



2026 ASHRAE REGION III CRC

ARLINGTON, VA | AUGUST 13-15

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CRC Planning Committee

The CRC Planning Committee, a dedicated group of volunteers who give generously of their time and expertise to make this event a reality, deserves our deepest appreciation. Their work extends well beyond the walls of this conference, encompassing months of coordination, outreach, and planning that began long before the first attendee arrived. The result is an exceptional program: an outstanding series of technical sessions designed to inform and inspire, a warm welcome reception that set the tone for the days ahead, and a full slate of events that reflect the very best of what our regional community has to offer.

The committee also had help from Ryan Cleary, Hitesh Vora, Shri Eda, Joe Stephens, Stephen Wetherhold, Kailee Callaghan.

Regional Leaders and Committee Chairs



Caroline Evans
CRC CO-CHAIR



Matt Young
CRC CO-CHAIR



Sherry Abbot Atkins
DIRECTOR AND
REGIONAL CHAIR



Matt Archey
REGIONAL MEMBERS
COUNCIL REP.



Michael Morder
TREASURER



Lisa Ng
TECH SESSION CHAIR



Bhavik Desai
WELCOME PARTY
CHAIR



CJ Bauco
TECHNOLOGY CHAIR



Stephanie Mages
SECRETARY



Lauren Trapani
EVENTS CHAIR



Catherine Jones
RECEPTION CHAIR



Michael Spencer
CHAPTER PRESIDENT

EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY | AUGUST 13TH

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
REGISTRATION	8th Floor Lobby	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
BREAKFAST	Potomac A	7:00 AM - 8:00 PM
MORNING TECHNICAL SEMINARS Government Affairs Data Centers	Georgetown Potomac B	8:00 AM - 11:45 AM
TECHNICAL SESSION LUNCHEON	Potomac A	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
AFTERNOON TECHNICAL SEMINARS High Performance Buildings AI in Building Controls	Georgetown Potomac B	1:00 PM - 4:45 PM
YEA Nationals Game <i>Sponsored by: Victaulic</i>	Washington Nationals Stadium	4:05 PM - 7:00 PM
PRE-CAUCUS MIXER (INVITE ONLY)	8th Floor Lobby	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
CAUCUS (INVITE ONLY)	Grand Ballroom A	6:00 PM - 8:30 PM
HOST COMMITTEE DINNER (INVITE ONLY)	Ris	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY | AUGUST 14TH

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
REGISTRATION	8th Floor Lobby	7:00AM - 5:00PM
BREAKFAST	Potomac A	7:00AM - 8:00AM
BUSINESS MEETING	Grand Ballroom B	8:00AM - 5:00PM
PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON <i>Sponsored by: Havtech, Ketchum & Walton</i>	Potomac A	12:00PM - 1:30PM
WIA HAPPY HOUR <i>Sponsored by: CMTA, Boland</i>	Continental Beer Garden	5:00PM - 7:00PM
WELCOME RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by: Daikin</i> Shuttles from Hotel to DSIC starting every 30 minutes First shuttle: departs at 6:15 PM Last shuttle: departs at 10:15 PM	Daikin Sustainability and Innovation Center	6:30PM - 10:00PM

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY | AUGUST 15TH

EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
REGISTRATION	8th Floor Lobby	7:00AM - 2:00PM
BREAKFAST	Grand Ballroom C	7:00AM - 8:00AM
COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS (BLOCK 1)		8:00AM - 9:50AM
Historians	Shenandoah	
Secretary	Arlington	
Finance	Rosslyn	
Chapter Operations	Georgetown	
COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS (BLOCK 2)		10:00AM - 11:50AM
CTTC	Georgetown	
Government Affairs	Arlington	
Membership Promotion	Rosslyn	
AWARDS LUNCHEON <i>Sponsored by Baltimore Aircoil Company</i>	Potomac Ballroom	12:00PM - 2:00PM
COMMITTEE WORKSHOPS (BLOCK 3)		2:10PM - 4:00PM
Student Activities	Shenandoah	
Research Promotion	Georgetown	
DEI	Rosslyn	
YEA	Arlington	
MOONLIGHT AND MONUMENTS (TICKETS REQUIRED) <i>Sponsored by REHAU</i>	Starting location: Lockkeeper's House 17 th and Constitution Ave NW / at end of Lincoln Memorial	8:00PM - 11:00PM



TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Georgetown

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: WHY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MATTERS

These sessions explore the role of government affairs in shaping policy and legislative outcomes for the built environment and professionals engaged in the industry. You'll learn how ASHRAE and other allied organizations engage with elected officials and policymakers, explore the latest policy developments affecting the built environment, and gain insights from recent advocacy efforts and real-world case studies.

8:00-8:45 AM | Introduction on ASHRAE Office of Government Affairs

ASHRAE's Government Affairs staff team (**Alice Yates**, **Emily Porcari**, **Bryce Causey**, and **Jacob Karson**) will present an overview of its activities, describe how ASHRAE engages with policy makers and elected officials, and overview key policies and priorities impacting the built environment and building professionals.

9:00-10:00 AM | Government Affairs in Action: Perspectives Across the Building Industry

Moderator: **Alice Yates**, M.S. is ASHRAE's Managing Director of Government Affairs, has over 25 years of experience in legislative development, policy analysis, and government advocacy, including previous roles at the U.S. GSA and the United States Senate, and holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and an M.S. in Technology and Policy from MIT.

Panelists:

- **Ben Evans** - Federal Legislative Director, USGBC
- **Samantha Slater** - Vice President of Government Affairs, AHRI
- **Lisa Berger** - Senior Manager, Federal Relations, ICC
- **John Boling** - Vice President, Advocacy & Building Codes, BOMA



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TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Georgetown

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: WHY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MATTERS

10:15-11:00 AM | From Idea to Impact: Virginia's New School IAQ Law

Moderator: **Emily Porcari**, ASHRAE Manager of State and Local Government Affairs. This panel discussion will tell the story of a new school indoor air quality law in Virginia —from its inception to the successful passage of the legislation in 2025, and the ongoing implementation of these new IAQ requirements in school buildings.

Panelists:

- **Joe Pickens** - Program Administrator, National Energy Management Institute
- **Emily Yen** - Consultant, National Energy Management Institute
- **Tiffany Finck-Haynes** - Government Affairs Representative, SMART
- **Emily Porcari** - Manager of State Government Affairs, ASHRAE

11:00-11:45 AM | Daikin's Business and Presence in US and Advocacy Strategies

Speaker: **David Calabrese**

Daikin is a global HVAC manufacturer and has established itself in the US market through significant investments in with manufacturing, research and sales. Our advocacy takes advantage of these assets but also reflects our goals.

David leads Daikin's engagement on key policy and advocacy priorities in the United States, working at the intersection of business, government, and industry.

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TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Potomac B

DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE DATA CENTERS

This session explores the multi-faceted engineering and design challenges in constructing modern, high-performance data centers, focusing on the critical interplay between mechanical, structural/civil, and acoustic considerations. The session will consist of 3 speakers, a break, and then an in-depth session with an ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer.

8:00-8:30 AM | The Fundamentals of Datacenter HVAC Acoustics

Speaker **Saira Hussain**

The rapid global expansion of data centers to support growing demand of digital infrastructure has increased attention to their environmental impacts, with a main concern being high noise levels affecting nearby communities. HVAC systems, particularly air-cooled chillers, contribute a significant portion of the noise emitted from these facilities.

8:35-9:05 AM | Data Center Civil Engineering Design Considerations

Speaker **Christine Beyzaei, Ph.D, P.E.**

The rapid global expansion of data centers to support growing demand of digital infrastructure has increased attention to their environmental impacts, with a main concern being high noise levels affecting nearby communities. HVAC systems, particularly air-cooled chillers, contribute a significant portion of the noise emitted from these facilities.

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TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Potomac B

DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE DATA CENTERS

9:10-9:45 AM | From Enterprise to AI: How Data Center Design is Evolving

Speaker **Ameya Soparkar and James Doody**

Artificial intelligence may be making many jobs easier, but for MEP engineers it has driven the most significant shift to data center design since the rise of cloud computing. Racks are becoming denser, new equipment is being developed, and codes are being amended as a direct result of the rapid expansion of AI-driven facilities. This session provides a high-level technical overview of the modern data center and compares today's AI-focused facilities with traditional enterprise and cloud environments. We will explore changes to power distribution, cooling strategies, resiliency considerations, and the technologies enabling higher-density computing environments. Attendees will leave with a practical understanding how modern data centers operate as well as the various factors that are influencing this new generation of facilities.

10:15-11:45 AM | Achieving High-Performance Data Centers: Design, Commissioning, and the Triple Bottom Line

Speaker **Jim Vallort, ASHRAE DL**

The data center industry is growing rapidly, driven by increased power densities, AI workloads, and rising user expectations for availability and performance. This presentation explores how design and commissioning work together to deliver the industry's "triple bottom line": performance, energy efficiency, and reliability.



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TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Georgetown

ACHIEVING INTEGRATED RESILIENCE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE IEQ AND PLUMBING

This session offers a comprehensive look at critical pillars of modern high-performance building management: leveraging advanced digital technologies (AI/IoT) for operational efficiency, adopting an integrated design and management approach for vital building water systems, and maintaining IEQ for building occupants. The session will consist of 3 speakers, a break, and then an in-depth session with two ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturers.

1:00-1:30 PM | From Sensors to Savings: Real-World Case Studies on the ROI of IoT & AI in School Facilities

Speaker **Serene Almomen, PhD**

This session provides a practical overview of how IoT and AI technologies are being successfully implemented in school facilities today. Through real-world case studies from districts across the country, attendees will see how schools are using connected sensors and analytics to address everyday operational challenges.



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1:35-2:05 PM | The Role of Design Engineers in Preventing Latent Plumbing Features

Speaker **Timothy Bartrand, PhD**

Building Domestic Water System (BDWS) designs that meet code minimums and industry standards might not be protective against Legionella propagation and other risks and hazards such as premature system failure, unnecessary water and energy waste, and building occupant complaints. Because WMPs are nearly always developed and implemented post BWDS design and installation, they do not directly and meaningfully address design features that pose risks.

**TECHNICAL SESSION****Thursday, August 13 | Georgetown****ACHIEVING INTEGRATED RESILIENCE AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE
IEQ AND PLUMBING****2:10-2:45 PM | Hybrid VRF Explained: Design, Operation, and Real-World Advantages**Speaker **Mike Silverstein**

This session provides a practical Hybrid Variable Refrigerant Flow (HVRF) combines VRF technology with hydronics to deliver high efficiency while reducing refrigerant in occupied spaces. HVRF systems use significantly less refrigerant charge than traditional VRF, simplifying A2L code compliance. This session will explore HVRF operation, including simultaneous heating and cooling via water circuits, system components, and key application considerations. Attendees will learn how HVRF systems reduce refrigerant charge, lower installation costs, and enhance future serviceability, reliability, and flexibility.

3:15-4:00 PM | Weighing the Pig vs. Making it Fly: Improve Energy Performance and Resilience while Improving IEQ through Retro-CommissioningSpeaker **Wade H. Conlan, P.E., BCxP, CxA, LEED AP BD+C**

A lot of existing building stock needs to be evaluated for the potential high-performance optimization of their control strategies as well as the impact of resilience on those systems. This is even more important with the challenges for net-zero energy or carbon-neutrality in the next few decades. The improvement of the existing building stock, which is often looked at as energy hogs, can be greatly improved through the retro-commissioning process. This session covers the stages of weighing the pig (benchmarking) versus actively making improvements for systems. Actual projects for laboratories, hospitality and gaming, and university facilities will be used to demonstrate how to use retro-commissioning to make your pig fly.

4:00-4:45 PM | They're Living Among Us! The Building MicrobiomeSpeaker **Dr. Linda Lee, ASHRAE DL**

Not airborne particles in transit, but the standing microbial ecosystem that develops in a building over months and years of operation. What types of microbiology practices are used in specific areas? What actions encourage health-neutral spaces? What outdoor biological sites should be excluded from these spaces? The importance of understanding protective environments and the people in them. How can the design and operations control the exposure of microbiomes for at-risk and vulnerable populations.



TECHNICAL SESSION

Thursday, August 13 | Potomac B

AI-POWERED BUILDING CONTROLS: FROM REACTIVE MAINTENANCE TO RESILIENT, STANDARDS-BASED OPERATIONS

This session provides an in-depth look at how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fundamentally transforming the operation and management of commercial buildings, with a focus on implementing robust, standards-compliant control systems. The session will consist of 3 speakers, a break, and then an in-depth session on AI in building controls.

1:00-1:30 PM | AI-Driven Predictive Maintenance for Sustainable Infrastructure: Environmental Intelligence for Proactive Field Service Operations

Speaker **Hirenkumar N. Dholariya**

The rapid digitalization of commercial real estate has enabled buildings to generate vast volumes of operational data from HVAC systems, energy meters, environmental sensors, and safety infrastructure. Yet much of this data is still used reactively, limiting its value for sustainability and operational performance. This presentation includes an AI-driven predictive maintenance framework designed to transform building operations from reactive response to proactive, intelligence-led service management.



**TECHNICAL SESSION****Thursday, August 13 | Potomac B****AI-POWERED BUILDING CONTROLS: FROM REACTIVE MAINTENANCE
TO RESILIENT, STANDARDS-BASED OPERATIONS****1:35-2:05 PM | AI-Powered Building Controls: Separating Hype from Reality**Speaker **Eric Ball**

Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming the latest buzzword in commercial building automation, but what capabilities are delivering measurable value today—and what remain marketing hype? This session explores the current state of Fault Detection & Diagnostics (FDD), cloud analytics, and AI-enabled building optimization, examining how current technologies are helping owners improve reliability, reduce energy consumption, and proactively identify system issues. Through real world examples, attendees will learn how today's analytics platforms work, where AI is genuinely enhancing building operations, and what emerging technologies will transform the industry over the next several years. The discussion concludes with practical guidance on preparing BAS infrastructure today to take advantage of tomorrow's AI-driven capabilities.

2:10-2:45 PM | AI-Powered Building Controls: From Reactive Maintenance to Resilient, Standards-Based OperationsSpeaker **Dr. Greg Pavlak**

Filtration is a critical component of air handling systems and regular replacement of filters is required to ensure indoor air quality and energy efficiency targets can be realized. This talk presents recent work on developing data-driven models to predict the remaining useful life of air filters using data from real-world air handlers. The predictive algorithms are intended enable more optimized operations and scheduling of maintenance activities for air handlers.

3:15-4:45 PM | Integrating AI into Building SystemsSpeakers **Dr. Parastro Delgoshaei** and **Dr. Amanda Pretzborn**

The HVAC industry is incorporating AI to improve the performance and reduce the cost of building systems and operations, including in the areas of system reliability (FDD), cybersecurity, control, grid services, and indoor environmental quality. The AI for Building Systems Innovation (AIBSI) program at NIST is working with industry to develop the measurement science needed to realize cost-effective building operation through integrated sensors and building control systems with distributed AI-enabled intelligence that can optimize building system performance, detect and respond to equipment failures and sub-optimal performance, and enable integration of building systems with electric grid technologies.

PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON



Wade Conlan
Society Treasurer

Friday, August 14 | 12 PM - 1:30 PM
Potomac A

Wade H. Conlan, P.E., BCxP. CxA, LEED AP BD+C is Hanson's Commissioning & Energy Discipline Manager with over 30 years of commissioning and design engineering experience across various building categories, and he has long-been an active leader in ASHRAE, including serving as Vice President for 2023-2025 before being elected as Treasurer for Society Year 2026.

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What is the Presidential Theme?

At ASHRAE, the Presidential Initiative is a yearly strategic focus selected by the Society's President to unify members, chapters, and technical committees around a common theme. It is leadership driven campaign that highlights a priority issue facing the built environment and mobilizes ASHRAE's resources, including technical expertise, standards development, education, and outreach, to address it.

CHANGING THE GAME RETROFITTING FOR RESILIENCE

For the 2026 to 2027 Society Year, President Sarah E. Maston's Presidential Initiative, "Changing the Game: Retrofitting for Resilience," centers on improving the performance, efficiency, and durability of existing buildings. Her initiative emphasizes that retrofits must be tailored to each building's constraints, such as system limitations, budgets, and local infrastructure, and that success depends on coordinated teamwork across engineers, owners, operators, manufacturers, and code officials. Key focus areas include strengthening building codes, expanding retro commissioning practices, and enhancing technical guidance to support resilient upgrades. Maston's approach positions ASHRAE as a convener and resource hub, helping industry stakeholders develop practical game plans to modernize aging building stock in response to climate, energy, and infrastructure challenges.



Sarah Maston
P.E., BCxP, LEED AP

2026 - 2027 ASHRAE President

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2026 ASHRAE REGION III CRC

WELCOME RECEPTION

Friday, August 14

Join fellow ASHRAE members for the CRC Region III Welcome Party, an evening of good company and great views. We'll gather on the rooftop of the Daikin Sustainability and Innovation Center from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, with catered food and drinks, live music, and a skyline backdrop of Washington DC to set the mood.

Come meet colleagues from around the region and enjoy a night of socializing, delicious food, and music. It's a great chance to take a break from the conference sessions and connect with peers in a relaxed setting.

We can't wait to see you there!

WELCOME RECEPTION DETAILS

Friday, August 14th | 6:30PM - 9:30PM

1700 Pennsylvania Ave., Ste 550
Washington, D.C. 20006

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

BLOCK 1: 8:00 AM - 9:50 AM

Historians — Shenandoah
Secretary — Arlington
Finance — Rosslyn
Chapter Operations — Georgetown

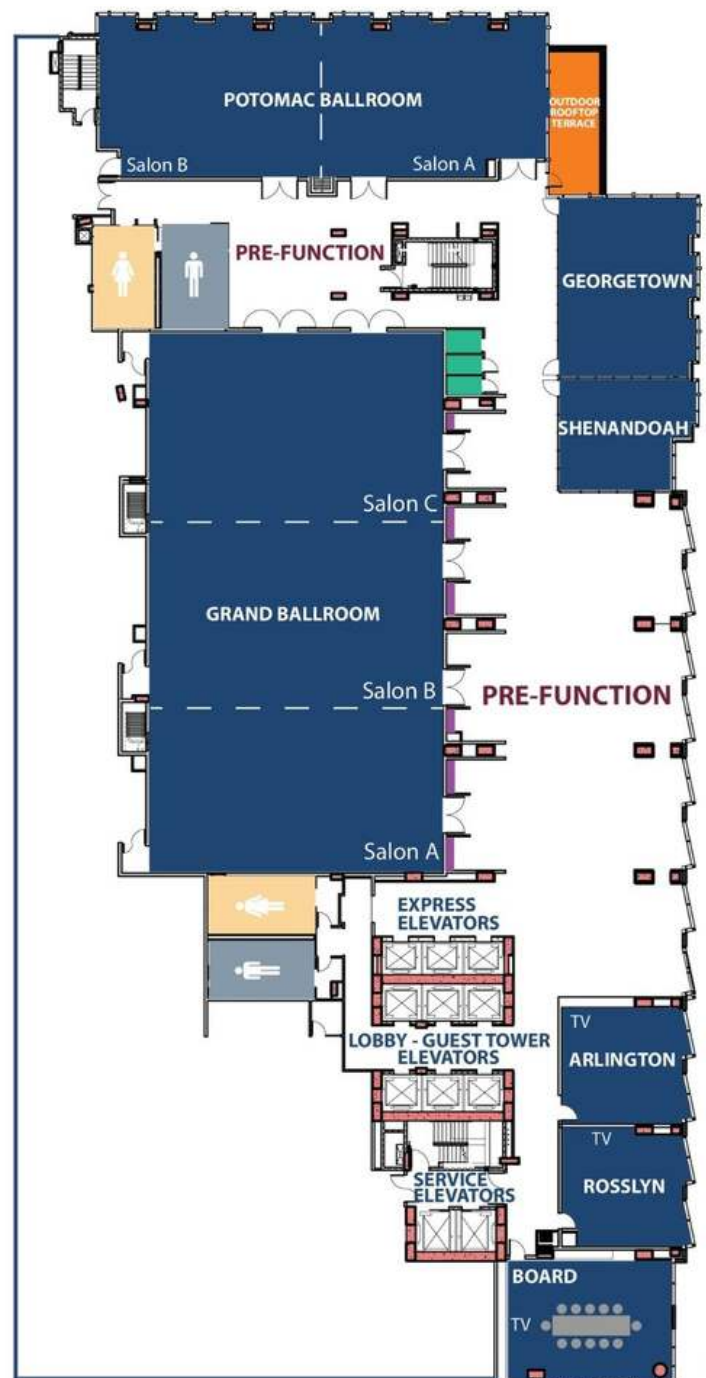
BLOCK 2: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CTTC — Georgetown
Government Affairs — Arlington
Membership Promotion — Rosslyn

BLOCK 3: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Student Activities — Shenandoah
Research Promotion — Georgetown
DEI — Rosslyn
YEA — Arlington

Saturday, August 15



2026 ASHRAE REGION III CRC

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Saturday, August 15

ASHRAE Region III's regional awards celebrate exemplary volunteer leadership, chapter performance, and committee excellence across the region, recognizing individuals and chapters that advance ASHRAE's mission through sustained service, innovation, and engagement.

From the Gary C. Debes Award and Regionaire Award honoring outstanding regional commitment, to the ACE Award for top-performing Chapter Presidents, these honors showcase the dedication of leaders who consistently meet and exceed Presidential Award of Excellence benchmarks.

The Region III Sore-Foot Award adds a spirited note by recognizing the chapter with the strongest CRC presence, combining turnout and miles traveled to underscore the region's deep commitment to collaboration and participation.



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