

125th Anniversary Celebration

In early 2018, the ASHRAE Historical Committee proposed multiple projects in celebration of ASHRAE's 125th anniversary. Many suggestions were made as to the coverage, format, and possible authors for the work; and, these projects eventually included writing articles for the ASHRAE Journal, creating a historic calendar, and compiling biographical information on men and women who had made substantive contributions to the art and science of the industry that ASHRAE serves. ASHRAE even created a lapel pin for members who wanted to join in the celebration (right). Society President Chuck Gulledge, in the 2020-2021 PAOE categories, create two Presidential Initiatives to celebrate the 125th Year Celebration. This article is the second in a series as a way to achieve these points. I hope you enjoy it.



ASHRAE and Industry History - Continued

In the first article we learned that the “**The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (ASHVE)**” was incorporated in the state of New York on January 24, 1895. Many of our ASHRAE rituals today are tied to this first group. To comply with the laws of the State of New York, the date of the annual meeting was specified in the Constitution as the last week in January (still typically followed today).

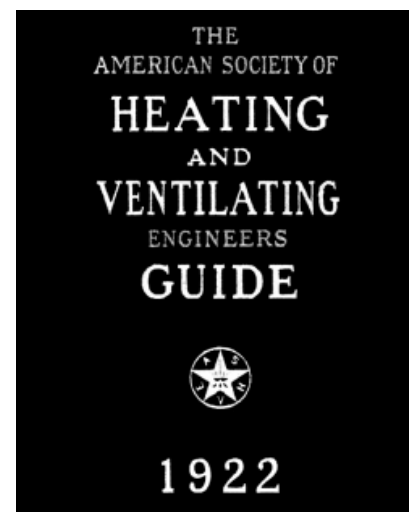
The newly formed Society was interested in many of the issues of the day, but foremost wanted to establish priorities that would be to the public's best interest. Several committees were formed during the first meeting (Sound familiar? Look for other key words as you read along). These were:

- The Committee on Tests “for the purpose of making such tests as may be for the interest of the society”
- Committee on Standards “to establish a clearly defined minimum standard of heating and ventilation for all classes of buildings”
- Committee on Compulsory Legislation “to favor legislation compelling ventilation of all public buildings in accordance with the standards of this society”
- Committee on Uniform Contract and General Conditions of Governing Specifications “to establish a uniform scale of prices for all professional services”
- Nominating Committee for the purpose of identifying and nominating candidates for officers, Board of Managers and Council

Each year, beginning in 1895, the Society documented its work by publishing the proceedings, papers and discussions from the annual and semi-annual meetings in Transactions of The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (and ASHRAE still does today.)

President Bates said of this new society and the work to be done, “We need to look backward but a very few years to find that our profession was unknown. The rapid strides of modern civilization have created many new professions, and ours among them. There is a wide field open before us, and it yet remains to be seen how well we shall occupy it. The child is born, and it gives great promise of a grand future.”

Eventually the Society started printing “The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers **Guide**”, first introduced in 1922. This guide included “The Synthetic Air Chart” that was developed by Dr. E. Vernon Hill and adopted by The American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers for the purpose of comparing the air conditions in any room with the ideal or standard conditions. The guide presented the chart along with a description of its method of application, which was worked out by the **Society's Research Bureau**. The Bureau stated that the Synthetic Air Chart offers a



means of determining the percentage of perfect ventilation by considering all the known factors that make up the air conditions in a room.

As the Society grew, it developed membership emblems and established awards in recognition of “work done and meritorious services performed in the field of heating, ventilation or air conditioning.” The emblems were to be worn so “Attention is called to your privilege as a member of wearing the Society’s emblem (1925).” One of the earliest ASHVE awards was the F. Paul Anderson Award named after named for F. Paul Anderson, ASHVE president in 1927 and an ASHVE laboratory director from 1921 to 1925. This award was first presented in 1932 to Dr. Willis H. Carrier.

MEMBERSHIP EMBLEMS

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEERS



The Society even had a song set to the music of the Battle Hymn of the Republic (words by Washington Chapter, performed at 1940 Annual Meeting in the District of Columbia).

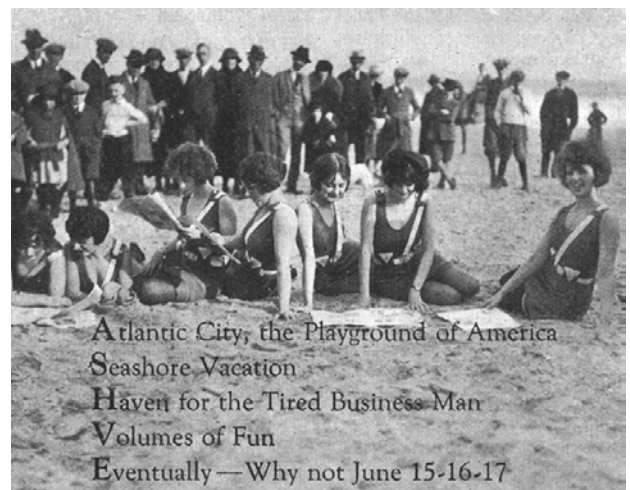
Semi-Annual meetings were sometimes scheduled with fun in mind (1925, note, the play on words).

BATTLE CRY OF THE A.S.H.V.E.

"We're here to sing the glory
Of the A-S-H-V-E.
How from hot and humid weather
It hath made all mankind free.
Thanks to air conditioning
Can everyone in comfort be.
Its joys are everywhere.

Chorus:

Hail our heating engineers,
Ventilating engineers,
Hail to A.S.H.V.E.
Our works are everywhere."



Please note: Information excerpted from information available from ASHRAE website through the Historical Committee links - “Proclaiming the Truth” – Chapter 1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Schrecengost, Historian

