



YEA Connection Newsletter

February 2009

This quarterly newsletter is coming to you as a YEA member.

What does the show Dirty Jobs and Young Engineers in ASHRAE have in common? Have you ever seen the show Dirty Jobs? Ever noticed the part where host, Mike Rowe, begs people to call in with new ideas for future shows?

Well, the YEA Committee begs our readers to help us just as Mike Rowe asks his viewers to help him. We need ideas for articles for future newsletters. In fact, we need people to write articles and send in YEA event pictures. WILL YOU HELP?

Please let us know if you have any ideas for future newsletters articles or even better, if you want to write a newsletter article or two and submit photos. You would be an extreme help to ASHRAE and your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Ashley Pruett at apruett@ashrae.org with any ideas or more information.



2009 YEA Leadership Weekend

May 15-17, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia

This is your opportunity to meet other young professional members of ASHRAE, and develop leadership skills. Don't miss it!

[Registration is now open!](#) The full program will be posted at www.ashrae.org/yea by March 15, 2009.

Registration Fee:

\$350.00, Includes: Fees, hotels, food and events



Mark Lenssen, PE, is ASHRAE's Top Nominee For The New Faces of Engineering Program

The program, part of National Engineers Week and co-sponsored by ASHRAE, promotes the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on public welfare. The program targets those age 30 and younger.

Lenssen, along with the top nominees from each engineering society represented on the National Engineers Week committee, will appear in a full-page ad in USA Today during National Engineers Week, Feb. 15-21, 2009.

Lenssen is an energy management engineer with Puget Sound Energy, Bellevue, WA, and holds a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

"I am honored to be selected as this year's New Face for ASHRAE," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight energy efficiency since it is such an important avenue for how we as a society are going to reduce our buildings' impact on the environment. ASHRAE provides me with opportunities to meet and network with fellow engineers, designers and contractors to ensure that I stay in touch with the latest technology, design challenges, and installation methods."

Lenssen is dedicated to helping commercial and industrial facilities become more environmentally sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint. Over the last 2.5 years, he supported over 100 projects to improve energy efficiency and save more than 7.5 million kilowatt-hours and 170,000 therms per year. Based on local carbon emissions for delivered kilowatt-hours and therms, these combined savings equal over 5,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year, or the equivalent of 2.7 average cars off the road each day. He is responsible for managing financial incentives for the utility's Energy Conservation Program. He conducts energy audits to analyze how customers' heating, cooling, lighting, production, and other energy consuming systems operate and then provides cost-effective energy efficiency upgrade recommendations. Lenssen's recommendation to owners includes high-efficiency boilers, new lighting systems, building control systems, and new or retrofitted air compressors, fans, and pumps with variable-speed drives to reduce energy consumption at part loads. To date, Lenssen is responsible for providing nearly \$2 million in energy efficiency incentives to energy consumers.

My First Trip To An ASHRAE Conference

By Morwenna Wilson

In October 2008, I was extremely honoured to be announced as the ASHRAE/CIBSE Graduate of the Year, an award which gave me the privilege of being able to attend the 2009 ASHRAE Winter Conference in Chicago. My delight was twofold: firstly, it would be my first trip ever to the USA, and secondly as a member of the CIBSE YEN (Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers Young Engineers Network) committee in the UK, it was a fantastic opportunity for me to meet other young engineers from across the Atlantic.

The CIBSE YEN is in its infancy being only two years old, and therefore as a committee, we are still trying to find the best ways to serve our membership. Now that we have heard about the fantastic initiatives that occur at grass roots levels within ASHRAE with YEA, we are eager to maintain our links with the ASHRAE network and roll out similar programmes and events in the UK.

Needless to say, I truly loved my first experience in the USA, and look forward to returning soon. But my conference visit was also educational - I learned there are many similarities between the HVACR industries in our two countries. For example, there is as much of a focus on sustainability in the USA as there is in the UK. This was particularly apparent because sustainability was the key and common theme for all of the technical seminars that I attended, whether they were covering double skin facades, variable speed pumping or even litigation issues.

There was, however, one difference between the USA and the UK I had not been expecting and that greatly impressed me. It was that I had several in-depth conversations with security guards and sales assistants in shops regarding HVACR. In the UK, the general public rarely hears about our industry, and it is much more difficult to discuss issues such as building energy use and sustainability on the street in a meaningful way.

This may surprise you, but you must remember that our climate is such that air conditioning and refrigeration are not necessary to provide comfort in domestic (and even some commercial) spaces. The consequence is that the public does not come into regular contact with these technologies, and therefore I think they do not realize that such a profession is active. That is why it was so pleasing for me to hear that as an industry you are genuinely respected and appreciated by the people of your country and you

should congratulate yourselves on this.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the YEA committee for making me feel so welcome and for allowing me an invaluable insight into your incredible network. On behalf of CIBSE YEN Committee, I would like to say that we and are members look forward to the possibility of working with you in the future.

YEA After Hour: Philadelphia Chapter

By Ashley Kenyon

Looking around at an ASHRAE meeting, there are scattered young engineers, but it normally doesn't seem like many are present. As an effort to gather many of the young engineers, the Philadelphia Chapter had its first Young Engineers event in November following the monthly meeting. The YEA After Hour gathered 14 young engineers, which was great and showed there might be more young members than we first thought.

At the event, it was good to hear the interest in doing other social events as well as additional gatherings following the monthly meetings. The members were from a variety of backgrounds, including a couple of student members. While many ideas for social events were suggested such as bowling or going to a ballgame, the idea of mentoring was also mentioned. After thinking about the students that were present and the idea of mentoring, the idea of a YEA/student mentor program was proposed.

Even though there are normally many students members, after graduation, many do not continue to stay involved in ASHRAE. After thinking of possible reasons, one idea was many students do not have interaction with other ASHRAE members. If students are not informed of the events or do not know other people at the meetings, there is a high chance that they will no longer stay active.

While being around other more experienced engineers could be very helpful, interacting with another YEA member could have many benefits as well. Most YEA members have just gone through many of the things that student members have approaching them. Ranging from resumes and job interviews, to having contacts within the industry, there are many ways a YEA member could help a student member adjust easier to this industry. Even though there are many benefits to being involved in ASHRAE, it could be intimidating to someone, especially a student, who does not know anything.

Establishing contact between young engineers and students could be beneficial to not just them, but the entire chapter. If a YEA member is mentoring and encouraging a student to stay involved, there is greater incentive for the student to stay active in ASHRAE, where they are hopefully both learning and sharing their ideas. The combination of experience and new ideas can lead to new advances in the industry and contribute to a diverse and growing ASHRAE community.

YEA Member Resources

Check us out at www.ashrae.org/yea

1. [YEA Member Bios](#)
2. [YEA Member Guide](#)
3. [Getting Involved With ASHRAE Technical Committees](#)
4. [Past YEA Connection Newsletters](#)
5. [Tips For New Engineers](#)
6. [Supporting YEA Members At The Chapter Level](#)

