

# Newsletter

February 2026



## February Lunch Meeting:

**\*\*YEA Special Meeting\*\***

### Date:

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Location:

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

### Time:

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

### Presenter:



Wade H. Conlan  
Assistant Vice President  
Commissioning and Energy  
Discipline Manager  
Hanson

wconlan@hanson-inc.com  
407-716-9997

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Greetings SWFL ASHRAE!

January flew by in a flash, and if the start of 2026 is any clue, we're in for a pretty exciting year together. We've already had a strong kickoff, and February is stacking up to be just as lively. Here's what's been happening and what's coming your way:

### 3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament Recap:

A huge shoutout to everyone who came out and tossed some bags with us last month. Our third annual tournament turned into an absolute hit—packed brackets, fierce competition, and plenty of laughs. Whether you walked away victorious or simply enjoyed the chaos, thank you for helping make it one of our best turnouts yet.

### February YEA Happy Hour:

Our YEA crew is gearing up for another great meetup this month! We're still putting the final touches on the location, but expect details very soon. Clear a spot on your calendar—you won't want to miss an evening of easy networking, cold drinks, and good company.

### Monthly Technical Presentation:

Mark your calendars for February 11th, because this one is big. We're honored to host Distinguished Lecturer Wade Conlan for a session on "Control of Infectious Aerosols." Wade is a hot-ticket speaker in the ASHRAE world, and we're lucky to snag him. This will be a lunch meeting, so come ready to learn something new—and maybe impress your coworkers later with your newfound aerosol-control expertise.

### Fishing Tournament Teaser:

The legendary Fishing Tournament is on the horizon, and February will bring more details. Consider this your official reminder to keep your rods, reels, and bragging rights ready. Stay tuned—updates are coming soon!

### A Word to Our Sponsors:

Our chapter thrives because of the generosity and commitment of the partners who stand behind us. Their support helps fuel our events, educational programs, and the opportunities we're able to provide our members throughout the year. If your organization is interested in getting involved, we'd love to chat about how you can jump in and make an impact with us.

As always, thank you for being part of this vibrant SWFL ASHRAE community. Your engagement, ideas, and energy are what make this chapter such a great place to connect and grow. Looking forward to

another excellent month together! Let's make February a good one!

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# *February Lunch Meeting Announcement*

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**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/xUakLg6umHjTG65v8>**

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

## **Presenter:**

**Wade Conlan**

**P.E., BCxP, CxA, LEED AP BD+C**

**Assistant Vice President/Commissioning and Energy Discipline Manager at Hanson**

**Bachelor of Architectural Engineering from Penn State**

## **Main Program:**

### **Control of Infectious Aerosols**

**ASHRAE, through its Epidemic Task Force, provided timely leadership in responding to the COVID19 pandemic from March 2020 through June 2022. At the request of the White House, ASHRAE undertook its own project Warp Speed to build on that expertise for the future. In December 2022, the ASHRAE Board committed to quickly writing a standard to make buildings more resilient against infectious aerosols ahead of the next epidemic. In only four months the project committee created and won approval for ASHRAE Standard 241-2023. In this Lecture a member of the 241-project committee will provide a summary of the standard including its purpose, scope, and key requirements with supporting background.**

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## *Upcoming 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  
Wednesday, February 18th  
5:00-6:30 pm

Please RSVP to Trevor Citek by **2/11/2026**  
TCitek@tombarrow.com - 239.278.1988

Enjoy your evening after work over friendly/competitive  
Go-Kart race.



FastTrax:  
14501 Global Pkwy  
Fort Myers, FL 33913



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# ASHRAE Cornhole Tournament

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# *Membership Promotion*

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## Welcome members and possible new members to our ASHRAE SWF Chapter!

I personally want to welcome the returning members, as well as extend a hand of camaraderie to the prospective members. Members and perspective members will include many like-minded professionals, ranging from engineers to construction management teams, sales professionals, building automation and estimation specialists. All gambits of HVAC professional are present during our meetings, with a wealth of information at your disposal. Just extend an introduction, expand on friendships developed with members. We welcome back our seasoned members, as well as our new members.

We would like to remind our present members of the plethora of benefits, grade advancement, such as a Handbook PDF, an e-learning course, or a certification study guide. Advancement to a higher membership grade, with our help through the process.

To our potential members, what can ASHRAE do for you? Look no further for networking opportunities, technical resources, or career development. Testimonials from long-time members expressing the value of ASHRAE membership, and how ASHRAE has helped them grow professionally. Local events are monthly, with opportunities to chat, ask questions, furthering your knowledge of our expressed fields.

For our students and young professionals, there are scholarship opportunities, design competitions and grant aids. ASHRAE is here to assist you on your path to becoming a proficient asset to your future employer.

Monthly meetings will include either a "lunch and learn" atmosphere or evening meeting including dinner with the accompaniment of a visiting speaker. Many opportunities to learn and expand your knowledge base of our ever-growing industry. So just show up! Show up, feel at ease, and know you're in the company of like-minded folks that are eager to learn from each other and develop closer relationships.

To wrap things up, we need you! We need your presence and help! The only way we continue to make our local chapter thrive is with all of us being involved. Let's all set a goal of supporting ASHRAE, supporting each other, and making our local ASHRAE chapter something to see and be proud of this new year. Looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting or activity. Check out the newsletter for upcoming events. SEE YOU THERE!

Jeff Brooks, Membership Promotion Chair

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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.

## **QUICK READS**

### **NVIDIA CLAIMS HOT WATER CAN COOL NEXT-GEN CHIPS**

In a keynote speech at Consumer Electronics Show, Jensen Huang, CEO of chipmaker Nvidia shared that its next-gen Vera Rubin chip systems, successor to their Grace Blackwell systems, will be able to be cooled by hot water, up to 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit). This will remove the need for chillers in some circumstances, leading to energy efficiency gains for large data centers. Other tech CEOs also shared that they think that two-phase cooling systems, where water is both a gas and a liquid at different points in a water-cooling system, have reached a point of greater market viability. Manufacturers noted that systems that usually work without chillers are already common, as are systems where chillers only activate during especially hot days when free cooling is less efficient.

[Link to Article](#)

### **HOUSE PASSES GOVERNMENT FUNDING LEGISLATION**

On January 8, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a package of government spending bills for fiscal year (FY) 2026, which began on October 1, 2025. The legislation would fund several agencies through September 30, 2026, including the Department of Energy (DOE), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Highlights include:

- \$15 million for the Building Energy Codes Program at DOE, which is in line with FY25 funding levels.
- \$33 million for ENERGY STAR at EPA, which is a \$1million increase from FY25 funding levels.
- \$1.84 billion for NIST, which is a \$70 million increase from FY25 funding levels.

More information on the legislation can be found [here](#). The Senate is expected to pass this legislation; however, to avoid a partial shutdown, Congress must still pass six other appropriations bills to fund the rest of the government before federal funding expires on January 30

[Link to Article](#)



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# Student Activities

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## B&I Arts-fest: Where Engineering Meets Art

**Dates:** February 6 – 8, 2026

**Location:** Downtown Fort Myers

- **Experience "Glow City" with Ozobots:** Step into the future at our interactive exhibit! Using pocket-sized Ozobot robots, we'll be building a glowing, high-tech city. This hands-on activity teaches the basics of coding and robotic navigation through vibrant color-coded paths, showing how smart technology powers the cities of tomorrow.
- **Sparkling Curiosity:** Every year, thousands of students and families join us to explore interactive demonstrations that bring STEAM concepts to life. Our participation highlights how HVAC and engineering fields apply to real-world careers, building vital connections between classroom education and professional opportunity.

## 16th Annual STEMtastic Day of Discovery

**Date:** Saturday, February 14, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Location:** [Caloosa Sound Convention Center](#), 1375 Monroe Street, Fort Myers

- **A Day of Innovation:** Celebrate Valentine's Day by falling in love with science! This massive community event, presented in partnership with **The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, The School District of Lee County**, and the **Edison Festival of Light**, features over 100 exhibits designed to inspire the next generation of innovators.
- **Showcasing Excellence:** STEMtastic is a powerful platform for local businesses to demonstrate the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). We invite you to join us as we showcase how these disciplines drive both education and the workforce in Southwest Florida.

## Scholarship Award Ceremony

**Date:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- **Honoring Our Future Leaders:** SWFL ASHRAE is proud to announce the winners of our high school scholarships. This year, we are awarding two exceptional students for their committed excellence and dedication to the engineering path:
  - **Deetya Gogineni** – Dunbar High School
  - **Alyssa Bryant** – North Ft. Myers High School
- Join us for this special evening as we celebrate their achievements and support their journey into the world of professional engineering.

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# *Upcoming Meetings*

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## **SWFL ASHRAE Chapter Presents: April Lunch Meeting Announcement**

**DATE: Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**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 April 14th, 2025 via the following link: <https://forms.gle/7zCT9Wfk8UyRvcWH9>

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

### **Presenter:**

#### **Patricia Graef**

Professional Engineer  
ASHRAE Fellow  
LEED Green Associate  
Retired from Munters Corp.

### **Main Program:**

#### **The New Legionella Standard: ANSI/ASHRAE 188-2023 ‘Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems**

ASHRAE has been actively involved in providing information on Legionella since 1979 in response to the first Legionnaire’s disease outbreak in 1976 and the subsequent discovery by the CDC of the causative bacteria – Legionella. While Legionnaire's disease has been known for many years, recent outbreaks have increased awareness of the disease, its causes and prevention strategies. The CDC estimates 8-18 thousand cases per year, of which more than 10% are fatal.





**SWFL ASHRAE Chapter Presents:  
March Dinner Meeting Announcement  
\*\*History Special Meeting\*\***

**DATE: Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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

**5:30 – 6:30 pm Networking**

**6:30 – 8:00 pm Dinner 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 March 10th, 2025 via the following link: <https://forms.gle/hMDGnao71i18UxHi9>

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

**Presenter:**

**David Schurk**

Director of Applied Engineering and National Sales Manager at Innovative Air Technologies  
ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer

Instructor for ASHRAE's Humidity Control I & II professional development training courses  
Prior Chair for the American Society of Healthcare Engineering (ASHE) Sustainability and Decarbonization Leadership Task Force

**Main Program:**

**Battling the Environment in Hospital Operating Rooms**

Many spaces in a hospital require special design considerations due to intensified infection concerns, high air change rates, special equipment, unique procedures, high internal loads, and the presence of immunocompromised patients. But in no other healthcare environment does the design of the HVAC system take on more importance than in operating rooms, where its purpose is to minimize infection, contribute to an environment of patient care, and maintain surgeon and staff comfort.

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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.

