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# NorthEastAire

Volume LVIII, Issue No. 4

December 2, 2025

## December Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

### Meeting Topic:

Beyond MEP: Holistic Strategies to  
Enhance Building Performance

### Where:

Hilton– Boston/Woburn  
2 Forbes Road, Woburn, MA  
01801

### Schedule of Events:

5:30 Networking

6:30 Dinner

7:00 Main Program

### Cost:

Members—\$50

Non Members—\$75

Student Members—Free

Register [here!](#)



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## BOSTON CHAPTER OFFICERS 2025-2026



## President's Message

Heating season is officially upon us! I'm pleased to welcome you to the December ASHRAE Boston Chapter newsletter. I hope you were all able to enjoy a restful Thanksgiving with family and loved ones.

We had a busy November in Boston! Allison Guttadauro & Bailey Estes hosted the chapter's first ever ASHRAE Boston DEI Book Club. The event was a great success, and I encourage you to read Allison's write-up included in this newsletter. We also hosted a Young Engineers in ASHRAE Night at the Flight Club Boston in the Seaport District — thank you to all who attended and helped make it a good night of networking.

Later in the month, we hosted our monthly meeting at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), as part of our Student Appreciation night. A big thank you to Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE DL, traveling to Boston to present his topic on Chilled Water Systems to a room of ASHRAE Boston Members and WPI Students. One final thank you to Kedar Prashant Shété for being such a gracious host at WPI and making this event a reality.

We look to close out 2025 on a strong note, with two exciting events this month. We host our Sponsor Appreciation Holiday Party at Sam Adam's Tap Room in Boston on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you did not register yet please reach out to Kellie or me about getting on the list.

Then on December 9<sup>th</sup>, we are hosting a joint meeting with ASPE at the Hilton-Boston/Woburn in Woburn, MA. The topic will be 'Beyond MEP - Holistic Strategies to Enhance Building Performance' which is in line with this year's presidential theme! [Registration](#) is open on the website.

As 2025 comes to an end, I would like to thank our 2025 Corporate Sponsors one last time! Your support helps this chapter immensely. Your donations allow us to provide high-quality events to our members at reasonable pricing. We cannot thank you enough, and we hope you continue to see the lasting value your sponsorship brings to the greater Boston engineering community.

Wishing the entire Boston ASHRAE Community, a wonderful Holiday season, and a Happy New Year!

Lucas Rowe

ASHRAE Boston Chapter President



Lucas Rowe, President



# ■ BEYOND MEP: HOLISTIC STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE BUILDING PERFORMANCE

The solution to building energy efficiency includes more than MEP systems. In this guide, we'll explore some of the most impactful strategies to improve building performance that involve collaboration with others in the AEC industry, including architects, owners and developers.

Achieving optimal building performance requires a holistic approach that integrates not only MEP (Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing) systems, but also building design, occupant behavior, and environmental context. This will explore Passive Solar Design, Building Envelope, Energy Management / Internet of Things, Geothermal Energy Systems, and Energy Production and Distribution as means to achieve building performance goals. By bringing together architects, engineers, owners, and developers, this guide will show how early and ongoing cooperation leads to innovative, sustainable solutions that optimize energy use, reduce operational costs, and enhance occupant comfort. Whether through integrated design processes, smart technologies, or shared performance goals, the future of high-performing buildings lies in a comprehensive, team-oriented approach to energy efficiency.

## EVENT INFO

 [ASHRAE BOSTON WEBSITE](#)

 [ASHRAE BOSTON CHAPTER](#)

 [CONTACT US](#)



## Meet Our Speakers

### Ted Hetzel

Ted Hetzel, PE, is a Sustainability Specialist and Mechanical Group Leader at F&T with 10+ years of experience in high-performance HVAC design, sustainable systems, and energy-focused engineering.

### Richard Barbera

Richard Barbera, Plumbing Engineering Manager, brings 38 years of extensive experience in plumbing systems and MEP projects, delivering reliable, integrated solutions across a wide range of building types.

### Masih Alavy

Dr. Masih Alavy, Senior Geothermal Engineer at GEI Consultants, is a Certified GeoExchange Designer and Certified Geothermal Inspector with 12+ years' experience in geothermal design, HVAC integration, and decarbonization solutions.



2026 ASHRAE WINTER CONFERENCE  
Jan 31– Feb 4, 2026 | Las Vegas, Nevada

# REGIONS I, III, AND XI

*SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2026*  
*7:00–9:00 PM*

*Sponsors  
Are  
Welcomed*



Located at Paris Resort & Casino  
3655 Las Vegas Blvd South  
Las Vegas, NV 89109  
<http://alexxaslasvegas.com>



**Early  
Bird:  
\$75 per  
person  
till  
12/31/25**

**\$85 per  
person  
after**

**Plated Dinner  
+  
Drink tickets**

**All sponsorships include different  
recognition opportunities.**

**Royal Flush (\$2,500):**

**5 event tickets**

**Full House (\$1,000):**

**2 event tickets**

**Ace High (\$500):**

**1 event ticket**

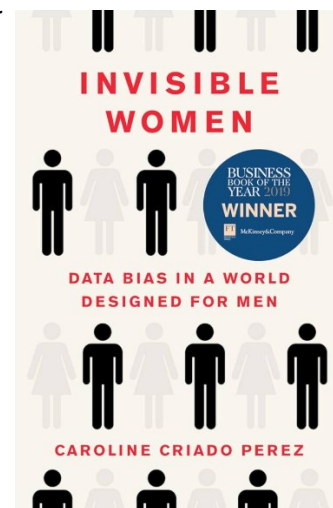
**TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.**

**USE THE QR CODE TO  
REGISTER**



## DIA Book Club Recap

Thank you so much to everyone who attended the first DEI Book Club event for the Boston ASHRAE Chapter in early November! Bailey and I were thrilled to have a wonderful group of engaged participants who read and listened to the book. We had meaningful discussions about the book [Invisible Women: Exposing Data Bias in a World Designed for Men](#) written by Caroline Criado-Perez. The book explores the vast ways in which the world is lacking scientific data on women, from things like the design space temperature in an average office, to the size of tools and products like military backpacks and pianos. Criado-Perez also addresses the gender bias against women in the medical field due to women being excluded from nearly all medical trials, the burden of unpaid care that disproportionately impacts women around the world, and many more ways the data bias against women exists. We recommend this book to everyone, even without a book club to discuss it with!



We plan to host another in person Book Club event in the spring. Our goal is to pick a book and give you the title so you can have as much time to read or listen to the book as you need. We are also thinking about hosting a separate virtual event during lunch time to accommodate anyone who wants to participate but might not be able to attend in person in Boston after work hours. Keep an eye out for information in the newsletter or sent by email and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Thank you,

Allison Guttadauro and Bailey Estes

P.S. One topic covered in the book is how crash test dummies are based on a typical male body. In 2011 the US introduced a female crash test dummy; sadly, it was simply a scaled down a male which means the dummy is anatomically inaccurate. Today's female crash test dummy specs aren't much better since they are modeled after the smallest 5% of American women (4' 11" and 108 lbs.). Just two days before we hosted the event, [The Female Quotient newsletter](#) mentioned how this causes women to be 73% more likely than men to be seriously injured in a frontal car crash. The disparity in dummies extends to CPR mannequins; because people most often aren't taught CPR with female mannequins, this contributes to bystanders being less likely to perform CPR on women.

# Presidential Award of Excellence



## Boston Chapter - 2025-2026

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>740</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>865</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>525</u>	<u>1200</u>

### 2025 November Meeting Recap

We hosted our most recent ASHRAE Boston Chapter meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> at a new location to us, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In addition to the over 40 Boston ASHRAE Members that traveled to Worcester to attend the meeting, we had over 30 WPI students in attendance as well!

I'd first like to thank Professor Kedar Prashant Shete, for helping plan and coordinate this meeting at WPI. Professor Kedar reached out to the chapter in the Spring of 2025 to ask our assistance in judging a design project for his class at WPI. This interaction has snowballed into increased interactions between WPI with the ASHRAE Boston Chapter, and ultimately, we were able to make this on-campus meeting a reality. Being able to connect with the students and give them some insight to the HVAC industry and ASHRAE was a very rewarding experience for all our members, so thank you Kedar!



For our main meeting presentation, we had the honor of hosting Mick Schwedler, an ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer, who traveled from La Crosse, WI just to present to us. Mick presented on his topic 'Chilled Water Systems: What the Baby Boomers & Gen Xers Have Done Wrong!!!'. This was an amazing topic for young engineers, exploring different chilled water system designs, and how we have improved them with new equipment, technologies, and from learning from past mistakes. Thank you, Mick, for sharing your time and expertise with the ASHRAE Boston Chapter!



Our next chapter meeting is December 9<sup>th</sup> at Hilton Boston/Woburn in Woburn, MA. We hope you can join us!

# Welcome New ASHRAE® Boston Members

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

- Jonathan Kuteesa
- Scott O'Neil
- Michael Trinidad
- Bruce Houghton
- Heidi Jandris
- Steve Noel
- Tim Lynch
- Kent Peterson
- Gokul Menon
- Elizabeth Galloway
- Jose Moussa
- Susannah Davis
- Matt Johnson
- Tanya Shirman
- Joshua Ritchie

## Boston Chapter Membership Battle Update

Houghton Chemical is in the lead! There are many companies closely following.

The membership battle lasts from Sept 12, 2025 -April 1, 2026. The company with the most new members in that time range earns employer recognition and Red Sox tickets to the game of their choosing!

Join here today: <https://www.ashrae.org/join>.



## EMPLOYMENT ADS FOR SALE!

Is your company hiring? Your employment ad could be here next month! Purchase an employment ad through the Boston ASHRAE Chapter and get your ad seen by all of our readers and members. Reach out to Newsletter Editor, Josephine Wendroth, [jwendroth@cmta.com](mailto:jwendroth@cmta.com), if you have questions or want to purchase an employment ad, starting at \$250 for one month. We can advertise within the newsletter, on our website, on LinkedIn, or send out an email blast to over 1000 subscribers. If you are a sponsor of our chapter, check out your sponsorship level because this perk may already be included at no extra cost to you!

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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# EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Location	Event Information
September 9	Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, MA	<a href="#">21st Century Operations &amp; Maintenance</a>
October 14	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	<a href="#">ASHRAE Standard 15 &amp; 15.2 Review</a> (Past President's Night)
October TBD	TBD	YEA Event
November 18	WPI	Chilled Water Systems for YEA Members (Student Night)
December 2	Sam Adams Boston Tap Room (State St)	Sponsor Appreciation Holiday Party
December 9	Hilton - Boston/Woburn	<a href="#">Beyond MEP: Holistic Strategies to Enhance Building Performance (ASPE Joint Meeting)</a>
January 13	DoubleTree Cambridge, MA	Unlocking the Power of Indoor Air to Support our Health
February 10	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	TBD
March 10	Embassy Suites Waltham, MA	181 Mercer (AEE Joint Meeting)
April 14	DoubleTree Cambridge, MA	AI in HVAC Industry: Past, Present, and Future
May 11	Pinehills Golf Club Plymouth, MA	ASHRAE Golf Outing
June 9	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

