

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER, ASHRAE: A BRIEF HISTORY

This chapter was formed on May 28, 1941, as the Central New York Section of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers (ASRE) with 78 Charter Members. During the 28 years it existed as an ASRE Section, many outstanding contributions were made by its members, two of whom became President of the Society of ASRE, Logan Lewis in 1941-42 and Carlyle Ashley in 1956-57.

On October 16, 1944, the Central New York Chapter of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers (ASHVE) was formed with 64 Charter Members. In 1954 ASHVE became the American Society of Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHAE). Alfred Stacey of our Chapter served as President of the Society of ASHVE in 1949.

Prior to the formation of the Central New York Chapter of ASHVE, several engineers from Syracuse, NY were elected President of the ASHVE Society. In 1894, Edward Bates was elected the first President of ASHVE, followed by William Kent in 1905, J. Irvine Lyle in 1917, and William Driscoll in 1926. Willis Carrier was President of ASRE in 1927, and President of ASHVE in 1931 before Carrier Corporation moved to Syracuse from New Jersey in 1937.

A merger of ASRE and ASHAE in 1959 on a national and local basis to form ASHRAE resulted in the formation of the present Central New York Chapter of ASHRAE. Members of the Central New York Chapter of ASHRAE who have served as Society President include Daniel Wile in 1960, Walter Grant in 1960-61, William McGrath in 1966-67, Stanley Gilman 1971-72, Bruno Morabito in 1977-78 and Donald Rich in 1991-92. Nearly 10% of the Presidents of ASHRAE and its predecessor Societies have come from the Central New York area.

Since its founding in 1941, 2 women and 84 men have served as Section or Chapter Presidents. Many are still active chapter participants. As our ASHRAE Chapter grew in size and complexity, it was incorporated in 1971, and the Board of Governors was increased from 7 to 9 members in 1974. Presently the Chapter has 278 members and the Board now has 12 members.

In 1971, a chapter Scholarship Fund for students was established with the objective of awarding \$1000 annually from the interest generated by the fund. This goal was first achieved in 1978 with awards made to students at SUNY Canton. Since then, assets have grown and up to six student scholarships totaling \$4000 are awarded annually. Our annual clambake held each June at Hinerwadle's Grove in North Syracuse, with an average attendance of over 1000 in recent years, is the main source of these funds.

We were the host for Society Meetings held in June three times in past years at Lake Placid, NY. In 1953, the Central New York Section of ASRE was host for the ASRE Annual Society Meeting. In 1959 and 1969, the Central New York Chapter of ASHRAE was host for ASHRAE Annual Society meetings.

In 1956, 16 members of the Central New York Section of ASRE from the Rochester area founded the Rochester Section of ASRE. After the merger in 1959, it became the Rochester Chapter of ASHRAE. In September 1977, the Central New York Chapter parted with some more of its membership to sponsor and help inaugurate the Twin Tiers Chapter, our present southern neighbor. Our Chapter also sponsors the following ASHRAE Student Branches: SUNY at Canton formed in 1978, Syracuse University formed in 1981, SUNY at Mohawk Valley in Utica formed in 2005, and St. Lawrence County BOCES formed in 2006.

The last hard copy issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Central New Yorker*, that was put together by a volunteer chapter member, was USPS mailed in November 2003. All subsequent issues have been prepared and e-mailed to chapter members by a paid professional firm. A chapter website was established in 2004 with a current address of centralnewyork.ashraechapters.org. It is used by members to request dinner reservations for monthly chapter meetings. Beginning in October 2011, the \$25.00 dinner reservation may be made in advance using PayPal. Also 6 prepurchased reservations for the price of 5 are available for purchase via PayPal. There are several other sections of interest on the website including the current chapter program schedule, a listing of Chapter Officers and Board members, current and archived newsletters back to Sept. '05, and this brief chapter history.

Chapter membership meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month from October through May at the Doubletree Motel near Carrier Circle. Other scheduled regular events include the Clambake at Hinerwadels in early June and the annual Golf tournament, also held in June, to benefit ASHRAE Society research.

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Central New York Chapter, ASHRAE
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