

# THE REGON DIFFUSER

JANUARY  
2026

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ASHRAE OREGON CHAPTER SINCE 1946



## President's Address

### Happy New Year ASHRAE Oregon Members!

[Insert clever and unique joke about how you haven't gotten an newsletter from us all year]

Before we dive into the new year, I want to start by thanking **Dr. George Lei** for leading an excellent CFD workshop in December. It was a great way to close out the year. Thank you, George, for sharing your expertise, and thank you to our members for showing up—even during the holiday crunch.

We're starting out 2026 technical programming on a collaborative foot by partnering with the Portland Chapter of ASPE. We'll be learning alongside our friends at ASPE about Heat Pumps. Take a gander at the calendar included in our newsletter for more information on this and upcoming events in the area.

Finally, this time of year always brings with it reflection and resolutions. If one of your resolutions is to be more involved with professional organizations, we have a great opportunity for you to directly impact your upcoming ASHRAE Oregon Leadership. **We are looking for volunteers to serve on the ASHRAE Oregon Nominating Committee.** This committee is responsible for identifying and recommending a slate of candidates for chapter officer positions, helping ensure leadership continuity and long-term chapter success. We have potential candidates earmarked for the upcoming year but need a third-party of members not currently on the Board of Governors to officially nominate, and/or identify other candidates for the ballots. This would most likely be a 2-hour time commitment maximum, including training time. Ballots would be completed by mid-March to allow for distribution and voting on positions in April. Please email me directly if you are interested in learning more before making any commitments. Thank you, as always, for being part of our Chapter. I'm looking forward to everything we'll accomplish together in 2026!

Warmly,

*Madeline Giovagnoli*

Madeline Giovagnoli  
ASHRAE Oregon Chapter President



### Upcoming Events / Dates:

**January 22, 2026:** ASHRAE/ASPE Technical Meeting: "Domestic Hot Water Heat Pumps." Baerlic Super Secret Beer Club. 2239 SE 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, Oregon. 5:00pm - 9:00pm.

**January 31-February 4, 2026:** 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference. Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas

# 2025-26 ASHRAE OREGON LEADERSHIP

**Chapter President:** Madeline Giovagnoli  
**Vice President/President-Elect:** Cassie Kuwahara  
**Treasurer:** Ryan Pinckard  
**Secretary:** Ryan Pinckard  
**Board of Governors:** Victoria Ericksen, Elsa Harder, Zach Harrison, Devin Abellon

**Membership Promotion Chair:** Victoria Ericksen  
**Government Affairs Chair:** Athena Edison-Lahm  
**Research Promotion Chair:** Elsa Harder  
**Student Activities:** Brett Daniels / Zach Harrison  
**CTTC Chair:** Eileen Jensen / Victoria Ericksen  
**YEA Chair:** Logan Moldenhauer  
**DEI Chair:** Hamed Shahrokhian  
**WIA Chair:** Madeline Giovagnoli

**Honors and Awards:** Eileen Jensen  
**Programs:** Cassie Kuwahara  
**Special Events Chair:** Rosie Welch  
**Golf Tournament:** Cassie Kuwahara / Rosie Welch  
**Social Media Chair:** Jordan Ficca  
**Reception Chair:** Mac Cunningham  
**Sustainability:** Tyler Klarkowski  
**Historian:** Kevin Marple  
**Newsletter Chair:** Devin Abellon

**Cascades Section President:** Thomas Kelly  
**Cascades Section Vice President/ President Elect:** Kyle Swenson  
**Cascades Section Secretary:** Jack-Ryan Hilton  
**Cascades Section Treasurer:** Eric Tabert

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

ASHRAE is a volunteer organization comprised of volunteer members serving the local chapter, region and Society. Our chapter cannot continue to thrive without our volunteers. Volunteering at the local chapter level is a tremendously rewarding way to give back to our industry and is a great way to network with the professionals in our local market. It also provides a wonderful opportunity to develop leadership and organizational skills! Some members may be hesitant to volunteer because they don't feel they have the time, but there are a lot of positions that only require a minimal number of hours per month.

Here are a few areas where we are looking for volunteers:

- **Sustainability Committee:** Do you like brainstorming events, volunteering, and high quality indoor air? The sustainability committee is looking for volunteers to help give back to the local community. This years focus is identifying how to improve indoor air quality and environments for at risk communities. If you have any interest in joining the committee please email the Sustainability Committee Chair: Tyler Klarkowski ([tyler.klarkowski@pae-engineers.com](mailto:tyler.klarkowski@pae-engineers.com)). Meetings will be held once a month virtually. All are welcome.
- **Student Activities:** We are looking for professional volunteers from our membership for the proposed iTech Prep School event in late February for the HVAC Careers panel (potentially all panelists will have worked on the same project but from different disciplines). If interested, contact Mac Cunningham at: [mcunningham@jbarrow.com](mailto:mcunningham@jbarrow.com).
- **Nominating Committee:** We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Oregon Chapter Nominating Committee. This committee is responsible for identifying and recommending a slate of candidates for chapter officer positions, helping ensure leadership continuity and long-term chapter success. If interested, contact Maddie Giovagnoli at [maddie.giovagnoli@pae-engineers.com](mailto:maddie.giovagnoli@pae-engineers.com).
- **Government Affairs:** We are looking for volunteers for Day on the Hill (DOH) coming up on **February 9-13** (TBD), 2026 to meet with our Government leadership (mostly the State Reps). Sign up here:



# 2025-26 CALENDAR

Please note that dates/events are subject to change. Calendar will be updated throughout the year.  
Please check the chapter website for details and sign up information.

## ASHRAE Oregon

**January 22, 2026:** Joint ASHRAE/ASPE Technical Meeting. **"Heat Pump Water Heating."** Baerlic Super Secret Beer Club, Portland.

**February 10, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Technical Meeting. **"Sustainable Systems: Finding Your Solution."** PAE Living Building, Portland.

**February 26, 2026:** ASHRAE Cascades Section Joint AIA/ASHRAE Bowling Social, Bend.

**March 11, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Board of Governors Meeting. Hybrid. 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

**March:** ASHRAE Oregon Technical Event: SMACNA/ASHRAE Joint Event and Lab Tour.

**April 8, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Board of Governors Meeting. Hybrid. 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

**April 23, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Technical Meeting: **"Applied Psychrometrics"**, with ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Doug Zentz. Stormbreaker Brewing, Portland.

**May 13, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Board of Governors Meeting. Hybrid. 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

**May 14, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Technical Meeting: **Past Presidents Night** with ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Stephanie Taylor **"The Impact of The Built-Environment on Cognitive Functioning and Worker Productivity."** Oregon Zoo Conservation Hall, Portland.

**June 10, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Board of Governors Meeting. Hybrid. 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

**June 18, 2026:** ASHRAE Oregon Technical Meeting: **"Our Story This Year! ASHRAE Oregon Fiscal Year Recap."** PAE Living Building, Portland

**February 2-4, 2026:** 2026 AHR Expo. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**February 13, 2026:** Nominations close for 2026-27 Board-Appointed Committee positions.

**February 27 - March 1, 2026:** YEA Leadership Weekend. Nashville, TN.

**April 13-14, 2026:** 2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium. Los Angeles, California.

**June 27-July 1, 2026:** 2026 ASHRAE Annual Conference. Austin, Texas.

## ASPE Portland

**April 15, 2026:** ASPE Product Show. Level Brewery & Taproom, 5211 NE 148<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland. 3:00pm - 6:00pm.

Did we miss something? If you have an event you'd like added to the calendar, please email [dabellone@pwsigroup.com](mailto:dabellone@pwsigroup.com).

## ASHRAE Society

**January 31- February 4, 2026:** 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference. Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. Register now!

**January 31:** Deadline to sign up for YEA Leadership Weekend.



# JANUARY PROGRAM



## Domestic Hot Water Heat Pumps

January 22, 2026

In-Person Dinner Meeting 5PM  
Location: Baeric Super Secret Beer Club

Presented By:



Chris Ebner  
President of Nyle Water Heating  
Systems

### January Chapter Meeting

#### Domestic Hot Water Heat Pumps

Join us as for a joint event with our ASPE Freinds to learn about Heat Pumps - topic includes:

- Plumbing Design of CHPWH Systems
- Sizing for storage and real world usage patterns
- High Temperature Boiler Replacement in Space Heating
- Challenges & Solutions of Retrofit
- Tax Credits and Funding Strategies for High Efficiency Water Heating
- Practical Active Heat Recovery with Examples

#### Meeting Agenda:

- 5:00PM - Registration Opens
- 5:30 PM - Dinner and drinks are served
- 6:00 PM - Presentation Starts
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM - Mingle and Wrap up

#### Registration

Price: \$20.00

Lunch and Free Drink included

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Student Activities



Zach Harrison  
SA Co-Chair



Brett Daniels  
SA Co-Chair



Mac Cunningham  
SA Co-Chair

## iTech Prep School Presentation Volunteers Wanted!

We are looking for professional volunteers from our membership for the proposed iTech Prep School event in late February for the HVAC Careers panel (potentially all panelists will have worked on the same project but from different disciplines). If interested, contact Mac Cunningham at: [mcunningham@jbarrow.com](mailto:mcunningham@jbarrow.com).

## DEI

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Hamed Shahrokhian  
DEI Chair



Madeline Giovagnoli  
Women in ASHRAE



## 2026 Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium

Omni Los Angeles | Los Angeles, CA

April 13-14, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

Registration opens on November 3rd. After a sold-out debut, the Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium returns—bigger, bolder, and more empowering than ever! Join us for two full days of connection, inspiration, and leadership growth with women from across the HVACR industry—from students and early-career professionals to seasoned veterans. This isn't just for engineers—it's for every woman making an impact on the built environment. Whether you're here to build your network, develop your leadership skills, or cheer on the next generation through the Young Women in ASHRAE EmpowerHERment Award competition—YOU BELONG HERE!

## Membership Promotion



Victoria Ericksen  
Membership Promotion Chair

## Oregon Chapter Members

**Start of 2025-26 Society Year:** 511

**Growth Goal:** +10

**Current Membership:** 522!



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Chapter Technology Transfer Committee (CTTC)



Eileen Jensen  
CTTC Chair



Victoria Ericksen  
CTTC Co-Chair

## CTTC - ASHRAE Technology Awards

If you are looking for a **New Year's resolution**, how about considering a submission for an ASHRAE Technology Award? If you have recently worked on a project that was considered innovative and has been proven through actual operating data, we'd love to hear from you. The ASHRAE Technology Awards recognize outstanding achievements by members who have successfully applied innovative building design in the areas of occupant comfort, indoor air quality and energy conservation. Winners are recognized by their peers as being innovative and capable of achieving a high level of competence.

Each year the Society may present awards in six categories (subcategories in parentheses):

- Commercial Buildings (New, Existing, Existing Building Commissioning)
- Institutional Buildings (New, Existing, Existing Building Commissioning)
- Health Care Facilities (New, Existing, Existing Building Commissioning)
- Industrial Facilities or Processes (New, Existing, Existing Building Commissioning)
- Public Assembly (New, Existing, Existing Building Commissioning)
- Residential.

It all starts at the chapter level. This year the deadline for chapter applications is **Tuesday, March 17th, 2026**. All current members of ASHRAE are eligible to submit. Entrants must have had a significant role in the design or development of the project. Performance must be verifiable through at least one year of operating data. The short form application that is required can be found here: [tech-award-application\\_fillable\\_2025.pdf](#) For the chapter level, only pages 1 and 2 of the form need to be completed. The form also contains information on what needs to be included in a brief narrative (4 pages max) and schematic describing the project. For more information go to: <https://www.ashrae.org/membership/honors-and-awards/technology-awards-program>



Tech Award Application

## Benefits of Winning a Technology Award



Recognized by peers as being innovative and capable of achieving a high level of competence



Recognition on ASHRAE's website



Winning projects are highlighted in the ASHRAE Journal and High Performing Buildings Magazine



Opportunity to bring additional recognition and prestige to buildings with innovative design



First place awards and the Engineering Award of Excellence are honored at the Plenary Session of the Society's Winter Meeting

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA)



Logan Moldenhauer  
YEA Chair



Rosie Welch  
Region XI YEA RVC

## Sign-up for the 2026 YEA Leadership Weekend!

The next YEA Leadership Weekend is scheduled for February 27- March 1 in Nashville, Tennessee!! Registration is open until January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, so sign up NOW!



## YOUNG ENGINEERS IN ASHRAE (YEA) LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

Build your company's future leaders

**Growth Through Learning:** *"Personal development and ongoing learning is not an option or a luxury, it is essential for success in selling and in life!" -Ralph Kison*

**Are your employees initiators or implementers?  
How will they best accelerate, support, and contribute to your organization?  
How can they efficiently use their personality and skill set to further enhance your organization?**

**YEA Leadership Weekend (YLW)** is led by Ralph Kison as he guides individuals through a self-discovery process that reveals their strengths, talents, gifts and passion. From there it's all about identifying high pay-off, high impact jobs and activities that fully utilize their I.Q., E.Q, and P.Q. YLW also features YEA Society leaders who provide an overview of ASHRAE as it applies to the Society, Region, and Chapter levels, as well as how to get involved. Any YEA member is welcome to attend.

**YLW Facilitator – Ralph Kison**  
As President of Kison Inc., Ralph works with companies and associations across North America in business-to-business and professional services environments. After working with Ralph, clients typically see:

- Increased employee engagement and contribution
- Improved organizational clarity and alignment amongst teams
- Creation of common organizational values and culture.

Ralph's career includes extensive experience in leadership, management and consulting and he is viewed as a strategic partner by many clients because of the insight, perspective, and passion he brings to projects and business relationships. Ralph is a graduate of the University of British Columbia Marketing and Sales Management Program. He is a Certified Marketing Executive (CME), Certified Sales Executive (CSE), and a member of ASHRAE.

**What's In It For YLW Attendees?**

- Increased self-awareness, personal effectiveness and confidence
- Development of a powerful personal branding and positioning strategy
- Discovery of how to apply their strengths for maximum impact in their professional and personal communities
- Improved business development and selling skills

**YEA Leadership Weekend is conducted twice per year:**

- Fall located on the East Coast; Spring located on the West Coast
- Optional Technical Tour
- Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon
- Maximum of 30 participants accepted on first-come first-served basis
- Sponsorship available within most ASHRAE Chapters and Regions

# YEA LEADERSHIP WEEKEND

## TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS ATTENDEES:

*"Life changing!"*

*"Jump started my career!"*

*"Career advancement"*

*"It made me re-evaluate my perspective."*

*"The knowledge gained here is applicable to everyone."*



*"By attending YEA Leadership Weekend, I was able to understand my personality profile, which has allowed me to work better in various work group situations and I am more understanding of other people."*

*"Learning about ASHRAE at YEA Leadership Weekend has helped me move up within my Chapter and encouraged me to attend TC meetings at ASHRAE Conferences. In the office, the leadership portions of the weekend helped me take on more active roles dealing with clients and assisting co-workers."*

*"The training I gained from YEA Leadership Weekend has been valuable in learning how to deal with different types of personality types. In addition, I have been able to plan new successful YEA events for my chapter through the ideas that I learned from other YEA members who attended this event."*

*"I became more self-aware of my strengths and weaknesses in how I communicate with colleagues, clients, and others."*



Register at [www.ashrae.org/YLW](http://www.ashrae.org/YLW)

# HISTORY CORNER

## HISTORY



Kevin Marple  
Chapter Historian



### A Brief History of the Chapter Bell

For those unfamiliar with the Chapter Bell's story, its origins date back to 1952, when our Chapter sent a myrtle wood gavel to an international associate chapter in Switzerland. In appreciation, the Swiss chapter presented Oregon with a bell to "grace the speaker's table." Since then, the bell has become a cherished tradition, used to open Chapter meetings for generations.

Over the years, the bell also became the centerpiece of a long-running prank on incoming Presidents. Almost without fail, it would mysteriously disappear during the May meeting when the new President was installed—despite creative efforts to secure it, including once being handcuffed to a dinner chair (both the chair and bell vanished that night). While the chair was eventually returned, the bell continued its pattern of disappearing and reappearing, leading to the use of a substitute bell.

Today, we're pleased to report that the original Swiss Bell is once again safe and sound, thanks to the care of our current Chapter President. As a side note, I've reached out to the ASHRAE Society Historical Committee to learn more about the original 1952 gift and will share any new details as they emerge. Cheers!

Cheers,

*Kevin Marple*



# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Government Affairs



Athena Edison-Lahm  
GAC Chair



Geoff Jenks  
Region XI  
GAC RVC

## Oregon Chapter Day on the Hill Coming next Month!

We are looking for volunteers for Day on the Hill (DOH) coming up on February 9-13 (TBD), 2026 to meet with our Government leadership (mostly the State Reps). Sign up here:



# NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS FOR 2026!

### Maddie Giovagnoli

*Dedicate 10-minutes of every morning to a mobility routine. I'm noticing sitting at a desk most days has started to impact my mobility and limiting my ability to participate in things. If you know me, you know my pet peeve is not being able to keep up with the group 😊 I want to take small steps now to make sure that I get to stay active for years to come!*

### Rosie Welch

*Create a better morning routine. Taking extra time to ground myself prior to starting the workday.*

### Tyler Klarkowski

*To enjoy the smaller things in life that are often ignored or overlooked.*

### Devin Abellon

*Move more. Buy less.*

**How about you? What are your goals for 2026??**



## January Birthdays

Randy S Cieloha  
Temple O Looney, Jr  
Clifford I Parke  
James F Thomas  
William R Ullrich  
Timothy W Young, PE  
Dennis L Megrditchian  
Farhad Banisadr  
James C Moore

John C Yousey  
Amanda Wood  
Matthew Pittman  
Kevin Smit  
Ian Thomas Casey  
Jesse Majoros  
Nathan Philip Curti  
Ryan Pinckard  
Nicholas Edwards

Austin N Greene  
Paul F Ganz  
Supriya Goel  
Adam Gage  
Dave Hammond  
Tzvetan (TZ) Hristov  
Logan Ellingson  
Sophia G Carter  
Paige Masulit



# SOCIAL MEDIA



**FOLLOW US**  
ON OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS



**AND DON'T FORGET TO TAG US!**  
**#MYASHRAE**

# REGION XI NEWS

2026 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE  
Jan 31- Feb 4, 2026 | Las Vegas, Nevada

## REGIONS I, III, AND XI

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026  
7:00-9:00 PM

Sponsors  
Are  
Welcomed

*Alexxas*

Located at Paris Resort & Casino  
3655 Las Vegas Blvd South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
<http://alexxaslasvegas.com>

**Early  
Bird:  
\$75 per  
person  
till  
12/31/25**

**\$85 per  
person  
after**

Plated Dinner  
+  
Drink tickets



**All sponsorships include different  
recognition opportunities.**

**Royal Flush (\$2,500):**

**5 event tickets**

**Full House (\$1,000):**

**2 event tickets**

**Ace High (\$500):**

**1 event ticket**

**TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.  
USE THE QR CODE TO  
REGISTER**



# SOCIETY NEWS



## Join Us in Las Vegas!

**Registration is Now Open!**

**Register today for the 2026 ASHRAE Winter Conference and AHR Expo taking place Jan. 31-Feb 4 in Las Vegas.**



Immerse yourself in a world of HVAC&R with 100+ technical sessions and 1700+ exhibitors at the AHR Expo.

**Join ASHRAE in Las Vegas**—where bright ideas can shape the future in the city that never sleeps!

**REGISTER NOW!**

>> Check out the [registration page](#) to see what's available for in-person and on-demand registration options.