Friday, October 9, 2026 Volume 26, Issue 10

ASHRAE Central Pennsylvania Chapter

October Newsletter

President's Welcome

Central Pennsylvania ASHRAE Members,

Thank you to all who attended our first Chapter meeting of the year on September 16th. We hosted Dr. Greg Pavlak from Penn State University who presented on his topic "Smart Systems and Controls for Healthy, Grid-Integrated Buildings".

This month we host another Penn State faculty member, and it's a name you all know. Dr. Bill Bahnfleth, former ASHRAE Society President and current Distinguisher Lecturer, will be giving his presentation, "HVAC and Airborne Infectious Diseases". The meeting will be held Wednesday, October 21st at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg from 5pm to 7pm. It's always an honor to have Dr. Bahnfleth speak at our chapter and I hope to see many of you there!

We also have our annual RP Fall Cornhole Tournament happening this month. This year it will take place on Wednesday, October 14th at Lydian Stone Brewery in York Haven. You can register as a single player or as a team of two. There will be food and beverages included with your registration and the top three teams will win prizes! All proceeds will benefit ASHRAE research. Please reach out to John Buckley (jbuckley@hcnyeco.com) if you have any questions.

As always, the Board of Governors is here to serve your needs in Central PA. Please feel free to reach out if you have any ideas, questions, or topics of discussion you'd like to see the Chapter address, or if you're interested in getting involved with Chapter leadership or in any of our committees. Our BOG meetings are typically virtual lunchtime meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month and are open to all members. We want your voice to be heard and appreciate all input and participation.

Thank you,

Connor Hitchings, EIT, NCTI

Chapter President

Upcoming Events

October 14th
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fall Cornhole Tournament

October 16th
2pm—5pm
Chilled Water Systems 101—YEA Speaker, Networking, and JADEC Lab Tour Event

October 21st
Chapter Meeting—Dr. Bill Bahnfleth "HVAC and Airborne Infections Diseases

Details and Registrations can be found at:

www.centralpaashrae.com

Officers & Board of Governors

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Ann Swartzbaugh	**BOG**

Connect with us on LinkedIn:
https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4087609/

Interested in getting involved?

We are always looking for energized members to join the Board or a Committee.

Reach out to Connor Hitchings:
president@centralpaashrae.com

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October Meetings Overview

Please join us on **Wednesday, October 21st** for an **evening** chapter meeting and technical presentation. The meeting will be held from 5:00pm-7:00pm at the Red Lion Inn in Harrisburg. William P. Bahnfleth, Ph.D.,P.E., will be presenting on HVAC and Risk from Airborne Infectious Diseases.



William Bahnfleth is a professor of architectural engineering at the Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) in University Park, PA. Previously, he was a Senior Consultant for ZBA, Inc. in Cincinnati, OH and a Principal Investigator at the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in Champaign, IL. He holds a doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois and is a registered professional engineer. At Penn State, Dr. Bahnfleth teaches undergraduate courses in HVAC fundamentals and design and graduate courses in chilled water systems and indoor air quality His research interests cover a wide variety of topics including chilled water systems, thermal energy storage, and indoor air quality with a focus on control of bioaerosols. He is the author or co-author of more than 180 technical papers and articles and 15 books and book chapters.

Dr. Bahnfleth is a fellow of ASHRAE, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and the International Society for Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ). He was ASHRAE Society President in 2013-14. He and chaired the ASHRAE Epidemic Task Force and chairs SSPC 241 Control of Infectious Aerosols. Dr. Bahnfleth's ASHRAE awards include the Exceptional Service Award, the E.K. Campbell Award of Merit for teaching, the Donald Bahnfleth Environmental Health Award, the Standards Achievement Award , the Louise and Bill Holladay Distinguished Fellow Award, and ASHRAE's highest honor, the F. Paul Anderson Award. He is also a recipient of the Penn State Engineering Alumni Society's World-Class Engineering Faculty Award and a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Illinois Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering.

Presentation Topic: "HVAC and Airborne Infectious Diseases"

Concern regarding the risk of airborne infectious disease transmission indoors is increasing. HVAC designers and building operators need to understand how infectious diseases are transmitted, how HVAC system characteristics affect probability of infection, and what HVAC-based infection risk mitigation measures are available. These topics are presented and discussed using a variety of ASHRAE resources including position documents, standards, and best practices guidance. Pertinent results from research on transmission and control are summarized. General recommendations for reducing risk are provided and key knowledge gaps are identified.

This presentation qualifies attendees for one Professional Development Hour (PDH) credit.

Registrations for this event can be found here.

ASHRAE® Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Society Corner

A new Society year has commenced and the new Society President has taken the helm. Sarah Maston has made her Society Year theme *"Changing the Game: Retrofitting for Resilience"*.

Our Board and Chapter wish her the best of luck in her new role as Society President!

You can find more information visit ASHRAE.org.

Fall 2026 YEA Leadership Weekend

Minneapolis, MN
November 6-8, 2026

Registration is CLOSED, but keep an eye out for the Spring!

Leadership Weekend Objectives

- Leadership
- Networking
- Communication
- Professional Development

YEA Leadership Weekend is conducted twice per year:

- Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon
- Optional Technical Tour
- Maximum of 30 participants accepted on first-come first-served basis

More information/registration details here: YEA Leadership Weekend (ashrae.org)

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Upcoming RP Event: Fall Cornhole Tournament



Tickets and Sponsorship Opportunities:

Single - $25
Cornhole Team (2 Players) - $50
Meal Sponsor - $75
Beverage Sponsor - $100
Board Sponsor - $150

ASHRAE Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Membership Promotion

Earning the ASHRAE MBA: develop as a leader and learn the inner workings of a non-profit organization's local chapter, with the opportunity to branch into larger regions and committees.

Enjoy networking and being around your peers.

Stay abreast in the latest industry happenings.

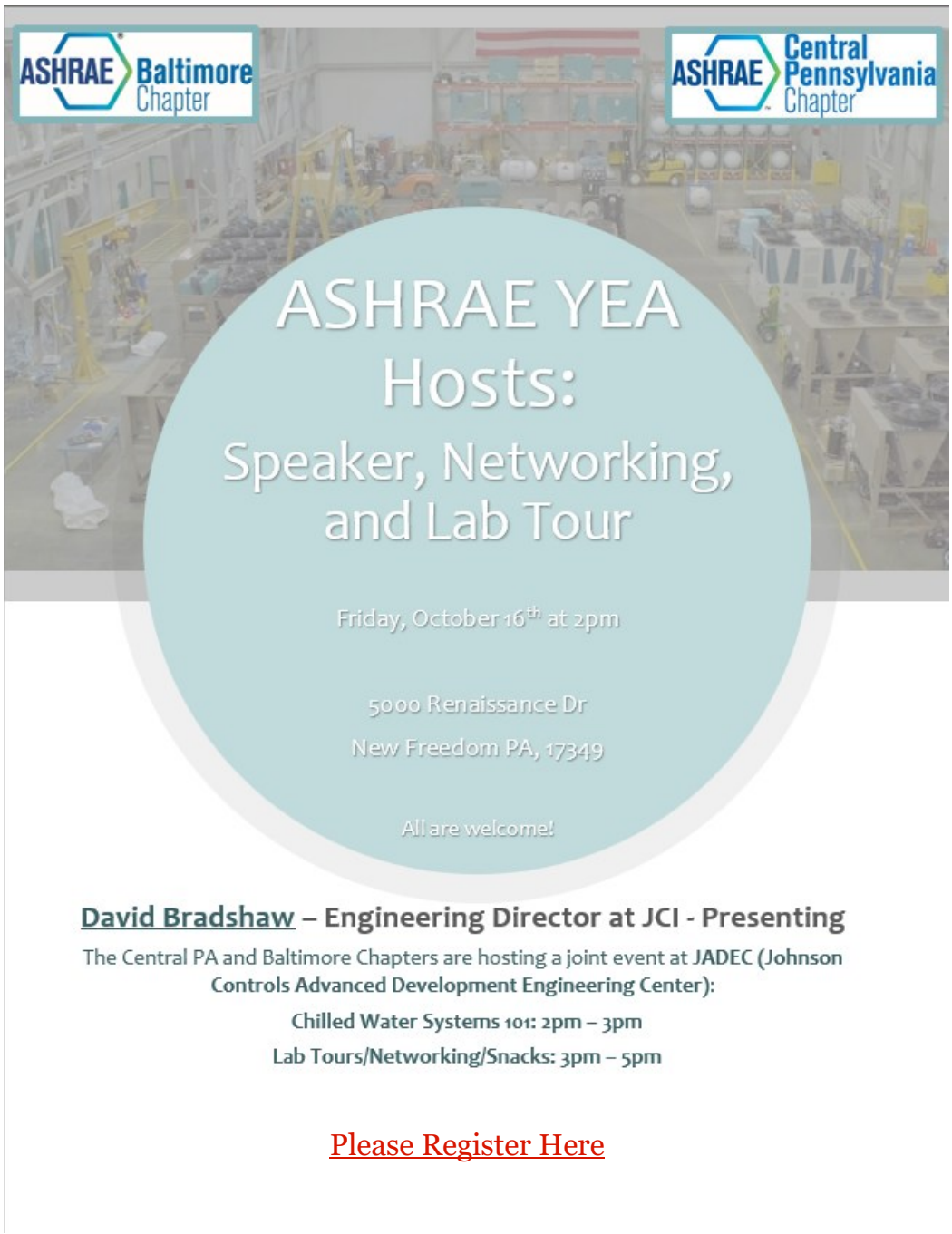
The above statements have been reasons I've heard in the past for why a person continues to stay involved in ASHRAE. Whatever your reason for joining, whether it's one mentioned above or another reason altogether, we're happy you're here!

While reflecting, consider those in your circle who could benefit from the development that ASHRAE offers. Even new members can dive in head first!

Our chair positions are filled this year, but that shouldn't stop you if you or someone else is interested in diving deeper into the development pathway: we have openings on committees and will always appreciate both your contribution and helping you along your journey. Consider joining a committee and inviting a friend to join you!

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Upcoming YEA Event: Technical Presentation



Please Register Here

Upcoming Meeting

November Meeting:

The November Meeting will be the Encon Conference and Technical Presentations. This conference is conducted in conjunction with the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE), the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), and the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

Location: Armstrong World Industries Innovation Center

2500 Columbia Avenue Lancaster, PA 18195

Time: Doors open at 4:30pm, dinner at 5:00pm, presentations from 5:45pm—8:30pm

ASHRAE Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Young Engineers in ASHRAE

Get more out of your ASHRAE experience through YEA. Connect with other young professionals, build leadership skills, and become involved in opportunities that can shape your career both inside and outside the HVAC&R industry.

Enjoy networking with peers who are navigating many of the same professional challenges and milestones.

Stay connected to new ideas, emerging technologies, and the latest happenings throughout the industry.

Many of the reasons people stay involved in ASHRAE often begin with YEA. Whether it is the friendships, professional development opportunities, mentorship, or a desire to give back to the industry, YEA provides a place to grow and contribute. Whatever brought you here, we're glad you're part of the community!

Take a moment to think about colleagues, classmates, and friends who could benefit from the connections and experiences available through YEA. New members are always welcome and encouraged to get involved.

While leadership positions may already be filled this year, there are still plenty of ways to participate. We welcome fresh ideas, enthusiastic volunteers, and anyone interested in helping with events, outreach, and chapter activities. Consider joining a committee, attending a YEA event, and inviting a friend to join you!

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ASHRAE Central PA 2026—2027 Meetings

Date	Meeting Details	Location
Wednesday, October 21st	HVAC and Airborne Infectious Diseases—Dr. Bill Bahnfleth at 5pm	Red Lion Inn, Harrisburg
Wednesday, October 14th	Fall Cornhole Tournament	Lydian Stone Brewing Company
Friday, October 16th	Chilled Water Systems 101—YEA Speaker, Networking, and JADEC Lab Tour Event	JADEC, New Freedom PA
Tuesday, November 17th	EnCon Joint Meeting with AFE, AEE, GBC	Armstrong World Industries, Lancaster PA
Wednesday, December 16th	Virtual Lunch Meeting—TBD	Virtual
January, TBD	Hershey Bears Game w/ Dinner + YEA Happy Hour	Giant Center, Hershey PA
Wednesday, January 20th	January Chapter Meeting—TBD	TBD
January 23st—27th	ASHRAE Winter Conference & AHR EXPO	Chicago, IL
Wednesday, February 17th	February Chapter Meeting—TBD	TBD
Wednesday, March 10th	*"Changing the Game: Retrofitting for Resilience."* - Society President Sarah Maston	TBD
Monday, April 12th	Dinner Mtg - Student's Night, Penn State Presentations	TBD
Wednesday, May 19th	May Chapter Meeting—TBD	TBD
May, TBD	Harrisburg Senator's Game	City Island
June 12th-16th	ASHRAE Annual Conference	New Orleans, LA
June, TBD	Annual Golf Outing	TBD

ASHRAE Central Pennsylvania Chapter

Scholarship Update

Attention Students

The Central PA Chapter of ASHRAE would like to congratulate the ASHRAE Region III Setty Family Foundation Scholarship recipient:

Jackson Sharp
Mechanical Engineering
Penn State University

For all current and prospective students, ASHRAE is offering a total of 40 Society Scholarships of up to $10,000 for each qualified student for the upcoming 2027-2028 academic year.

More information on AHSRAE Society scholarships as well as the application can be found here.

Scholarship applications for the 2027-2028 academic year are due **December 1st, 2026**!

Donate to Research Promotion!

You can direct your gift to health-related topics or any other ASHRAE program.

ASHRAE needs your support to continue our work to keep HVAC&R safe and healthy for the world.

If you would like to donate online, click here.

Choose ASHRAE Research and indicate that you are a member of the **Central PA Chapter** in the contributor information field.

Thank you!