



# Newsletter

December 2025



## MEETING DETAILS:

### Distillery Tour

#### Date:

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 2025

#### Location:

List Distillery, 3680 Evans Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

#### Time:

4pm

Immediately following we will meet for Dinner at Millers Ale House



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings SWFL ASHRAE!

December has come at last and we've got a bunch in store for you as we prepare for the holidays and wrap up this incredible year. Here's a rundown of the events we've got on the docket for you this month:

### YEA Networking Night:

We're heading over to Backyard Social on December 11th for our monthly YEA event. There will be darts, cornhole, bowling, and the like available so you'll want to keep this on your calendar! Whether you're a Young Engineer in ASHRAE, new to the area, or just interested in expanding your local network, come out for a relaxed evening. This is a chance to mingle, chat with your Board of Governors, and strengthen those connections—bring a friend or two along!

### Monthly Technical Presentation:

Mark your calendar for December 5th, as well be forgoing our normal dinner meeting for a while refrigeration themed tour! We'll start with a tour of the List Distillery's facilities refrigeration systems (a sampling of their spirits will be available for attendees), and wrap up with a dinner at Miller's Ale House around the corner. It's a great chance to expand your technical knowledge, sample some fine spirits, and meet members who share your interests. We hope to see you there! Lastly, and of course not least, I want to give a huge thank you to all our annual sponsors and our Diamond Sponsor of 2025-26 Tom Barrow; your investment in our chapter's mission is vital and deeply appreciated. And if you haven't joined our sponsor family yet, please reach out to Gary Devore, our RP Chair, to learn more about supporting ASHRAE in the coming year. Sponsorship helps us deliver engaging events, offer scholarships, and highlight your organization among industry peers.

As always, I encourage you to take part in these events, invite colleagues, and share your ideas with our chapter. Let's keep the momentum going—December promises fantastic learning, networking, and good times together!

Thanks for all you do, and for being such an important part of SWFL ASHRAE."

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## *Monthly YEA Meetup*

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YEA is hosting a networking event for industry professionals to be able to share ideas and play games.

Backyard Social  
Thursday, December 11th  
4:30-6:30 pm

Enjoy your evening after work over friendly games of darts, core hole, and other game options.



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*Backyard Social:  
16371 Corporate  
Commerce Way  
Fort Myers, FL 33913*

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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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# *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

## **QUICK READS**

### **BILL GATES SHARES THOUGHTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION VS EMISSION REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

Ahead of COP30, Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder and Chair of the Gates Foundation, shared insight into how he plans to direct his considerable philanthropy towards climate change related projects. In the piece, Gates writes that international development money is failing to deliver the greatest possible impact on the world's most vulnerable populations, and a paradigm shift away from emission mitigation toward adaptation and health interventions is needed. Referring to decarbonizing buildings, Gates cites heat pumps and air conditioning provisions in developing countries as an important strategy and names workforce development as a necessary precondition to wider deployment.

[Link to Article](#)

### **INTERNATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCORECARD: FRANCE REMAINS ON TOP, CHINA MAKES GAINS**

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a nonprofit research organization, recently published its "2025 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard" which evaluates energy efficiency policies and performance of the 25 highest-energy consuming countries in four areas: national efforts, buildings, industry, and transportation. Following the release of the last scorecard in 2022, the global average score rose 4.5 points to 53 out of a possible 100. France remained at the top of the list, earning 85.5 points, while China was the most improved country, gaining 15 points mostly due to increased public transit and EV adoption, in addition to setting national targets for reducing energy use.

[Link to Article](#)

### **INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DESIGN SETS NEW STANDARDS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Sunburst Elementary School, built in May 2019 and occupied in August 2020, uses 61% less energy than the baseline model due to its innovative energy efficient design. The mechanical system uses a combination of air handlers and packaged air-to-water heat pumps, designating the air handlers to areas that are occupied while school is in session while spaces occupied year-round are served by the heat pumps. The air handlers are designed to be energy efficient using an energy recovery wheel to preheat ventilation air and four stages of cooling in cooling mode. The hydronic system consists of multiple hydronic loops interconnected through heat exchangers. The school's mechanical system uses a combination of technologies to achieve an innovative efficient design. With this design there is greater complexity with the operation and a higher construction cost compared to typical systems, however long-term energy costs and environmental impacts will prove the worth in this design.

[Link to Article](#)

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# Student Activities

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The **Southwest Florida Chapter of ASHRAE** is excited to offer **two \$500 scholarships** to graduating high school seniors in our region who plan to pursue higher education in **Science, Technology, or Engineering** fields.

## Eligibility Criteria

To be considered, students must:

1. **Be accepted into an accredited college or university** and intend to major in a **Science, Technology, or Engineering** discipline.
2. **Maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA** (on a 4.0 scale) or demonstrate strong academic achievement.
3. **Submit a one-page essay** (maximum 500 words) addressing the prompt:

*“How will your chosen field of study in Science, Technology, or Engineering help create a more sustainable world?”*

## Application Requirements

Please have interested students submit the following **in a single email or mailed packet**:

- **Current résumé** highlighting academic honors, STEM-related coursework, extracurricular activities, and any relevant projects or leadership roles.
- **One-page essay** (PDF format preferred; 12-pt font, 1-inch margins).
- **Proof of college acceptance** (letter or email confirmation) and **unofficial transcript showing GPA**.

## Submission Instructions

- **Email (preferred):**
- **Send to:** [pmiller@bandiflorida.com](mailto:pmiller@bandiflorida.com)
- **Subject line:** “ASHRAE HS Scholarship – [Student Full Name] – [High School Name]”
- **Mail:** Patrick Miller, Project Engineer B&I Contractors, Inc. [Insert Chapter Mailing Address]  
**Attn:** ASHRAE High School Scholarship
- **Deadline:** 5:00 PM EST, Thursday, December 25, 2025

## Selection Process

A committee of ASHRAE professionals will review all submissions based on academic merits and essay quality and demonstrate interest in sustainable engineering and technology. Winners will be notified by **January 15, 2026**, with awards presented at the **February 2026 Chapter Meeting** (students and a guest are invited).

We encourage your counseling and STEM departments to promote this opportunity to qualified seniors. This scholarship not only provides financial support but also connects recipients with mentors in the HVAC&R and building science industry.

For questions, please contact me directly at the email above.

Thank you for helping us invest in the next generation of sustainable innovators.



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## *Upcoming Events*

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3rd ANNUAL SWFL ASHRAE  
**CORNHOLE**  
TOURNAMENT

January 24th, 2026

PREREGISTER BY EMAILING:  
[JHARDMAN@TOMBARROW.COM](mailto:JHARDMAN@TOMBARROW.COM)



BAR AND FOOD TRUCK WILL BE AVAILABLE  
FOR FOOD AND DRINK PURCHASE

TOURNAMENT FEE INCLUDES ONE FREE DRINK



**BAGS FLY AT 11AM**

ENTRY \$30 - REGISTRATION 10:00 AM

Fort Myers Brewery Co | 12811 Commerce Lakes Dr #28 Fort Myers, FL 33913

TOURNAMENT RULES:

BLIND DRAW, DOUBLE ELIMINATION, PAYOUT BASED ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE SWFL ASHRAE YEA FUND

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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.

