

September 2006

# ASHRAE

## newsletter

The CNY Chapter of the American Society of  
Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers

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### The Presidents Message

Another summer has come and almost gone with no major records broken for heat in Syracuse, NY. The polar ice caps haven't melted and washed away portions of NY state either, but give it time. Gore says it's going to happen and, well, he invented the Internet. Everything we read on the Internet is true, isn't it? Ok, not everything, but you can trust the information given to you in the monthly CNY ASHRAE newsletter!

We've got a new format for the newsletter and meetings this year. We know that your Inbox is flooded with e-mails and one more lengthy newsletter isn't what you need. We've gotten rid of our ugly mug shots accompanying the individual articles as well (you all know us by now right?). If you don't recognize someone, please introduce yourself! Remember that ASHRAE is all about networking and meeting new people.

Meetings will still be held the second Wednesday of every month at the Wyndham, but that's where the similarity ends. There will be no more formal technical session or PDH credits (unless the main

program is accredited by our guest speaker.) We were operating at a loss every meeting because we didn't have enough engineers coming to claim their PDHs. The main program will start between 5:30 PM and 5:45 PM and go no longer than 7:00 PM so that you all can get home and have dinner with your families. There will be a cookies and cash bar as well. Since there is no dinner, the meeting charge is now only \$10. This covers us for the room, bar, and cookies.

Our first meeting will be *Wednesday, October 11, 2006.*

This change in format is something that has never been done as far as Paul Britton or I can remember. Our hope is that the shorter meeting format will attract more ASHRAE members that could not make the Wednesday night time commitment before, while still retaining the regular attendees. We're open for ideas; please don't hesitate to mention them to us!

Tom Buswell, CNY Chapter  
President

# Central NY Chapter scores high at Region I CRC

The Region I Chapter's Regional Conference was held in Portland, Maine on August 17-19. Past-President Ron Westbrook and President Tom Buswell attended as Delegate and Alternate, respectively.

This year's CRC returned to a more traditional format, providing time for each chapter Delegate to report on their Chapter's activities over the past year. All fifteen chapters gave a report. Not surprisingly, many of the chapter's seem to do a lot of the same things as we do. And most have similar successes and failures. Nearly all are struggling with declining meeting attendance, particularly among younger members. Most struggle with getting volunteers to help with chapter business and activities and have several 'committees of one', where the chairman is the only person on the committee. Most are struggling with keeping their expenses in line with increasing costs. Many have problems with email and electronic distribution of newsletters. And we are falling off in achieving our goal for ASHRAE research. Our chapter is not alone in its challenges. But on the positive side, much of what we do is. Despite growing costs and shrinking revenue, our financial assets are among the highest in Society. Our scholarship program is one of the most successful in the Region. We are the only chapter in the Region to have added new student chapter's in each of the past two years. We had the highest number of advancements and lowest membership delinquency rate in the Region. We have a well documented, active chapter history. And the success of our Clambake is the envy of the Region, and astounded even the Society Vice President. For these accomplishments, each and

every volunteer deserves our gratitude. All of our members should take pride in the standard of Excellence that is the foundation of this great Chapter. I am proud to have my name now listed among those who started and carried on this tradition.

At the concluding awards ceremony, our Chapter did very well. The chapter earned the Premier award for achieving par or greater in four of five PAOE (Presidential Award of Excellence) Categories; Chapter Operations, Membership, Student Activities, and Chapter Technology Transfer. We fell seven points short for Resource Promotion of reaching par in all categories and being awarded a Star award. The chapter was awarded for achieving Full Circle in Resource Promotion, top PAOE in category for Student Activities, top PAOE in category for Chapter Technology Transfer, top PAOE in category overall. And most notably, we were named Most Improved Chapter (ironically this award was also given to Mark Capriotti last year — how do make the greatest improvement two years straight when we're already near the top?), and Honorable Mention (runner-up) in the Golden Gavel competition. The Golden Gavel award as the top chapter in the Region went to the Champlain Valley chapter.

Tom and the board have great plans for the year ahead. I encourage all members to pitch in; volunteer if you can and at least make it a point to attend a meeting. Here's wishing the officers and board even greater success for the coming year.

Ron Westbrook

## Membership Information

j o i n n o w

We are gearing up for another year of ASHRAE events and activities. This is my third year of participation in CNYASHRAE (that is participation beyond the clambake) and I will be the membership chair (again). Last year I notified people if they were eligible to advance their grade level, this effort was successful as we had the highest percent advancement in the region and possibly the country. As I looked through the membership list last year, there were quite a few who were going to be eligible for life membership

and if you are one of those people I will notify you this year.

I encourage all members to participate the CNY ASHRAE events this year, to take full advantage of the benefits of membership and to think of at least one person that you know who would benefit from ASHRAE membership. Let me know who that person is or have them contact me directly.

Rae Butler



# Historically Speaking

Welcome to the 2006-2007 year of the Central New York ASHRAE chapter. During the year I plan to include articles of historical interest in our newsletter. I would like to hear from anyone who might have historical information about the HVAC&R realm as possible subject matter for an article.

Here's a quick history of our chapter:

This chapter was formed in 1941 as the Central New York Section of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers (ASRE) with 78 charter members. Then in 1959, in a merger of the Society of ASRE with ASHVE/ASHAE, ASHRAE was formed, and we became the Central New York Chapter of ASHRAE. Today our membership is in the order of 275. The month-to-month operation of the chapter is the responsibility of our elected 12-member Board of Governors. Chapter meetings have been held on the second Wednesday of every month from October through May with a clam bake at Hinervadel's Grove in June ever since I can remember. This year meetings will be at the Wyndham Hotel across from Carrier. Please check the newsletter each month for meeting program details. The last hard copy issue of our newsletter was USPS mailed in November 2003. All subsequent issues have been e-mailed to chapter members.

A more detailed history of our chapter will be posted soon on the chapter website.

Paul Britton  
Chapter Historian

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