

FOG Dispenser

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“October's
Forecast: *100%
Chance of
Learning*”



President's Message

Dear GGASHRAE Members,

September was an awesome start to our chapter year, thank you to everyone who joined us at Drake's Dealership in Oakland and for our Membership-Promotion San Francisco Giants game! Also, a special thanks to Victaulic and Siemens for sponsoring both events!

Our September meeting at Drake's focused on “Making Sustainability Affordable” and recognized our Technology Award recipients. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you to Peter Rumsey for an inspiring presentation.

Our Membership-Promotion SF Giants Game was another homerun of an event (pun totally intended) with 40 people coming out.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to join us for our October CO₂ heat pump meeting and upcoming technical tour at Shyh Wang Hall. I look forward to seeing you and continuing a year of learning, collaboration, and involvement in our chapter.

Sincerely,

John Plecnik

2026 - 2027 ASHRAE Golden Gate Chapter President



Get Involved with the
Golden Gate Chapter!



Whether you want to support events, connect with members, share your expertise, or help grow the Chapter, there's a committee for you. No matter your experience level, your time and ideas can make an impact.

Interested in volunteering or have questions? Reach out to the respective Committee Chair—contact information can be found [HERE](#).



October 2026

EVENT CALENDAR

Technical Tour

Technical Meeting

Past Events

Student Activities

Holiday

OCT 07 K-12 Classroom Volunteering

Volunteer with the ASHRAE Golden Gate Chapter as we head to a local elementary school classroom and guide students as they learn how to build an electric motor.



OCT 08 October Technical Meeting: CO2 Heat Pumps

From laboratory validation to field deployment, this session will highlight practical CO₂ heat pump applications and the partnerships needed to scale building decarbonization successfully.

OCT 17 STEM Event Volunteering

Do you enjoy working with kids? We will have hands-on activities for kids to have fun while learning the coolest concepts in engineering and STEM.

OCT 22 Technical Tour: NERSC at Shyh Wang Hall

Tour Shyh Wang Hall at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and learn about the infrastructure behind NERSC's high-performance computing operations, followed by a networking reception. **Only 8 spots left!**



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS & UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Committee Updates

Student Activities



Bay Area Science Festival Volunteering

Volunteer with the Golden Gate and San Jose ASHRAE Chapters at the Bay Area Science Festival on October 17th! Three time slots available:

- 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
- 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Contact juliana@regionx.org to sign up.



ASHRAE Student Branch Updates:

San Francisco State University

The ASHRAE Student Branch at SFSU kicked off the semester with an opening event following a lecture on indoor air quality (IAQ) and ASHRAE Standard 62.1 Ventilation Rate Procedure (VRP) calculations.

- Veronica Huizar presented an Intern Project during her work experience at Stantec. She described the zoning strategy used for a VRF & DOAS system design as part of the larger mechanical team's effort to design the plumbing, heating, cooling, and ventilation systems.
- Daniel Hill shared lessons learned from energy audits conducted through the Industrial Training and Assessment Center (SFSU-IAC). He gave an excellent example of applying fan affinity laws to a VFD-controlled fan bank to quantify energy savings and establish return on investment for the client.
- Samuel Goldbaum discussed the fundamentals of load calculations, the various roles within HVAC engineering, and his recent work experience at ATS Mechanical.



The student branch is still finalizing the election of its officers, and look forward to hosting our next event.

Local companies interested in hiring graduate students or interns are encouraged to contact Liam Buckley at LiamB@sfsu.edu.



September Technical Meeting: Energy Efficiency & Technology Awards

The Golden Gate Chapter kicked off the 2026-2027 chapter year with a well-attended first Technical Meeting, bringing together members, industry professionals, and students for an evening of learning, networking, and celebration. The event featured special guest Peter Rumsey, who shared his perspectives on making sustainability and building decarbonization both practical and affordable, drawing on decades of experience leading some of the industry's most innovative projects.

The evening was made even more enjoyable thanks to the generous support of Victaulic, whose sponsorship provided drinks for attendees!

A highlight of the night was the recognition of excellence through the ASHRAE Technology Awards. We were proud to recognize the accomplishments of the 2025-2026 recipients, as listed to the right, while also honoring the previous year's award winners. Congratulations to all of the award winners for their contributions to advancing our industry and setting a high standard for engineering excellence!

Interested in learning more about the innovative projects recognized through this year's Technology Awards? Visit the link below to view the complete collection of project blurbs.

[CLICK HERE FOR PROJECT BLURBS](#)

1st Place Educational Facilities - EBCx

UCSF - Layer Up for Science
Benjamin Levie (UCSF)

1st Place Residential - Existing

Northeastern Mary Morse Residence Hall Renovation
Matthew Dehghani (Alter Engineers)

1st Place Healthcare Facilities - New

USCF - Block 34
Jeffrey P Blaevoet (G&B Engineers)

1st Place Healthcare Facilities - EBCx

Achieving Sustainable Energy Efficiency through Occupancy-Based Ventilation in Healthcare Facilities
Elizabeth Redmond (R-Zero)

1st Place Commercial Buildings - Existing

East Palo Alto Government Center
Adam Williams (Taylor Engineers)

1st Place Commercial Buildings - New

Genentech Building 86 TI
Mitch Pinsker (AEI)

1st Place Public Assembly - New

Willard Clubhouse
Shannon Allison (Alter Engineers)

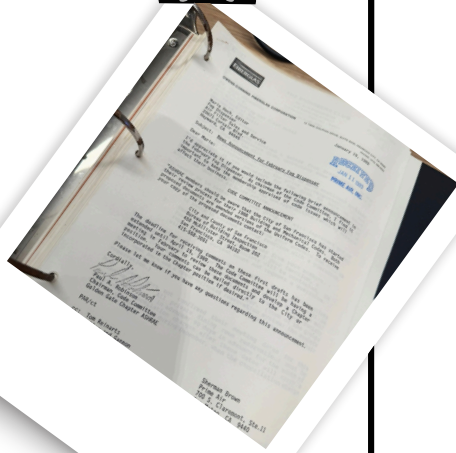


Historical Committee: Pizza & Beers Night

Golden Gate ASHRAE Historical Committee had a fantastic first event of the year. With the help of three dedicated student volunteers – Tia Brunette, Jasmine Liu, and Edison Altamirano, we sorted and organized decades of chapter records dating from the 1960s through the 1990s. It was fascinating to uncover pieces of our history and see how the chapter and our industry have evolved over the years.

A big thank-you to our student volunteers for contributing their time and enthusiasm. This was an exciting first step toward preserving and sharing the Golden Gate Chapter's rich history!

As a bonus, we enjoyed some great conversations and exchanged recommendations for cool hangout spots around San Francisco. We still have more documents to go through so be on the lookout for the next event invite. You might discover something about ASHRAE as well as your favorite city!



Membership Committee:

SF Giants Game & Member Social

On September 22, ASHRAE Golden Gate members traded the office for the ballpark as we headed to Oracle Park for a night of baseball, good company, and plenty of Bay Area spirit!

The evening kicked off with a pre-game meet-up at Local Tap SF, where members enjoyed drinks, light snacks, and some time to catch up. From there, we headed to Oracle Park to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they took on the Minnesota Twins, with the Golden Gate crew taking over our usual spot in right field.

A special thank you to Siemens for sponsoring the event and to everyone who came out!



YEA Committee:

Putting the “Fun” in Fundamentals

Nearly 30 Golden Gate members gathered at Patriot House for an evening of a little friendly competition at our latest YEA Trivia Night, which featured three rounds of trivia that put everyone’s knowledge to the test! The first two rounds covered a mix of HVAC general knowledge, ASHRAE trivia, and a little San Francisco flavor—so there was something for everyone.

Then came the final round, which definitely threw the crowd for a loop. Teams were handed two mystery sheets: one featuring San Francisco neighborhoods and the other a psychrometric chart. Because what better way to end a trivia night than testing both your SF geography and your ability to read the properties of moist air?

With plenty of laughs, some serious team strategizing, and maybe a few heated debates over answers, it was a great way to bring the YEA community together. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and made the night such a fun one, and a special shoutout to our YEA Committee for putting together an electric night!

Take Your ASHRAE Experience Further

Professional Development Scholarships are available to support professionals who want to expand their knowledge in HVAC&R industry. They will provide eligible ASHRAE Members with **35%-50%** off the listed member registration fee for one of the following ASHRAE Learning course offerings that best aligns with your professional growth:

- In-person or virtual HVAC Design and Operations Training
- Live Virtual Training
- In-person or virtual ASHRAE Global Training (AGT) MENA
- An on-demand eLearning course.

Click [here](#) to learn more and apply!



Continuing Education



Student Zone

2026-27 High School Design Competition

- This competition is geared towards high school students and a great way for them to learn about HVAC
- Registration now open until December 7, click [here](#)

2026-27 Undergraduate Program Equipment Grant

- Applications are now open until December 15
- Click [here](#) to learn more and apply

2027 Design Competition

- Participants can compete in HVAC Design Calculations, HVAC System Selection, or Net Zero Energy Design
- Interested in participating? [Register](#) today and click [here](#) for competition details and eligibility requirements

2026-27 ASHRAE Presidential Initiative Challenge

- A year-long competitive fund (\$1,000 - \$10,000) program to implement projects within local chapters that are tied to the year's presidential theme.
- Registration now open until November 2, click [here](#)

ASHRAE Connect

- Are you a first-time attendee at the ASHRAE Conference, or have you attended before but felt overwhelmed by the many options? This new shadowing program offers the perfect opportunity to gain first-hand experience by following a member of ASHRAE through committee meetings and conference events.
- Applications for the Winter Conference are open until December 31
- Click [here](#) to learn more and apply



Young Engineers (YEA)



Student Activities



High School Design Competition



Register By:

December

7th

2026



Wins \$1,000

The 2026-2027 ASHRAE High School Design Competition focuses on the design of a new exhibit in a zoo located in San Diego, California, US. Students may select to design either a tropical rainforest exhibit or an aquarium exhibit.

Participants in this competition are tasked to determine summer cooling requirements for the different spaces in the building, select the HVAC equipment to be installed, and model the building and systems utilizing 3D Design Software.

- All work must be completed by students 13-18 years of age
- Model must be submitted using SketchUp (www.sketchup.com).
- The model must be original and not a copy or recreation of any other work.

The deadline for submissions is midnight EDT January 5, 2027 Learn more at ashrae.org/students.