

## ASHRAE History of La Crosse Area Chapter

The La Crosse Area Chapter of ASHRAE is celebrating its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary in 2023. The Chapter was chartered on April 10, 1972. During these 51 years we have been able to accomplish positive impacts to the Society and local community. This History of Chapter will cover 2015-2022 and detail some of our most recent contributions.

The Chapter established a scholarship endowment under the fiduciary stewardship of the ASRHAE Foundation and is awarded by the Chapter. The Lee Burgett Memorial Scholarship endowment started in 2017 and was first awarded in 2020. Funds were raised in part by the annual golf outing. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to an engineering student within our ASHRAE region. It has been awarded to 5 individuals since 2020 which included 3 scholarships being awarded in 2022.

ASHRAE La Crosse Area Chapter entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin Planning and Development Department on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The purpose of this MOU is advancing and promoting mutual interests in engineering, building codes, energy efficiency, operations and maintenance, renewable energy, sustainability and resiliency for commercial buildings and communities. The common goal is to assist the City of La Crosse in building environment sustainability education and reaching carbon neutral by 2050. The Chapter participated in La Crosse City's Energy Action Plan in 2021, and the Climate Action Plan in 2022 which continues into 2023. The City's staff has also been invited to participate in our past ASHRAE meetings.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Waterfront with 51 attendees. Mick Schwedler, the ASHRAE President for 2021-2022, was the keynote speaker. He shared what he's learned and experienced over his 32 years of involvement with ASHRAE. The group enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and a very competitive trivia game about all things La Crosse, ASHRAE and the local Chapter.

In February 2023, the La Crosse Area ASHRAE Chapter hosted Engineer's Week ("E-Week") at the Trane Technology Center and Laboratory. The Chapter, in conjunction with Trane, annually hosts middle school students from around the area for an introduction to Engineering, a lab tour, and an engineering competition. This year marked the first time since February of 2020 that E-Week participation returned to pre-pandemic attendance and participation levels. Over 200 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and 60 volunteers helped make the event a smashing success! (One school was forced to cancel due to weather which would have pushed attendance over 250). Many of the students later sent thank you notes to express their sincere appreciation and new-found interest in STEM.

## Honors and awards

Since 2015, our members have received the following awards listed in the table below. These awards reflect hard work and dedication.

Years	Chapter Awards
2014	Dennis Stanke: Distinguished Service Award Dennis Stanke: Exceptional Service Award John Murphy: Distinguished Service Award
2015	Susanna Hanson: Distinguished Service Award Brian Reynolds: Distinguished Service Award Mick Schwedler: Exceptional Service Award Mick Schwedler: Fellow Award John Murphy: Fellow Award

	Eric Sturm: YEA Award of Individual Excellence
2016	Gregory Meeuwssen: Distinguished Service Award Stephen Kujak: Crosby Field Award
2017	Dr. Kenneth Schultz: Distinguished Service Award Stephen Kujak: Distinguished Service Award
2018	Susanna Hanson: Chapter Service Award Rick Heiden: Distinguished Service Award Brian Reynolds: Chapter Service Award
2019	Eric Sturm: Chapter Service Award Eric Sturm: Distinguished Service Award
2020	Chris Hsieh: Chapter Service Award Rick Heiden: Chapter Service Award
2021	William Landman: Distinguished 50-Year Member Award Haley Goslinga: Chapter Service Award
2022	Kristin Sullivan: Chapter Service Award Susanna Hanson: Regional Award of Merit Jake Beran: Chapter Service Award

The Chapter’s current membership is 117 which has increased since 2015 when it was 70 members\*\*. The largest amounts of new members were 18 in 2022 and 8 in both 2021 and 2019.

\*\*This number is based on current members “join date” which doesn’t include past members.

**Recognition of Past Presidents**

The La Crosse Area ASHRAE Chapter continues to further its impact as an organization with large amounts of participation and investment from our members. The success would not have been possible without the dedication of previous leaders who contributed their time and effort.

1971-72	Hugh A. Boschert
1972-73	Neil R. Patterson
1973-74	James M. Ritter
1974-75	Thomas W. Mulrine
1975-76	Donald N. Kirby
1976-77	William J. Landman
1977-78	Eugene K. Edwards
1978-79	G. Allan Gaboric
1979-80	Ken J. Schomberg
1980-81	James R. Miles
1981-82	Phillip A. Dockendorf
1982-83	Arthur D. Hallstrom
1983-84	John F. Klouda
1984-85	Kim Olson
1985-86	James N. Wagner
1986-87	Paul W. Ehrlich

1987-88	Dennis A. Stanke
1988-89	Duane L. Lom
1989-90	John B. Heck
1990-91	James M. Porter
1991-92	Stephen M. Fedie
1992-93	Donald M. Eppelheimer
1993-94	Gerhard W. Pierce
1994-95	Bruce E. Anderson
1995-96	Forrest K. Moe
1996-97	Kevin R. Schnack
1997-98	Thomas A. Ley
1998-99	Mark Halderson
1999-00	Mike Byars
2000-01	Eugene McNurlen
2001-02	Wane Baker
2002-03	Brian Reynolds
2003-04	Susanna Hanson
2004-05	Edward Swan
2005-06	William Fox
2006-07	Lane Liudahl
2007-08	Dwayne Johnson
2008-09	Rick Heiden
2009-10	Larry Butz
2010-11	Jim Spielbauer
2011-12	Chris Hsieh
2012-13	Mike Patterson
2013-14	Mick Schwedler
2014-15	Shawn O'Brien
2015-16	Audra Benzschawel
2016-17	Eric Sturm
2017-18	Nick Cavitt
2018-19	Haley Goslinga
2019-20	Kristin Sullivan
2020-21	Jake Beran
2021-22	Michelle Wang
2022-23	Alex Schmig



Figure 1: Signing Event for MOU with City of La Crosse on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
(Left to Right: Lewis Kuhlman, Environmental Planner, City of La Crosse, and Kristin Sullivan, ASHRAE La Crosse Chapter President)

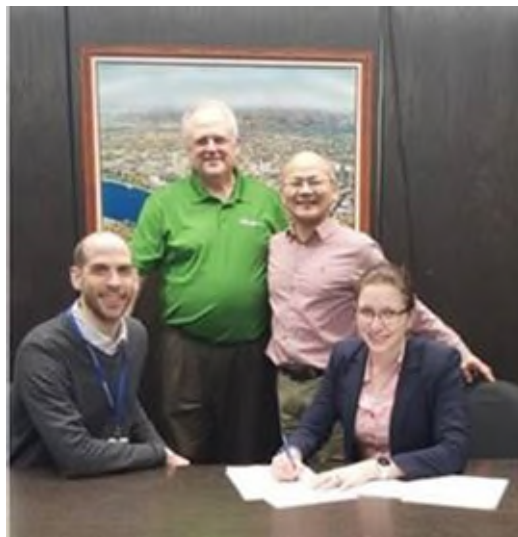


Figure 2: Signing Event for MOU with City of La Crosse on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
(Left to Right: Lewis Kuhlman, Environmental Planner, City of La Crosse, Steve Kujak, Refrigeration and Sustainability chair, Chris Hsieh, GAC chair, and Kristin Sullivan, ASHRAE La Crosse Chapter President)



Figure 3: Signing Event for MOU with City of La Crosse on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
(Left to right: Lewis Kuhlman, Environmental Planner, City of La Crosse, Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE Treasurer, Kristin Sullivan, ASHRAE La Crosse Chapter President)



Figure 4: La Crosse ASHRAE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
(Far Left Standing - Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE President)



Figure 5: La Crosse ASHRAE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
(Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE President)





Figure 6: La Crosse ASHRAE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
(Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE President)



Figure 7: La Crosse ASHRAE 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
(Mick Schwedler, ASHRAE President)

Respectfully submitted,

Halie Headrick  
Chapter Historian  
La Crosse Area Chapter