

Newsletter

April 2026



April Lunch Meeting:

Date:

Wednesday, April 15th 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:



Patricia T. Graef, P.E.,
ASHRAE Fellow

Senior Engineer
Munters Corporation
Region: XII

pat.graef@att.net

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings SWFL ASHRAE!

March kept us busy in all the best ways, and now we're rolling into April with more opportunities to learn, connect, and gear up for what's ahead. Spring may not look very different in Florida, but our calendar sure does. So here's what's coming up this month!:

CTTC April Technical Meeting:

We've got an exceptional speaker lined up for April. **Patricia Graef**, ASHRAE Fellow, Professional Engineer, and Distinguished Lecturer, will be joining us for a deep dive into Risk Management for Building Water Systems. This topic is especially valuable for facilities leaders, engineers, and anyone responsible for buildings with cooling towers. Patricia brings a wealth of expertise, and the fact that she's local makes this an opportunity you won't want to miss. Join us for a lunch meeting at the DoubleTree on April 11th from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Come hungry for both food and knowledge!

Fishing Tournament Update:

Our legendary annual Fishing Tournament has officially locked in a date: June 6th! Due to venue availability, we shifted slightly from our original target window, but the experience will be worth the wait. Expect the same blend of competition, sunshine, big catches, and bigger stories. The formal announcement and registration details will be heading your way later this month so keep an eye out and start warming up those reels.

Our chapter continues to thrive thanks to the dedicated companies and individuals who choose to support our mission. Their generosity allows us to offer strong programming, impactful educational opportunities, and a vibrant professional community. If your organization would like to join our network of supporters, we'd be happy to share the ways you can get involved and make a meaningful impact here in SWFL.

Thank you, as always, for continuing to show up, participate, and strengthen our ASHRAE community. Your involvement is what keeps this chapter active, energetic, and moving forward. Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and making April another great month together!

April Lunch Meeting Announcement



SWFL ASHRAE Chapter Presents: April Lunch Meeting Announcement

DATE: Wednesday, April 15th, 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 to swfl.ashrae@gmail.com

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

For Last-Minute RSVPs, please email casev.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.

ANSI/ASHRAE 188 first published in June 2015 establishes minimum Legionellosis risk management requirements for building water systems. It applies to human-occupied commercial, institutional, multi-unit residential, and industrial buildings, excluding single-family residential buildings. It is intended for use by owners & managers of human-occupied buildings, excluding single-family residential buildings and also for those involved in design, construction, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance & service of centralized building water systems and components.

This session provides an overview of Legionella bacteria, its source, how it is amplified, how it is transmitted and who is susceptible. There will be a detailed look at the standard, the background on its development and what is required for its application and adoption. Specific topics include the framework for legionella bacteria control measures, health care facility requirements, requirements for adopting a Water Management Program for specific devices such as cooling towers, ornamental fountains, spas, etc., elements of a Water Management Program, and designer requirements.

Lecturer Profile

Patricia T. Graef, P.E., ASHRAE Fellow

Senior Engineer
Munters Corporation
Region: XII
pat.graef@att.net



Patricia Graef, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, LEED GA, retired from Munters Corp., Fort Myers, Fla. Patricia Graef has spent more than 40 years focusing on engineering and developing products that control temperature and moisture in building air as well as the water associated with the processes. Graef received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Florida. In the time Graef has worked for Munters, she has served as a Scientist in the cooling tower division, was the Director of Core Technology for Humidification and Engineering and Development Manager for the HumiCool division. Today she is senior engineer for the Air Treatment division and has more than a dozen international patents in her name.

Graef is a 45-year member of ASHRAE. In ASHRAE she has been a voting member of Guideline 12 Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems since 1995 and Standard 188 Legionellosis: Risk Management for Building Water Systems since 2004. She has contributed to four ASHRAE handbook chapters including Water Treatment, Humidification, Evaporative Cooling, and Gas Turbine Inlet Cooling. Graef has shared with the HVAC industry her knowledge by contributing to ASHRAE Handbooks, standards writing, monitoring research projects, and program presentations. Graef is a recipient of ASHRAE's Distinguished Service Award, Exceptional Service Award and the Award for Distinguished Public Service.

Graef has made numerous technical presentations at ASHRAE, ASME, Power Gen, and the Electric Utility Chemistry Workshop. Her presentations include design, commissioning and maintenance of heat and mass transfer equipment including the chemistry of the service water that is utilized by the equipment. She developed water quality and water usage programs to predict water usage, scaling rates and water blending capabilities. This is used to predict water usage and water blow-down of

Lecturer Profile

sprayed tube heat exchangers, evaporative air coolers and humidifiers. Graef developed a program to predict the annual benefit of adding evaporative cooling to the inlet of a combustion turbine generator. The program uses ASHRAE Bin weather data. It checks every hour of the year and calculates the power out-put of the combustion turbine with and without evaporative precooling.

Graef previously served as Society Vice President. Her other recent service includes five years in leadership positions for the ASHRAE Rules Committee, chair of Technology Council, member of the Advanced Energy Design Guide Steering Committee, member of Finance Committee, Standards Committee, Technical Committees (TC) 3.6, Water Treatment, 5.7 Evaporative Cooling and 5.11 Humidification. She also serves on the Board of Governors of her local ASHRAE Chapter.

Graef started her career in new product development over 40 years ago as an application engineer for Munters Corporation. She helped transform the inventions of Carl Munters from his Swedish laboratory to the US and other global markets. These products include cooling towers, mist elimination, evaporative cooling, humidification and dehumidification. Graef further contributed to these innovations with her own patents.

Graef's comprehensive design and operational portfolio covers manufacturing, testing and application of heat and mass transfer media, application of humidity control in commercial and industrial spaces, adiabatic cooling for agriculture, residential, commercial and industrial spaces. Significant projects in which Graef was involved include Mammoth Pacific Geothermal Facility, Mammoth Lakes, CA, Southern Company, Savannah Electric-McIntosh Plant, Rinken, GA, Union Carbide Company, Taft, Louisiana, General Motors Validation Center, Pontiac, Michigan, Ford Assembly Plant, Norfolk Virginia, University of Georgia, Davis Farm, Athens, Georgia.

Membership Promotion

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

2025-2026 Sponsorship Opportunities

**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 / (239) 671-6448

Thank you, we appreciate your continued support.

Student Activities

ASHRAE Southwest Florida Chapter Invests in Future HVAC Leadership with High School Scholarship Awards

FORT MYERS, FL — On March 11, 2026, the ASHRAE Southwest Florida (SWFL) Chapter proudly announced the recipients of its annual youth scholarship program, awarding \$500 scholarships to two standout high school seniors poised to become the next generation of leaders in the HVAC industry.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are:

- Alyssa Bryant – North Fort Myers High School
- Deetya Gogineni – Dunbar High School

These awards recognize students who have demonstrated exceptional academic commitment and a burgeoning interest in the fields of heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration. By supporting these local scholars, the SWFL Chapter continues its mission to bridge the gap between secondary education and professional engineering careers.

“Investing in students like Alyssa and Deetya is an investment in the sustainability and innovation of our industry,” said a spokesperson for the SWFL Chapter. “Their dedication to excellence reflects the core values of ASHRAE, and we are honored to support their journey as they transition into higher education and professional development.”

The SWFL Chapter remains dedicated to fostering local talent through mentorship and financial support, ensuring that the Southwest Florida region remains at the forefront of building sciences and environmental technology.

Upcoming Meetings



SWFL ASHRAE Chapter Presents: April Lunch Meeting Announcement

DATE: Wednesday, April 15th, 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 to swfl.ashrae@gmail.com
- RSVP by April 14th, 2025 via the following link: <https://forms.gle/7zCT9Wfk8UvRvcWH9>

For Last-Minute RSVPs, please email casev.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.

Thank you to our Sponsors



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.

