

# Newsletter

May 2026



## May Lunch Meeting:

### Date:

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Location:

Double Tree by Hilton, Ft. Myers at  
the Bell Tower Shops

### Time:

11:30-12:15 pm Networking  
12:15-1:30 pm Lunch & Main  
Program

### Presenter:



Julie Ferguson

Hydronic Systems Consultant  
George A. Israel, Inc.

Julief@gaiinc.com

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Greetings SWFL ASHRAE!

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring season and finding a little time to soak in the sunshine before our calendars fill up for the summer. We've got a great month ahead, and I'm excited to share everything happening in May.

First, I'm thrilled to announce that our May lunch meeting will feature Julie Ferguson, who will be presenting on Pump Curves, a topic that offers valuable insight for engineers across many disciplines. As always, we'll gather at the DoubleTree at Bell Tower Shops. This month's meeting is also designated as a Membership Promotion event! That means it's the perfect opportunity to bring a non-ASHRAE friend or colleague who might be curious about what we do. Even better, their first meeting is free! Let's use this chance to welcome new faces and continue growing our chapter.

On the YEA front, we're happy to share some wonderful news, our YEA Chair, Trevor Citek, and his wife Gianna recently welcomed their newborn son. Congratulations to the Citek family, and welcome to the world, baby Micah! With this joyous arrival, our YEA events are officially picking back up. This month, we'll be returning to FastTrax after its huge success last time. Join us on Thursday, May 28th from 5:00-6:30 PM. Please RSVP to [TCitek@tombarrow.com](mailto:TCitek@tombarrow.com) or text 239-278-1988 by 5/13/2026 to secure your spot. FastTrax requires ample advance notice to properly place everyone into their appropriate racer categories, beginner, advanced, and so on, so please keep the RSVP deadline in mind. And if you decide you want to join after that date, send us a message. We'll do our best to make it happen!

Lastly, after quite a bit of back and forth due to venue availability and conflicts with other tournaments, we're excited to confirm that our annual Fishing Tournament is officially locked in for June 20th at Rum Runners. Mark your calendars, notify your fishing buddies, and let your families know you'll be out on the water that Saturday! We're still promoting sponsorship opportunities along with our highly anticipated Yeti cooler raffle. This year's custom Yeti, generously donated by Patty Graef, is truly something special. She even brought it to her presentation last week, so if you missed it, trust us: it's top-notch. Keep an eye out for flyers coming soon, along with more details on prizes and how to get involved.

Thank you all for your continued support, enthusiasm, and commitment to our chapter. I look forward to seeing you at this

month's meeting and at our upcoming YEA and fishing events. Let's make May a great one!

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# May Lunch Meeting Announcement

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## SWFL ASHRAE Chapter Presents: May Lunch Meeting Announcement

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**LOCATION:** Double Tree by Hilton, Ft. Myers at Bell Tower Shops

11:30 – 12:15 am Networking

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch and Main Program

**In-Person Cost: \$35.00 Per Attendee – RESERVATIONS VIA RSVP LINK BELOW ARE REQUIRED** No Cost for College Students with a Valid I.D.

- Card Payments will be Accepted at the Door

- Pre-Pay via [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) to [swfl.ashrae@gmail.com](mailto:swfl.ashrae@gmail.com)

- RSVP by September 9th, 2025 via the following link: <https://forms.gle/Hfm4e7OuvBvBBzKr7>

For Last-Minute RSVPs, please email [casev.hazen@trane.com](mailto:casev.hazen@trane.com) We will try to accommodate on a case-by-case basis.

### **Presenter:**

#### **Julie Ferguson**

Hydronic Systems Consultant at George A. Israel, Inc.

### **Main Program:**

#### **Pump Selection: Best Practices**

Pump performance is defined by the intersection of the pump curve and the system curve. Operating near the Best Efficiency Point (BEP) is key to maximizing efficiency and equipment life, while operating too far from it increases wear, energy use, and risk of cavitation.

System configuration plays a key role, as pump selection and varies depending on whether the system is open or closed, and whether pumps are arranged in parallel or series.

Proper pump selection focuses on matching real system conditions, avoiding overdesign, and using VFDs and balancing valves appropriately to optimize performance and longevity.

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# Membership Promotion

Why should I belong to ASHAE?

This question is usually the topic of conversation when the subject is brought up. As a member for 6 years, I can readily identify the reasons for being a member and the benefits. Seasoned members as well can rattle off the benefits when asked, but really what are they?

Let's look at the following benefits you will receive from being a member and the resources available to you.

- For the annual membership – technical portal for ASHRAE standard or guidelines are available. Great information for our trades with a wealth of knowledge online. Certification study guides and individual eLearning courses are available for continuing education.
- Free Society Conference Registration is available, free Winter or Annual Conference registration. Reminder, this is only good with active 24-month membership.
- Bookstore discounts for reference new releases and standards, 25% discount.
- ASHRAE journal. Monthly information at your perusal. To expand on this, journal podcasts are available as well.
- Professional development with the ASHRAE learning institute, 230+courses at your fingertips.
- Technical Portal for articles, research reports, etc.
- Connect with members. Likeminded people, where opportunities for connection and involvement are at your disposal with a wealth of knowledge.
- Get Involved. Industry specific committees and local participation is there for personal growth and a commitment to give back.

Now that we have a guideline of what is out there for you, get involved and use the resources available to you. Spread the word! We make a difference with our local chapter. Dive into the resources and tools available for proficiency and expanding our knowledge, have fun along the way!

Jeff Brooks – Membership Promotions

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# 2025-2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

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**DIAMOND  
SPONSORSHIP:  
Tom Barrow Company**

I would like to thank those of you who have already committed to sponsorships for the 25-26 society year.

We would encourage anyone who values their membership in SWFL ASHRAE to review the many benefits of sponsorship detailed in the annual sponsorship letter attached at the end of this newsletter.

If you have agreed to be a 25-26 sponsor and do not see your name listed below, please reach out.

[gdevore@bandiflorida.com](mailto:gdevore@bandiflorida.com) / (239) 671-6448

Thank you, we appreciate your continued support.

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## Quick Reads

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### **Legislation Introduced to Limit PFAS Production and Use**

On March 19, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) and Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced the Forever Chemical Regulation and Accountability Act. The bill would establish a nationwide framework for phasing out non-essential uses of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in products while imposing strict limits on environmental releases and prioritizing remediation of contaminated sites. It would also require all PFAS manufacturers and users to file reports with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to disclose certain information relating to PFAS and require them to submit phase-out schedules of their products to be completed within 10 years.

[Link to Article](#)

### **Members of Congress Introduce Data Center Moratorium Legislation**

On March 25, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY-14) and Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-VT) introduced the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Center Moratorium Act. The legislation would institute an immediate federal moratorium on AI data centers until strong national safeguards are in place to ensure that:

- AI is safe and effective.
- The economic gains of AI and robotics will benefit workers.
- AI does not increase electricity or utility prices, harm communities, or destroy the environment

[Link to Article](#)

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## Our Presenter:

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# JULIE FERGUSON

George A. Israel, Inc.,  
Hydronic Systems Consultant

### ABOUT

*Julie Ferguson has over 30 years of experience in the HVAC industry and currently serves as a Systems Solutions Consultant for George A. Israel, Inc.*

*She specializes in hydronic heating and cooling systems, supporting engineers, contractors, and building owners with system-level design.*

### CONTACT

PHONE:  
813-839-2161

WEBSITE:  
[GAIINC.COM](http://GAIINC.COM)

EMAIL:  
[JULIEF@GAIINC.COM](mailto:JULIEF@GAIINC.COM)

### INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

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Julie's career spans roles in inside engineering support, technical sales leadership, and executive leadership in a manufacturer's representative firm supporting system design and application of dehumidification equipment. She works with engineers and contractors on equipment selection, design, and integration.

Technical expertise:

- Hydronic heating and cooling systems
- Pump selection, performance, and system integration
- Heat exchangers and thermal transfer systems
- Air management, tanks, and air separation systems
- Stem specialties and boiler applications
- Packaged mechanical systems

She was actively involved in industry education and has co-led two annual technical events: the Annual Building Envelope Seminar and the Rock & Roll Moisture Control Seminar.

Julie has delivered professional presentations across the United States and internationally, including Argentina, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, and Singapore.

### ASHRAE EXPERIENCE

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Former Voting Member:

- **Standards Committee**; board-elected position
  - Standards Project Liaison Subcommittee
  - Code Interaction Subcommittee
  - **SSPC 55** Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy
  - **TC 8:10** Mechanical and Desiccant Dehumidification
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# May YEA Event

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## MONTHLY YEA MEETUP



YEA is hosting a Go-Kart night for industry professionals to go out and have a competitive night of racing.

FastTrax  
Thursday, May 28th  
5:00-6:30 pm

Please RSVP to Trevor Citek by **5/13/2026**  
TCitek@tombarrow.com - 239.278.1988

Enjoy your evening after work over friendly/competitive Go-Kart race. (YEA will cover the cost of one (1) race )



FastTrax:  
14501 Global Pkwy  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

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*Thank you to our Sponsors*

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**2025-2026 Gold Sponsors**



**2025-2026 Silver Sponsors**



**2025-2026 Bronze Sponsors**



## YEAR-ROUND MOBILE ENGAGEMENT – ASHRAE 365

Download ASHRAE 365 using the buttons below from your mobile device or search on the App Store or Google Play.

Welcome to ASHRAE 365 – a free app providing year-round updates on all things ASHRAE. This 2-minute video provides a quick overview of what ASHRAE 365 has to offer including information about events and the ability to connect with other members, find resources, and support ASHRAE.

