and strengthening the Dayton ASHRAE community. Thank you for your continued support and participation. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming March meeting and events.

ASHRAE Chapter President



### Upcoming Meetings

#### March 11

Chapter Meeting  
11:30-1pm, In-Person

#### March 25

BOG Meeting  
8-9am, Hybrid

#### April 15

Technical Tour  
Sinclair Community  
College

Visit our website to keep up  
to date on events!

<https://daytonashrae.org/>

### 2025-2026 Officers

President: *Kevin Sturm*

President Elect: *Bryan Kinch*

Treasurer: *Ryan Schuessler*

Secretary: *Logan Delk*

### Committee Chairs

Student Activities/Scholarship:  
*Dr. Haithem Murgham (SCC) &*

*Dr. Andrew Chiasson (UD)*

RP: *Brian Turner (ElitAire)*

YEA: *Matthew Worsham (City of Dayton) &*  
*Brian Mackey (Rieck)*

Government Affairs: *Jennifer Butsch (Copeland)*

History: *Bryan Schenck (Waibel)*

Membership Promotion: *Jennifer Eller (HEAPY)*

CTTC: *Sara Sowers (MSD)*

Website: *Nathan Lammers (Waibel)*

Newsletter: *McKenna Amerson (Waibel)*

Refrigeration Chair: *Daniel Faxon (Copeland)*

At Large: *Lorraine Kapka (SCC), Matt Dill (Emerson Swan)*

*Rick Pavlak (Retired - Former HEAPY President)*

## New Members

The Dayton Chapter is happy to welcome its newest members. Please give them a warm welcome!

### March

Gaurav Kattel

Matthew Modera

Jash Patel

Do you know a colleague that would benefit from joining  
**ASHRAE?**

You can go to <https://connectacolleague.ashrae.org> and quickly sign up for ASHRAE to send an email to ask them to sign up on your behalf.

## Membership Recognition

We would like to recognize the following member(s) who have been with ASHRAE for the following years! Thank you for all your contributions to the field!

### 25th

Mark Mehicic

### 10th

Michael Witt

Lee Westgerdes

### 1st

Brody Webb

**Please don't forget to make sure your email is up to date.**

You can update it on ASHRAE.org website and with your local chapter so you do not miss out on any news or upcoming events! If you know someone that is not receiving the monthly newsletter, make sure to suggest them to check their email with both sites mentioned. **THANK YOU! Jennifer Eller at [jmeller@heapy.com](mailto:jmeller@heapy.com).**

## Membership Application Here

# ASHRAE RP

Spring is right around the corner. Thank you to those who have made a donation to the ASHRAE RP '25-26 campaign. We are over half way through the RP campaign, and we still have a long way to go to meet our goals. We will be hosting our Annual Golf Tournament on **June 5<sup>th</sup>** at Pipestone Golf Course. The golf tournament is our largest fundraiser for RP every year. We hope you can make it in June. For those looking to help, please consider donating to ASHRAE RP / Education / Scholarships. See the link **BELOW** to donate today!

[Partner Level](#) [Silver Level](#) [Bronze Level](#)

Jim Davidson

[Honor Roll](#) [Honorable Mention](#)

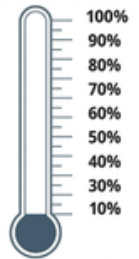
2026 Goal = \$19,680

YTD = \$1,900

To go = \$17,780

% to Goal = 8%

2026 Goal!



Steven Meier	Jennifer Eller
Brian Turner	Jeremy Fauber
Jennifer Butsch	
Rick Pavlak	
Lorraine Kapka	
Bryan Schenck	
Evan Nutt	
Dennis Helmig	

Thanks for all your help and support. If you would like to donate **NOW**, simply click this link:



## DONATE NOW

And make your donation to help ASHRAE in its Research Efforts.

Thank you so much!



# ASHRAE News

## Women in ASHRAE 2026 Leadership Symposium



April 13-14, 2026 | Los Angeles California

## 2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium

Omni Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA

April 13-14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

REGISTER NOW

## ASHRAE Technology Portal

ACCESS THE PORTAL

ASHRAE Technology Portal is your one-stop location for access to: ASHRAE papers, articles, reports, PDFs, seminar recordings, and web-based subscription products. ASHRAE Members have free access to the ASHRAE Journal Articles and Research Reports sections.

ASHRAE Handbook PDFs, ASHRAE Handbook Online, ASHRAE Standards and Guidelines, ASHRAE eLearning Courses, and ASHRAE Certification Study Guides are accessible according to each member's benefit selection at joining or renewal. ASHRAE Members and Non-Members can purchase content within the ASHRAE Technology Portal or at each web-based product with a subscription.

A screenshot of the ASHRAE Technology Portal website. At the top left is the ASHRAE logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links: Home, Journal, Reports, Papers, Seminars, Handbook, Standards, eLearning, Certification, Help, and a Sign In button. Below the navigation is a banner for 'ashrae.org/bookstore' featuring a book cover and the text 'New ASHRAE Standard 230 brings minimum commissioning requirements for existing buildings and systems.' The main header area has a background image of server racks and displays the text 'ASHRAE Technology Portal' and 'Access to ASHRAE Literature and Knowledge Base'. Below this are three buttons: 'Sign In', 'Subscribe', and 'Become a member'. A search bar is located below the buttons, with a search icon and a dropdown menu set to 'All'. At the bottom, there are four feature boxes: 'ASHRAE Journal Articles' (1700+ articles), 'ASHRAE Research Reports' (600+ reports), 'ASHRAE Transactions Papers' (Access to Papers from ASHRAE Conferences), and 'ASHRAE Conference Seminars' (Access to Seminars from ASHRAE Conferences). Each box has a small red lock icon at the bottom right.

# ASHRAE Gov't Affairs

## **Codes & Standards Focus – Winter Conference Highlights**

ASHRAE Winter Conference concluded just a few weeks ago — what an incredible opportunity to connect, collaborate, and engage with industry leaders from across the globe. The energy around standards development and the refrigerant transition was especially strong this year, with robust discussions among engineers, manufacturers, code officials, and researchers.

Here are a few key updates from the standards side:

### **ASHRAE Standards Impacting Refrigerant Safety**

#### **ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 15**

#### **Safety Standard for Refrigeration Systems**

SSPC 15 continues refining safety requirements to support the industry's transition to lower-GWP refrigerants, particularly A2L classifications. Winter Conference discussions and actions included:

- Ongoing coordination with model code bodies to align flammable refrigerant provisions
- Clarifications to machinery room requirements and refrigerant detection thresholds
- Refinements to charge limits and application tables for comfort cooling and commercial refrigeration
- Continued harmonization with international standards to support global equipment manufacturing

These updates are particularly important as A2L systems become more prevalent in air conditioning, heat pumps and commercial refrigeration equipment.

#### **ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 34**

#### **Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants**

SSPC 34 remains highly active due to the rapid introduction of new refrigerant blends. Winter Conference discussions and actions included:

- Approval and publication of new refrigerant designations
- Updates to safety classifications based on flammability and toxicity testing
- Continued evaluation of blends developed to meet AIM Act phasedown requirements
- As manufacturers continue introducing alternatives to legacy HFCs, Standard 34's work directly informs product labeling, code compliance, and system design considerations.

# ASHRAE Gov't Affairs

## Why This Matters in Ohio

The State of Ohio adopts model codes that reference ASHRAE standards, including Standard 15. When SSPC 15 publishes addenda, those changes may ultimately be incorporated into future state code updates.

For Dayton-area professionals, this means:

- Refrigerant charge calculations and room safety requirements may evolve
- Detection, ventilation, and mitigation system design requirements may change
- Equipment listing and labeling will continue to reflect new Standard 34 classifications
- Local inspectors and code officials will increasingly reference updated flammability provisions

Staying informed now positions our members to avoid surprises during future Ohio Building Code adoption cycles.

## Want to Get Involved?

Government Affairs engagement is strongest when technical experts participate. If you have interest in:

- Monitoring Ohio code adoption
- Supporting local AHJ education
- Participating in standards review
- Providing feedback during public comment periods

## **Please contact the Dayton ASHRAE Chapter Board.**

Active participation ensures that evolving refrigerant and safety standards remain practical, technically rigorous, and aligned with real-world engineering application.

# FACES OF DAYTON ASHRAE



## LARRAINE A. KAPKA, P.E., F. ABET

**What year did you serve as President of the Dayton ASHRAE Chapter?**

2008-2009.

**What is your current position and company?** Professor Emeritus, Sinclair Community College. Treasurer, ABET Inc. (International Accreditors for Engineering and Technology programs). Fellow of ABET.

**How has the HVAC&R industry changed since your presidency?** Companies do not seem to support and encourage ASHRAE membership like they did in the past. When I was President, it was common for the entire HVAC staff of a company to come to the meetings. We did mostly evening meetings, which were well attended.

**How did serving as ASHRAE president influence your leadership skills and professional development?** My skills were already pretty developed. I had held Senior Management positions and I was an academic department chair at Sinclair Community College at the time. Being President was easy because we had a board of people who really enthusiastically pitched in to do what was necessary.

**Do you have a favorite memory from your time on the board?** We got our local chapter scholarship off the ground.

**If you weren't in the HVAC&R industry, what career might you have pursued?** Good question. I ultimately pivoted from hands-on in the industry to teaching, but I don't think I would have been a great teacher without my industry experience. Probably some other engineering role, perhaps in facilities management or construction management.

# HAPPY SPRING!

