

FOG Dispenser

WHAT'S INSIDE

Event Calendar	2
Meet the Board	3
Event Recaps	7
ASHRAE Opportunities ..	9

“A New
ASHRAE Year,
Same Golden
Gate Spirit”



President's Message

Dear GGASHRAE Members,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and look forward to having a great year with a packed schedule.

The month of August was a busy one - The joint Regional X & XI CRC Meeting in Honolulu brought ASHRAE members together from across the states for education, leadership development, and networking.

At home, our second annual WIA Golden State Valkyries Game was a successful sold-out event! Combining a lively pregame happy hour at a local brewery with an exciting night of basketball at Chase Center. Thank you to everyone who participated!

We hope you will join us for our first technical meeting of the chapter year on September 17 at Drake's Dealership in Oakland. The evening will focus on a great presentation by Peter Rumsey focusing on energy efficiency, and include recognition of our Technology Award recipients. Then, on September 22, we will be hosting our Membership Promotion Night at the San Francisco Giants Game. Tickets for both events are available at ggashrae.org.

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](#).

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 	18	19
20	21	22 	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

September 2026

EVENT CALENDAR

Membership

Technical Meeting

Historian

National Holiday

Society-Event

SEP
17

September Technical Meeting:
Energy Efficiency +Tech Awards

Owners want sustainability but don't want to pay a lot of extra for it. Peter Rumsey will focus on sustainability strategies that engineers can leverage and share his thoughts on the affordable building decarbonization in CA.



SEP 23 TO 25

2026 ASHRAE Building
Decarb Conference



SEP
22

Membership Promotion Night:
SF Giants Game + Social Mixer

This event is open to ASHRAE members only, so sign-up to be a member now! Whether you're a baseball fan or just want to meet some cool people, join us for an exciting game of between the SF Giants vs. Minnesota Twins!

SEP
24

Historical Comm.
Pizza & Beers

Join us for a fun, informal opportunity to explore pieces of our chapter's history, connect with fellow members, and help preserve important records for the future.
Volunteer spots are limited!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

Meet Your Chapter Leaders

2026–2027 Board of Governors

PRESIDENT



John Plecnik

Sales Engineer @ Ascent HVAC

I am most excited to help our volunteer board and committee members plan the entire year's events!

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

I could nerd out all day about Modular Air Source Heat Pumps.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

Sargon's ME-183 Class at SJSU is what pulled me into the industry. This industry is like the Wild West and every day is different/exciting - That is what keeps me in it.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

In a perfect world, I would instantly fix the need for on demand ventilation requirements on R-32 VRF Systems.

What's one opinion or "hot take" you'll defend every time?

Coil handedness is defined by airflow hitting the back of your head, NOT hitting your face.

PRESIDENT-ELEC



Manalee Nabar

Senior Project Engineer @ Affiliated Engineers

I'm excited to help across the board this year with programming, WiA events and our historian committee.

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

Ventilation calculations & controls under various jurisdictions.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

An HVAC elective during undergrad introduced me to the Carnot cycle. I have been reeled in since then solving unique building problems everyday.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

Coordination with other trades (Electrical/ Plumbing/ Structural/ Architectural) and documenting it lucidly on the drawings.

What's one opinion or "hot take" you'll defend every time?

Engineers should not specify equipment without first reading BOTH the manufacturer's engineering technical manual & IOM.

Meet Your Chapter Leaders

2026–2027 Board of Governors

TREASURER



Ben Rydberg

Sales Engineer @ RF MacDonald

I'm most excited to build on the momentum we built from last year's events including the Golf Tournament, Product Show, Big Football Game, and End of Year Gala.

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

I really enjoy laying out hydronic and steam systems.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

An engineering role where I could apply my college experience to designing complete HVAC systems.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

The misuse of sizing hydronic pumps.

What's one opinion or “hot take” you'll defend every time?

Hydronic systems are the best way to deliver heating and cooling to a building.

SECRETARY



Jyrteanna Teo

Mechanical Engineer @ HNTB

I'm looking forward to bringing new ideas to the FOG Dispenser and continuing to support our committees behind the scenes through marketing and communications.

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

Energy audits & building modeling. It's equal parts engineering, detective work, and problem-solving.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

It all started with Drexel University's CAEE 202 course. What has kept me in the industry is the variety - no two projects, teams, or challenges are ever the same.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

Assuming mechanical rooms & duct routing will “just fit” rather than being designed as an integral part of the building.

What's one opinion or “hot take” you'll defend every time?

Value engineering should refine the design, not compromise its intent. Too often, costs aren't removed, they're simply shifted elsewhere.

Meet Your Chapter Leaders

2026–2027 Board of Governors

BOG MEMBER #1



Alfred Uzokwe Jr.

Sr Mechanical Engineer, Facilities @ Lucid Motors

I'm excited for my roles this year as CTTC Co-Chair and BOG #1.

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

Energy efficiency!

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

I was pulled in by my first co-op job while in undergrad. What has kept me in the industry is a love of the game.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

Controls.

What's one opinion or “hot take” you'll defend every time?

Not everyone needs to control the thermostat. There are other paths to thermal comfort.

BOG MEMBER #2



Sean Paul Blaevoet

Engineer II @ G&B Consulting Engineers

I'm excited to help support the chapter's direction while bringing strong technical programs and speakers that address today's industry challenges and provide value to our members.

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

Indoor air quality. I enjoy getting into how the space actually performs, not just whether the CO2 sensor satisfies Title 24.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

Growing up, I was inspired by my father's dedication to the industry. What has kept me in HVAC is the opportunity to leave a lasting impact and help make the built environment better for future generations.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

I'd fix the communication gap between design intent and actual building operation through controls, commissioning, and operations

What's one opinion or “hot take” you'll defend every time?

The customer is not ALWAYS right.

Meet Your Chapter Leaders

2026–2027 Board of Governors

PAST PRESIDENT



Sanjil Karki

Sales Director - North America @ NOVENCO

I'm excited for technical tours and social events!

What's one HVAC topic, technology, or trend you can nerd out about all day?

Data Center Cooling Design, air and liquid.

What first pulled you into HVAC—and what has kept you in the industry?

Sargon Ishaya, past SJ ASHRAE president and professor at SJSU got me into ASHRAE. The industry is evolving where we are using more data to reduce energy and improve IAQ.

If you could instantly fix one HVAC problem you see over and over again, what would it be?

Facilities not part of the early design.

What's one opinion or "hot take" you'll defend every time?

I have seen enough points in manual override in the BMS to say educating/training the facilities and Building engineer is key for HVAC system to run efficiently.

2026–2027 Committees & Chairs

CTTC Co-chair	Alfred Uzokwe
CTTC Co-chair	Sean Blaevoet
Communications Chair	Jyrteanna Teo
Government Affairs Chair	Marina Shatalova
Historical Chair	Manalee Nabar
Historical Co-chair	Sara Ambry
Honors & Awards Chair	Carrie Brown
Membership Promotion Chair	Colton Harmon
Research Promotions Chair	Moana Reynau
Research Promotions Co-chair	Ryan Arnachellum
Student Activities Chair	Alicia Tan
Student Activities Co-chair	Subhrajit Chakraborty
K-12 STEM Champion	Juliana Velez
Sustainability Chair	Holly Brink
DEI/WiA Chair	Stefani Szczechowski
DEI/WiA Co-chair	Marina Shatalova
YEA Co-chair	Chase Baker
YEA Co-chair	Corey Friedenbach

Communications Committee	Fatima Nasir
	Jeslu Jacob
Casino Gala Committee	Ian Andersen
	Manalee Nabar
Golf Committee	Brian Chacon
	John Gardner
Product Show Committee	John Plecnik
	Ryan Arnachellum
	Jesus Quintero
SF Giants Game Committee	Christoph Schoenstein
	John Plecnik
Tours Committee	Lindy Gibbons
Valkyries Game Committee	Stefani Szczechowski



Valkyries + ASHRAE = *A Winning Night!*



In August, Golden Gate ASHRAE members came together for our 2nd Annual WiA Golden State Valkyries Game + Pre-Game Meet-Up. We kicked off the evening at Harmonic Brewing at Thrive City, catching up with fellow members, meeting new faces, and enjoying time together before heading to Chase Center.

The game did not disappoint—the Valkyries rallied from a 13-point deficit to secure a 92–81 comeback victory, led by 21 points from Janelle Salaün and a season-high 20 points from Kayla Thornton.

More than just a game, the evening was a great opportunity to connect with fellow ASHRAE members, catch up over good conversation, and enjoy a night together outside of the office.





Across Regions, One ASHRAE Community: *Golden Gate Chapter at CRC*

What an incredible few days at the Joint ASHRAE Chapter Regional Conference (CRC) for ASHRAE Regions X and XI! The Golden Gate Chapter was thrilled to join fellow chapters in Hawaii for a conference filled with learning, connection, celebration, and plenty of aloha.

From the moment we arrived, there was something happening. We kicked things off at the welcome party, explored the tradeshow, dove into committee meetings and trainings, and gathered with ASHRAE leaders and fellow members from across the two regions. Each event brought another opportunity to exchange ideas, catch up with familiar faces, and make new connections.

At its heart, CRC is about more than meetings and presentations—it's about bringing our ASHRAE community together.

Throughout the conference, chapters shared highlights from the past year—from impactful programs and lessons learned to challenges overcome and successes celebrated. It was inspiring to hear how chapters across the regions are supporting their members, strengthening their communities, and advancing the industry in their own unique ways.

We're excited to bring those ideas and perspectives back to the Golden Gate Chapter as we kick off the new ASHRAE year. And we had plenty to celebrate ourselves! The Golden Gate Chapter was honored with several awards recognizing the incredible work and dedication of our volunteers and members. See the awardees on the left!

MP Red Ribbon Award

Sanjil Karki

Top RP Building the Future

Moana Reynau

Finance Shiny Penny

Manalee Nabar

Best CTTC Chapter Chair

Alfred Uzokwe Jr.

Best Communications Chair

Jyrteanna Teo

Bridge Builder

Carrie Brown

K-12/STEM Leadership Award

Juliana Velez

Student Member of the Year

Quinn Graessle

Top Student Branch

University of CA, Berkeley

YEA Event of the Year

Big Football Game (collab w/ ASHRAE San Jose Chapter)

Take Your ASHRAE Experience Further

NEW! 40% BCxP Application Discount

Exciting news! Following an industry-wide job task analysis for the Building Commissioning Professional (BCxP) Certification, beginning Oct 12 BCxP exam blueprint updates will take effect.

Here's how the 40% discount works:

1. Apply by Sept 30 using the Discount Code: BCxP2026
2. The first 100 applicants will receive a 40% discount
3. Test during an Oct 12 - Nov 8 window against the updated blueprint
4. Take your certification exam at any of ASHRAE's 1,000+ test center locations worldwide
5. Results released Dec 18



Continuing Education



Student Zone

2026 Travel Grants

- Applications are now open until September 30
- Click [here](#) to learn more and apply

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 Q & A

- September 8th at 10 am & 8 pm EST
- Click [here](#) for more information and to register

Leadership U

- Applications for the 2027 Winter Conference are open until September 16, click [here](#)

Fall 2026 YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0 (Minneapolis, MN)

- Dates: November 6-8
- Registration now open until September 23, click [here](#)

2026 YEA Leadership International (Cairo, Egypt)

- Dates: October 23-25
- Registration open until September 2, click [here](#)



Young Engineers (YEA)