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March

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MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING



Thursday, March 12, 2026
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HTS Austin
1720 Royston Ln
Round Rock, TX 78664



Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization



\$35 Member Ticket / \$45 at the door
\$40 Non-Member Ticket / \$50 at the door

[REGISTER NOW](#) 

Did You Know?

You can listen to podcasts on Spotify/Apple/Google about various HVAC&R topics?!

Tune in to conversations between leading ASHRAE experts as they discuss what HVAC engineers need to know to design better systems and grow the HVAC&R industry.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

2026 ASHRAE REGION VIII CRC

Registration is officially open for the 2026 ASHRAE Region VIII Chapter Regional Conference, and we're excited to welcome members from across the region to Little Rock this April. This year's CRC will feature valuable technical sessions, business meetings, networking opportunities, and memorable social events designed to connect and inspire our ASHRAE community.

[REGISTER NOW](#) 



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Hello Austin, daylight savings time has arrived and Spring is here! But before a discussion of the upcoming activities for the chapter this spring, I'll begin with a shoutout to Sydney Bradshaw with the chapter Student Activities Committee for organizing and leading the Austin ASHRAE "Keep a Cube" booth at the University of Texas STEM Girl Day on Saturday, 2/28, as well as all of the Austin and UT Student chapter volunteers who participated in this event! It was inspiring to see how each wave of students approached the experiment, asked insightful questions, and ultimately left with a better understanding of heat transfer. The next generation of engineers certainly is promising, to say the least! Thanks are also due to Jason Hence for providing an insightful presentation on packaged pumping systems during the February chapter meeting.

Now looking ahead to this month, our chapter meeting is fast approaching on Thursday, March 12th. This will be a lunch meeting at the HTS office and the main presentation will be an exciting discussion of hydronics as a path to energy savings and decarbonization, a relevant topic that should be a great presentation!

Moving into April, one of our biggest events of the year will be the Spring Expo on April 16th. This will be a great opportunity to see showcases from HVAC&R equipment manufacturers as well as technical presentations from extremely knowledgeable speakers. See more using the link [here](#) or in the Research Promotion section of this newsletter. Also in April, the Region VIII (which includes the Austin Chapter) Chapter Regional Conference (CRC) will be in Little Rock from April 23 through the 26. There is still time to Register! More information on CRC [here](#).

Finally, this Summer, Austin will be hosting the 2026 ASHRAE Annual Conference from June 27 to July 1. If interested in either of these conferences, please reach out to me or any other chapter officer for more details!

Hope to see you at one of these great Spring events, and at the Summer Conference!

Thank you for the continued support!
Miguel Minick, Chapter President



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Hello Austin ASHRAE!

We are working to getting vendors together for our ASHRAE EXPO on 4/16. We are about a month away, but still have plenty of spots for those who are interested. At this time, all A booths have been sold, but there are still plenty of B, C and D available. Want to bring a trailer? We have the parking space for one more. For the price of a D booth, you can bring a trailer to show off your latest innovations. Don't be left out of our chapter largest annual event. This is the perfect time to connect with engineers, contractors, owners and to show off your latest products and innovations. Interested in hosting a booth? As of the morning of 3/10 the following are available:

Have questions about the event?

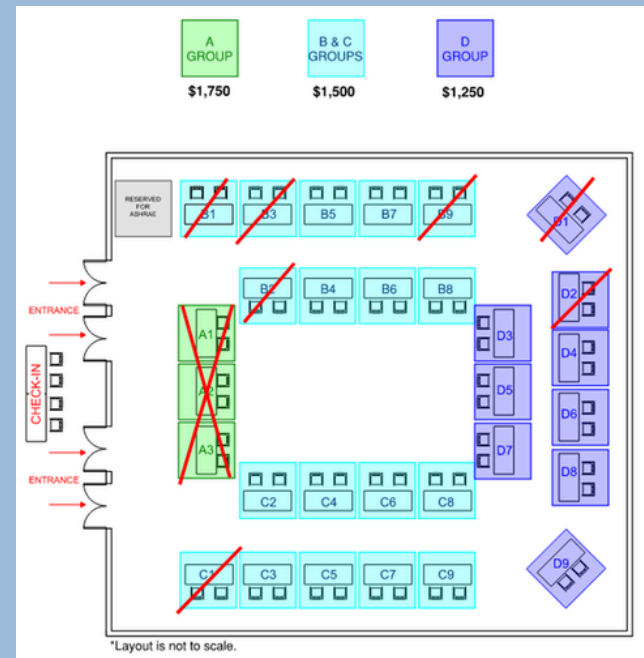
Email Ricardo Soto at
rsoto@pagethink.com.

Sign up for normal attendance will be
coming next month!

Upcoming dates:

4/16/2026: Austin ASHRAE 2026 Expo @
Norris Conference Center
May: Pickle Tournament @ TBD Location

A GROUP	B & C GROUPS	D GROUP
\$1,750	\$1,500	\$1,250



Have the itch to donate and help the ASHRAE cause?

DONATE NOW

Ricardo Soto – Rsoto@pagethink.com



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Hello Austin ASHRAE! Please join us for this month's meeting, hosted at HTS during lunch on Thursday, 3/12. The main presentation will cover Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization, presented by Chris DesRoches of Swegon North America. Come early to mingle at 11:30am and hear all of the ASHRAE announcements before the main event at 12:00pm/Noon.

Schedule:

11:30 - 11:45 AM: Check-in, Arrive and Mingle

11:45 - 12:00 PM: ASHRAE Announcements/Intros

12:00 - 1:00 PM: Main Presentation – "Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization"

Main Presentation

Title: "Hydronics as a Solution to Achieve Electrification and Decarbonization"

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the energy savings and comfort benefits of low temperature heating and high temperature cooling systems.
- Explore and understand the latest technologies contributing to the "A2L" all electric building, including Chilled beams, Fan Coils, Central heat pump plants, and ventilation equipment as well as the importance of integrated control strategies such as demand control ventilation.
- Review the benefits of an all-electric building when a complete system approach to equipment selection is taken, as demonstrated through case studies from Europe



Chris DesRoches

*Business Development Manager
Heating & Cooling
Swegon North America*

REGISTER NOW



Meet The Speaker!

Chris DesRoches, P.Eng., is a hydronic heat pump and building electrification expert with 15 years of HVAC industry experience spanning manufacturing, product development, testing, and technical sales. A mechanical engineering graduate of Dalhousie University, he previously served as Product Manager for heat pump solutions at Mitsubishi Electric and is currently Business Development Manager at Swegon North America. Chris is an active ASHRAE member and frequent industry presenter on air-to-water heat pump technologies and electrified hydronic systems.



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MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Renewal Reminder

If your membership is up for renewal, please remember to complete the process by going to renew.ashrae.org. Keeping your membership current ensures you continue to enjoy all the benefits ASHRAE has to offer, including access to industry resources, networking opportunities, and professional development events.

Help Us Grow ASHRAE – Invite a Colleague to Join!

ASHRAE membership is more than just a title – it's a powerful tool for professional growth, networking, and access to industry-leading resources. As a current member, you already know the value of being part of this global community. Now, we need your help to spread the word and grow our membership!

Why Promote ASHRAE Membership?

- **Unlock Professional Development:** ASHRAE provides exclusive access to cutting-edge research, certification programs, and technical resources that help professionals excel in HVACR and building systems.
- **Expand Networks:** Through ASHRAE events, conferences, and local chapter meetings, members gain valuable networking opportunities with industry leaders and peers.
- **Exclusive Benefits:** From discounts on events and publications to access to the latest standards and guidelines, ASHRAE members enjoy valuable member-only perks.

How You Can Help?

Invite your colleagues, clients, and peers to experience the benefits of ASHRAE membership. Share your story – how ASHRAE has helped you grow, advance your career, and connect with like-minded professionals. Encourage them to join today!

Together, We Can Build a Stronger ASHRAE Community

As we continue to lead innovation in HVACR, the power of a larger membership will only enhance our collective impact. Help us expand and strengthen ASHRAE – it's the perfect opportunity for your colleagues to join a vibrant, forward-thinking network.

Get Involved – Promote ASHRAE Membership Today!

For more information on how to refer someone to ASHRAE, visit www.ashrae.org/join.

Contact Us

Have questions, suggestions, or need more information about membership? Reach out to us at (830) 741-0820 or Rees.Saathoff@texasairsystems.com. We're here to help and support you.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Together, we are building a stronger ASHRAE community!

Best regards,

Rees Saathoff, EIT Rees.Saathoff@TexasAirSystems.com | 830-741-0820

TREASURER REPORT

Austin ASHRAE 2025-2026 Budget

Feeling lucky this March! Our finances are balanced, the numbers are adding up, and the budget is staying greener than a shamrock.

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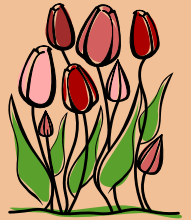


Category	\$ per Unit	Qty	Budget	Actual
Income				
Austin Chapter Dues Income	\$65.00	250	\$16,250.00	\$11,675.00
Fall Golf Tournament Income	\$45,000.00	1	\$45,000.00	\$37,974.54
ASHRAE Expo	\$32,000.00	1	\$32,000.00	\$18,010.09
Third RP Event Income	\$4,000.00	1	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Meeting Income	\$2,000.00	10	\$20,000.00	\$6,829.05
Sponsorships	\$2,500.00	1	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Katie Personal Money Added				\$55.69
Money Returned from Lorenzo	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$369.41
Total			\$119,750.00	\$74,913.78
Expenses				
Retained Earnings	\$600.00	1	\$600.00	\$0.00
Accountant (Taxes)	\$700.00	1	\$700.00	\$735.00
Chapter Expenses*	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00	\$80.00
CRC Reimbursement Expenses	\$3,500.00	1	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
2025 ASHRAE CRC Host Fund	\$6,000.00	1	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Mailbox	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
DL Expenses	\$400.00	3	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Sonsorships - Out**	\$500.00	1	\$500.00	\$0.00
Meeting Expenses	\$2,000.00	10	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
Region VIII Membership Expenses	\$15.00	250	\$3,750.00	\$3,760.00
Region VIII Annual Conference Dinner Expense	\$1,200.00	1	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Golf Tournament Expenses	\$22,000.00	1	\$22,000.00	\$11,921.58
Research Contribution - Golf Tournament	\$18,000.00	1	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
Expo Expenses	\$6,600.00	1	\$6,600.00	\$900.00
2025 Expo Bounced Check	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Research Contribution - Expo	\$23,000.00	1	\$23,000.00	\$0.00
Third RP Event Expenses	\$2,000.00	1	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Research Contribution - Third Event Expense	\$2,000.00	1	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Research Contribution - Endowment(s)	\$3,000.00	1	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
Research Contribution - Prev. Year	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
StarChapter Expenses	\$1,550.00	1	\$1,550.00	\$1,462.41
Student SmartStart	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student Dinners	\$40.00	10	\$400.00	\$0.00
Student Conferences	\$1,000.00	1	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Membership Promotion	\$250.00	1	\$250.00	\$0.00
DEI Expenses	\$0.00	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
President Pin	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	\$344.00
YEA Expenses	\$150.00	10	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Total			\$119,750.00	\$20,702.99

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Thanks to everyone who showed up to our picnic day last month!



Keep an eye out this month for updates on our next YEA meetup! We're finalizing the details and can't wait to get everyone together again—more info coming soon.

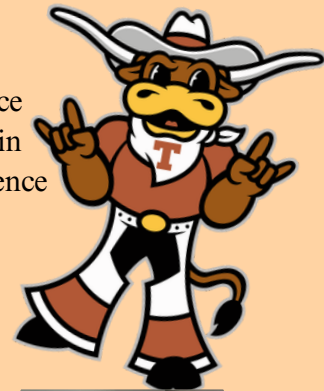
Kathleen Leyendecker - Kathleen.Leyendecker@hts.com
Chris Boerkei - Chris.Boerkei@siemens.com
William Knowles - william.knowles@onco-tx.com

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ASHRAE was proud to participate in the UT's 2026 STEM Girl Day with our hands-on experiment, Keep-A-Cube: Ice Cube Engineers Challenge! During this activity, ASHRAE volunteers guided K-8 students through an engaging engineering challenge designed to introduce key STEM concepts such as insulation, heat transfer, and problem-solving. Students worked to build their own insulation systems by wrapping different materials around a paper cup containing an ice cube. Their goal was to slow the melting process as much as possible. After constructing their designs, each cup was placed under a heat lamp for five minutes, simulating a warm environment. Students then compared their results with a control sample—an ice cube placed in a cup with no insulation—to observe how different materials affected heat transfer and melting rates. This interactive experiment encouraged creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration while demonstrating real-world engineering principles.

STEM Girl Day was a wonderful opportunity for students across the Austin area to explore science and engineering in a fun, hands-on way while celebrating the achievements and impact of women in STEM. ASHRAE was thrilled to support this inspiring event and help spark curiosity and confidence in the next generation of engineers and innovators.

-Lorenzo Gonzalez (Chair), Wyatt Hahn (Co-Chair), Sydney Bradshaw (Committee Member)



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REFRIGERATION & SUSTAINABILITY



Hello everyone! Thanks to all who came out last month to the utility plant at UT! Next month, refrigeration and YEA will be teaming up to bring you a distillery tour and happy hour, more details to come! We are looking for volunteers to help with the 2026 Annual ASHRAE conference, if you are interested in volunteering or have any ideas for events please feel free to reach out @ mcanfield@parkhill.com.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

HAPPY SPRING!!

Hope you took the time to vote in the primaries and that your preferred candidate won. Some primaries (Republican Texas – Senate) have not been decided and are headed for a runoff so please continue to follow and vote. Some city elections are upcoming later this spring so take notice and support and vote for the candidate of your choice.

At the state level, all of my guys won so we should get a good reception at the capitol next year!

Tracee Rhodes adds:

Several major hyperscalers — Google, Microsoft, Meta, Oracle, xAI, OpenAI, and Amazon — signed on to President Trump's "Ratepayer Protection Pledge." The pledge would require the companies to pay for and secure power supply for their facilities, cover the cost of any network upgrades associated with their power use, and pay for the power and infrastructure built to service their data centers, even if they do not use it. The pledge additionally commits these companies to make investments in the local communities, both through job creation and grid reliability measures, such as making backup generation resources available to the grid when possible. The President stated that in return, the federal permitting approvals for data centers will be expedited. Some companies, including Google, Anthropic, and Microsoft have previously made public commitments to finance the costs associated with their energy needs, and such further commitments may help assuage consumer fears that data centers will increase their utility bills.

The DOE and EPA signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to begin transferring oversight of the ENERGY STAR program from EPA to the DOE, effective March 3rd. To lead the program, the MOA states that the DOE may seek consultation from other federal agencies, including the EPA and Small Business Administration. A plan detailing the transition of specific activities will be developed and agreed upon within 90 days. EPA Administrator Zeldin previously called for the privatization of ENERGY STAR, which was also subject to reorganization efforts at EPA last fall; however, Congress designated \$33 million in funding to administer the program in fiscal year 2026.

The US House Energy and Commerce Committee Environment Subcommittee held a hearing to consider discussion bills aimed at incentivizing data center development on brownfields, which are contaminated industrial sites. The EPA currently manages the Brownfields Program and provides grants and technical assistance to various stakeholders. Several Republican backed discussion bills would support the redevelopment of brownfields with data centers by making for profit corporations eligible from brownfields grants and creating a designation of "nationally significant infrastructure facilities" that encompasses AI development and would avoid triggering environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. The program's authorization is currently expired, but it remains funded under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the end of fiscal year 2026.

The US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the pending nomination of nomination of Kyle Haustveit for Undersecretary of Energy at the DOE, which is now headed to the Senate for full approval.

As usual: I ASK: PLEASE GET INVOLVED AND STAY INVOLVED WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL.

You can always reach out directly to Government Affairs staff at GovAffairs@ashrae.org
My email address is: tlp@pax-suneng.com.

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2026 February BOG Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2026

- 1. Kick-Off**
 - a. Meeting started at 4:05 pm.
 - b. Attendees: Berenice Saucedo, Melanie Canfield, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Kathleen Leyendecker, Tom Paxson, Branden Jodoi, Wyatt Hahn, Miguel Minick. Have you contacted your RVC this month?
- 2. Goals for the Year**
 - a. DRC MBO's
 - i. Emphasize IEQ and Climate Change in Chapter Programs
 1. Minimum of two chapter meeting or programs on the topic of IEQ and/or Climate Change
 2. At least one DL presentation on IEQ and/or Climate Change
 - ii. Engage Industry Stakeholders
 1. Hold at least one joint meeting with another building sciences or construction organization, preferably on the topic of IEQ.
 2. Chapter leadership to meet with contractor, building owners and engineering firms on how to increase ASHRAE value and better promote workforce development.
 - iii. Increase Awareness of ASHRAE Resources and Opportunities
 - b. Additional Goals for Austin Chapter
 - i. Bring in new officers, chairs, BOG, and committee members
 1. Areas of Need: DEI
- 3. General Items**
 - a. Winter Conference Reimbursement for Sponsored Student Attendees Confirmed
 - b. Nominating Committee
 - i. Election nominating committee
 1. Wyatt was elected as chair of the nominating committee
 - a. Confirm if current GGAC Co-chair
 - ii. Nomination for Secretary role
 - a. Secretary nomination
 - iii. Confirm all those in the President's Report
 - a. 2/3



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OFFICERS			
President	Miguel Minick	Tom Green & Company Engineers	miguelm@tgce.com
President Elect / Research Promotion	Ricardo Soto	Page	rsoto@pagethink.com
Vice President / Programs CTTC	Robert Pettitt	Texas AirSystems	robert.pettitt@texasairsystems.com
Secretary / Newsletter	Walker Anderson	Texas Air Products	wanderson@txap.com
BOARD OF GOVERNORS			
BOG-1 Nomination Chair	Wyatt Hahn	Tom Green & Company Engineers	wyath@tgce.com
BOG-2 Treasurer	Katie Klassen	HTS	katie.klassen@hts.com
BOG-3	Steve Hansen	DPR	steveha@dpr.com
BOG-4	Jeremy Smith	EEA Consulting Engineers	jeremysmith@eeace.com
CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
Auditing/Nominating	Wyatt Hahn	Tom Green & Company Engineers	wyath@tgce.com
CRC Delegate (President)	Miguel Minick	Tom Green & Company Engineers	miguelm@tgce.com
CRC Alternate (Pres-Elect)	Ricardo Soto	Page	rsoto@pagethink.com
Communications / Webmaster	Maile Guieb	McMillan James Equipment Company	maile.guieb@mjec.com
Grassroots Govt. Advocacy Chair	Tom Paxson	Pax-Sun Engineers	TLP@pax-suneng.com
Grassroots Govt. Advocacy Co-Chair	LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!		
Honors & Awards	Wyatt Hahn	Tom Green & Company Engineers	wyath@tgce.com
History	Randy Schrecengost	Stanley	schrecengostrandy@stanleygroup.com
Membership Promotions Chair	Rees Saathoff	Texas AirSystems	rees.saathoff@texasairsystems.com
Membership Promotions Co-Chair	Erika Struble	Page	estruble@pagethink.com
Reception/Attendance Chair	Sam Delbecq	Tom Green & Company Engineers	samd@tgce.com
Refrigeration / Sustainability	Melanie Canfield	Parkhill	mcanfield@parkhill.com
Student Activities Chair	Lorenzo Gonzalez	G2LG Engineers	lgonzalez@g2lg.com
Student Activities Co-Chair	Wyatt Hahn	Tom Green & Company Engineers	wyath@tgce.com
Young Eng. In ASHRAE (YEA) Chair	Kathleen Leyendecker	HTS	kathleen.leyendecker@hts.com
YEA Co-Chair	Chris Boerkei	Siemens	chris.boerkei@siemens.com
DEI	LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!		
CHAPTER COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
Communications Committee	LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!		
Student Activities	Sydney Bradshaw	Burns	---
Reception/Attendance	Branden Jodoi	Oslin Nation	bjodoi@onco-tx.com
Reception/Attendance	Berenice Saucedo	Broaddus	bsaucedo@broaddususa.com
YEA	Alex Kavanaugh	Freese and Nichols	alex.kavanaugh@freese.com
YEA	Will Knowles	Oslin Nation	william.knowles@onco-tx.com

