



NorthEastAire

Volume LVII, Issue No. 8

April 1, 2025

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April Meeting Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Tech Session:
Life Safety Dampers
Meeting Topic:
Stairwell Pressurization
Where:
DoubleTree—Cambridge
400 Soldiers Field Rd
Boston, MA 02134

Schedule of Events:

Networking: 5:00PM-5:30PM
Tech Session: 5:30PM-6:30PM
Dinner: 6:30PM-7:00PM
Presentation: 7:00PM-8:00PM

Cost:

Members—\$50
Non Members—\$60
Student Members w/ RSVP—Free

Register: ashraeboston.org



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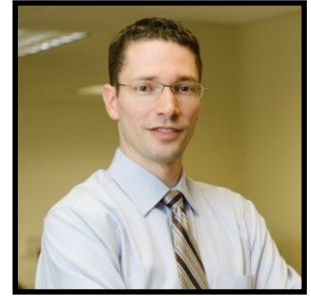
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BOSTON CHAPTER OFFICERS 2024-2025



President's Message

This ASHRAE year is nearing completion, so I want to highlight several things that remain before my presidency draws to a close, in roughly chronological order, all of which are at least mentioned somewhere in this newsletter:



Lance Brown, President

- Our Membership Battle has officially ended as of April 1st. There was a three way tie between Trellis Air, Rimkus, and BR+A! Per battle rules, a random drawing determined the winner of (2) Red Sox tickets, a free summer ASHRAE registration, and recognition at our April meeting. Scroll down to see the final results!
- Our April monthly meeting will be at the DoubleTree in Allston and cover two related mechanical design topics: life safety dampers and stairwell pressurization.
- For Earth Day we'll be helping out with a Charles River cleanup. [Come join chapter volunteers](#) for a good cause!
- Look for a ballot to come out in the next few weeks. It may come from postmaster@mg.ashraeboston.org; please add that address to your address book to reduce the chance of it being misidentified as spam. Vote for next year's officers and board members. Reach out to me or any of our volunteers if you're interested in a position. We're especially looking for someone to lead the Young Engineers in ASHRAE committee.
- There are still foursomes available for our golf tournament next month.
- In June we will be installing next year's officers.

Thanks to the many ASHRAE members and AEE New England members who attended last month's meeting about the Framingham geothermal pilot. This was our best attended meeting of the year; it was great to see that we can fill a ballroom post-Covid! Most of our topics come from our members, so if you have meeting topics or tour venues that you think would be compelling, please let me know. Next year's meeting schedule will come into focus in the next few months.

Lance Brown

Boston Chapter President

president@ashraeboston.org



ASHRAE Boston March Meeting

Government Affairs Headlines

Ben Pignatelli—Government Affairs Committee Chair

[State approves new Mass Save plan, but slashes budget by \\$500 million](#)

Instead of letting the utilities that run the program spend \$5 billion of ratepayer money as previously planned, the department is capping the budget at \$4.5 billion. The current three-year plan had a \$4 billion budget. WBUR. Miriam Wasser. February 28, 2025.

Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities [Press Release](#).

April Meeting

Technical Session: Life Safety Dampers

Presented by: Michael Bulzomi

The purpose of the presentation is to provide a comprehensive overview of the different types of Life Safety Dampers available and building code requirements governing their use, installation, and inspection. We will learn the fundamental differences between Fire, Smoke and Combination Fire/Smoke Dampers and how they are utilized in HVAC systems. We will describe the UL rating criteria for Life Safety Dampers, and how those apply to various applications of dampers in HVAC systems. We will review and understand the code code-mandated testing and inspection requirements on projects today, as well as provide a high-level overview on proper and improper installation methods.



Michael Bulzomi

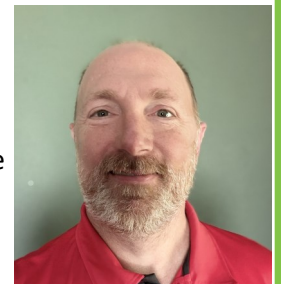
This presentation also offers a PDH (Professional Development Hour) for those seeking credits to maintain their professional registration.

Mr. Michael Bulzomi has over 17 years of experience in commercial HVAC, specifically in the applications, and design of a wide breadth of products. As a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), Air Movement Control Association (AMCA), and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Michael has been involved in the building standards process, authored numerous white papers and articles for trade publications, and participated on many technical committees.

Main Presentation: Stairwell Pressurization

Presented by: Jason Geagan

High-rise buildings present significant challenges to the design community. As a building designer, you should be familiar with the numerous requirements outlined in the current International Building Code (IBC). Join us for this month's presentation, where we will spotlight Active Stairwell Pressurization as an essential method of smoke control. The meeting will feature references and discussions related to the IBC, NFPA 92, and UL 864.



Jason Geagan

IBC Chapter 4, Section 403 specifically addresses high-rise buildings, laying out detailed life-safety requirements that must be adhered to. The next time you're in a high-rise, consider what might happen if a fire broke out on a floor below you.

NFPA 92, the Standard for Smoke Control Systems, offers critical guidelines for designing, installing, and testing smoke control systems in buildings and large spaces. These systems play a vital role in ensuring safety during a fire by managing smoke movement, which is often a greater threat than the flames themselves.

UL 864, known as the Standard for Control Units and Accessories for Fire Alarm Systems, has long been a cornerstone of the fire protection industry worldwide. Its most recent Ninth Edition introduced approximately 300 revisions and added 100 new pages of requirements. Recognized globally, UL 864 remains the most widely accepted standard in the field.

This presentation also offers a PDH (Professional Development Hour) for those seeking credits to maintain their professional registration.

Mr. Jason Geagan is currently employed with RM Manifold Co., (parent company of LF Systems) a controls company based in Fort Worth, Texas. With almost 30 years' experience in the HVAC industry, primarily focused on venting and draft controls- and more recently, pressure-based controls. Jason has delivered presentations at numerous industry events, including the AHR Expo and various local ASHRAE chapter meetings (including Boston in the past), covering a wide range of topics.



Earth Day Cleanup

Join ASHRAE Boston for the Charles River Earth Day Cleanup!



Spring is right around the corner, and what better way to welcome the season than by giving back to our local environment? ASHRAE Boston is excited to take part in the Charles River Earth Day Cleanup on **Saturday, April 26**. This annual event is one of the largest river cleanups in the country, bringing together a few hundred ambitious volunteers to help restore the health and beauty of the Charles River. WE NEED YOU TO JOIN IN. There is no event fee, and all cleanup materials will be provided.

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (cleanup), followed by a cookout

Meeting Location: Community Rowing -20 Nonantum Road Brighton (Boston) near the Newton line. There is free parking there.

Who Can Join? ASHRAE members, colleagues, friends, and family!



WE WANT YOU!

Register Here: <https://ashraeboston.org/meetinginfo.php>

After our two-hour cleanup, Eric Edman (BR+A) has generously offered to host a cookout to celebrate our efforts. His grilling is legendary! This is a great opportunity to connect with fellow ASHRAE members, enjoy some good food, and reflect on the positive impact we've made. Please [advise](#) if you have any food allergies or special requests so we can plan accordingly.

This event is part of ASHRAE Boston's commitment to sustainability and community engagement, and we'd love to have as many volunteers as possible. Friends and partners are welcome to join!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Halley at c001sus@ashrae.net.



Golf Update

Matt Hallock—Golf Outing Chair



We still have some foursomes left for the 59th Annual ASHRAE Boston Golf Tournament. We will be returning to Pinehills Golf Club in Plymouth again. The course had nothing but high remarks for the group that we had there last year, so they were ecstatic to have us come back again. Before the round, the golf range will be open for all to use. This year we will have complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner, as a part of your day. On the course, we will have a Putt for Dough challenge as well as an Air Cannon Challenge to add a little more fun out on the track. There are going to be raffle prizes, 50/50 and mulligans for purchase at the time of check-in. We cannot make this tournament happen without all of our sponsors, so thank you for everyone who has contributed to the sponsorship for the year and specifically for the golf tournament itself. We use these funds for scholarships, meetings, and research to help keep moving ASHRAE forward in a positive manner.

For the members that have already registered for a foursome, thank you very much and I look forward to seeing you there. In the meantime, when you have the names of the people in your foursome, please send them to mhallock@apav.com so we can make sure the day of experience is customized to the golfer as Pinehills does a fantastic job at welcoming us to their course.

The link to register is [here](#). If there are any questions, please reach out to Matt @ mhallock@apav.com.

Registration – 8am-9am

Shotgun Start – 9am

Dinner – Following the round ~2:30p

Battle Rankings

Membership Battle Update - These employers have had the most new members join since September 10th.

THE BATTLE HAS ENDED- SEE FINAL RANKINGS BELOW!

FIRST

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Since there is a tie for first place, the winner (chosen at random) is...

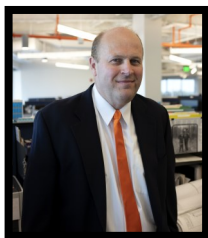
BR+A !

ASHRAE Boston will be reaching out to you with information on how to receive your (2) Red Sox tickets and (1) FREE summer ASHRAE conference. Congratulations!

T-SECOND



Shaping Tomorrow's Built Environment Today



Eric Edman

Historical Special Feature

Eric Edman—Historical Committee Member

Most people know Boston is an old city in North America and has some of the most history with tales of midnight rides, and much. There are some common items many of us forget- or, just plain old overlook.

One of the first mass weather beacons was located right here in our city. It was located on top of the Berkeley Building. They were simple but effective lights. The lights had colors and a pattern many older Bostonian knew by heart. Solid Blue-skies are true, blinking blue-clouds are due, blinking red-storm ahead, solid red-snow instead. This signaled the weather for Bostonians and was used to “call” the baseball games. Today, the light has been upgraded to LED and most us call this building “little John Hancock”. Of course the YEA members now get their weather info from apps and other technology, but the lights still do their business.

The Nation’s first public beach was a short train ride for many. That’s right... Revere Beach was a model for many in the nation. So much so that Presidents paid visits. A rail link was built in 1875 to connect the city to the famed three mile strip of sand. In 1897 it became all of ours.

The Nation’s first college- Harvard University set the model for public colleges. In 1636 there were but a handful of very lucky students. Today there are about 25,000 students and over 425,000 alumni.

The Nation’s first subway- buried right here from Park Street to Tremont. We call it the MBTA green line, and it was one of the shortest when completed. Its significance and accomplishment sent signals around the world. It was originally horse drawn and became the third electric traction train in our country.

Chocolate was made right here in Dorchester, MA by William Baker. An Irish immigrant with pennies in his pocket created the Baker Chocolate Factory along the Neponset River. Jelly beans are said to have originated over at the Schrafft Chocolate Factory. One of the earliest chiller orders from the Carrier Corporation cooled our famous Schrafft Chocolate factory. Ice Cream (not invented here) quickly became a staple with Brighams building one of the first air conditioned ice cream parlors in Post Office Square. The buildings still exist and are condos today.

Nearby, the Fig Newton cookie came from Newton, MA and the coffee shoppe became a thing over in Quincy, MA. Who could have thought Bill Rosenberg’s simple shoppe named the “Open Kettle” would one day turn into Dunkin Donuts with over 12,000 stores offering up 52 varieties of donuts and some darn good coffee.

The Nation’s first lighthouse is located out on Little Brewster Island. It still stands... since 1736. It may not be the tallest, but it did its job. Being a lighthouse keeper was once an admirable profession, although a bit lonely perhaps during winter.

Some of you may know the Boston Christmas tree set up at the “Pru” comes to us from the fine folks in Halifax. There was a terrible maritime disaster in Halifax. Two boats collided in an explosion that killed dozens. Some of the first responders were Bostonians. The people of Halifax do not forget.

The Boston Cream Pie was invented right here. The Omni Parker Hotel still offers what is today our State Pie.

The Nation’s oldest ballpark, Fenway Park, was built in 1912. It is perhaps one of our most treasured treats for many outsiders to take in a game at Fenway. It is the oldest original baseball stadium. The Red Sox were called the Americans, Pilgrims, Somersets, Puritans, and Plymouth Rocks before becoming the Red Sox in 1907.

For us in the HVAC business, one of the premier fan factories “Sturdevant Fan” was located here in Hyde Park. Sturdevant is yet another one of those immigrants who came with pennies and found the American Dream. You can read more about some of these stories in past special features if you want. I really consider myself fortunate to from Boston.

I sure do hope some of you have enjoyed this short blast from the past.

Hope to see you at our next meeting. -Eric

Presidential Award of Excellence



Boston Chapter - 2024-2025

Chapter Members	Membership Promotion Points	Student Activities Points	Research Promotion Points	History Points	Chapter Operations Points	Chapter Technology Transfer Points	Government Affairs Points	Electronic Communications Points	YEA Points
<u>982</u>	<u>1450</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>1500</u>	<u>3000</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>1750</u>



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Professional Development Update

Kevin Doty—Professional Development Committee Chair

Are you an employer wondering if ASHRAE certification is worth the investment? Are you an employee looking to get ahead? Which certifications will benefit me the most? What are others saying about it?

The ASHRAE Professional Development [webpage](#) contains the answers to these questions and more. It is a wonderful resource containing everything from certification descriptions, to survey responses from current certificate holders, to templates you can use when asking your employer/sponsor to cover costs. The deadline to benefit from the 25% discount is March 31st, so the time to act is now. I'd like to highlight the Certified Decarbonization Professional (CDP) certificate. Is decarbonization important? Most of us live and/or work in Massachusetts...you tell me! Are you already an expert in this space or would you benefit from additional decarb training & certification? Time to consider the ASHRAE Certified Decarbonization Professional certificate! Please reach out with any questions!

Welcome New Boston Members

We welcome those that joined our
chapter over the last month!

- Xin Ma
- Kevin McNeill
- George Tighe
- Steven Dextraze
- Brady Shwartz
- Scarlett Gillette
- Andrew McGrail
- Charles Connolly
- Campbell Fowler
- Don OConnell
- Andrew Egan
- Ed Bouchard
- Daniel Pedroza

Thank you to our 2025 sponsors. Our corporate sponsorship program helps the chapter meet their research & promotion goals and supports chapter activities.

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GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Location	Event Information
September 10	Liberty Mutual Boston, MA	Mechanical Tour and Dinner
October 15	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	Building Envelopes & HVAC Considerations
October 23	SPIN Boston	YEA Event
November 12	DoubleTree Cambridge, MA	Women in Engineering
December 10	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	IRA for Thermal Storage and Decarbonization
January 14	DoubleTree Cambridge, MA	Building Controls
February 4	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	Thermal Energy Recovery
March 11	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	Framingham Ground Source Heat Pump Pilot Project
April 8	DoubleTree Cambridge, MA	Stairway Smoke Pressurization
May 12	Pinehills Golf Club Plymouth, MA	ASHRAE Golf Outing
June 10	TBD	Installation of Officers

*The calendar is subject to changes, please see the [ASHRAE Boston Chapter website](#) for the most up to date information!

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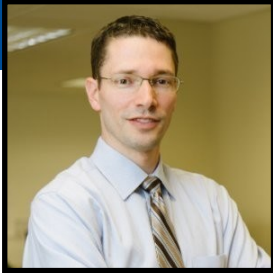
Boston Monthly

YEA Events

Joint Meetings

Special Events

BOSTON CHAPTER OFFICERS



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Secretary
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Treasurer
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2022-2025	2023-2026	2024-2027
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Become a chair or committee member today! Please contact Chapter President at president@ashraeboston.org if you are interested!