



## January Newsletter Our 101<sup>st</sup> year!

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**Alekhya Kaianathbhatta,**  
Energy Consultant, Goldfin Consulting,  
Treasurer, ASHRAE Toronto Chapter  
YEA Regional Vice Chair,  
ASHRAE Region II

*“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel” – Maya Angelou, author.* You may be wondering why I started with this, but as I reminisce and think about my journey within ASHRAE and what I would say to new graduates/young professionals, it is that more than what a specific person said or did, what I remember is how collectively ASHRAE members, volunteers and board members have made me feel and all the opportunities I was given to grow.

To be honest, I only joined ASHRAE to attend the annual career fair, not knowing too much about ASHRAE or what its members did. However, I was pleasantly surprised when after I graduated, I was asked if I wanted to become the student activities chair. Little

## Inside The Newsletter

### Viewpoint

### Donors and Sponsors of the Newsletter

### YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0 November 2022

### Upcoming Events

### Cold Climate Conference 2023

### Decemberfest Photos

## Quick Links

[Toronto Chapter  
Website](#)  
[Meeting  
Registration](#)  
[Past Newsletter  
Issues](#)  
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Governors  
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did I know how that would help a shy and nervous young new graduate change and grow into the person I am today.

As I moved through various positions within the chapter, starting with student activities chair to membership promotion, and Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA). I was given the opportunity to attend the ASHRAE Leadership Weekend 1.0 to develop as a leader. After which I joined the board of governors (BOG) and now am the treasurer on the executive BOG, this has given me opportunities to become a better leader and grow as I moved through these roles.

When I was selected to participate in Leadership U, which allows four young professionals to shadow the society vice president for the conference in Houston, I was able to see how ASHRAE operates and how standards are written. The VP and other volunteers motivated me to join multiple technical committees and currently, I serve as a voting member or subcommittee chair on them. I was also given to opportunity to join the conference and exposition committee, allowing me to be the technical track chair for the Atlanta conference, as well as giving me the opportunity to serve as the current YEA Regional Vice Chair (RVC) for our region.

Along with my development as a volunteer, it was at an ASHRAE dinner meeting where I met my first employer. After a rewarding career with that company, it was another ASHRAE member that hired me at his company. I am extremely grateful for the connections and amazing opportunities ASHRAE and ASHRAE members have provided me over the years.

On my journey so far, I have been able to learn from some of our industry leaders, meet amazing individuals with inspiring stories, make some great friends, learn how to be a leader within our industry and most importantly, make some amazing memories!

If I were to give advice to any new graduate or young professional, it would be to get involved, volunteer, and learn as much as you can. From my experience, ASHRAE and the volunteers are always looking to support, help grow and make memories with those in our industry.

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## YEA LEADERSHIP WEEKEND 1.0 NOVEMBER 2022

From November 4th to 6th, four Toronto Chapter Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) members: Amira Musa, Kajen Singham, Ayush Dewet and Eshan Patil, were sponsored to attend one of the most highly regarded YEA events in ASHRAE, the YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0. Hosted by the Society YEA Committee in Vancouver, we all got the chance to meet up and coming leaders and make new friends and connections. Most of all, we had the chance to learn under the guidance of Ralph Kinson and tap into his decades of experience to help people understand, grow and become effective leaders.

Our YEA attendees were a little unsure going into this workshop, given the ambiguous nature of defining what good leadership is, but what we took away from this event was greater than what we could have expected. During the event, we got to explore the effects that the pandemic has had on leadership, management, and culture, and what was found to be effective and what wasn't.





The team dove into determining what were our key motivations and finding the answer to the "Why?" in actions we take and goals we make. We had our professional personality profiles scoped through a detailed questionnaire, where we learned of our strengths, weaknesses, and how we can be our most effective selves. Some of us learned why we struggled in our workplaces and the opposing nature of the roles we were assigned and our core nature. We were able to take these profiles to our employers and have fruitful discussions on how we can be more effective in different roles and tasks!

We're glad to support our YEA members in these personal and professional leadership opportunities! Come find us and chat with us about it at the next YEA events, planned throughout the year.

Kajen Ethirveerasingham,  
Chair Young Engineers in ASHRAE

## IN-PERSON EVENT

### **BOMA & ASHRAE Toronto Joint Event: Planning for Rapid Net-Zero Carbon Commitment - Commercial Real Estate**

Parkview Manor, 55 Barber Greene Rd #1, North York, ON M3C 2A1

Date & Time: February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023; 5pm to 8pm

Speakers:

- Jeff Ranson, VP Sustainability and Stakeholder Relations @ BOMA Toronto
- Lee Hodgkinson, Head of Sustainability and Technical Services @ Dream Unlimited
- Ali Hoss, VP of Sustainability and Innovation @ Triovest

Register [here](#)

Elias Barker, CTTC Chair 2022-2023, ASHRAE Toronto Chapter

## ONLINE COURSE

### Fundamentals of Decarbonization Design Systems and Equipment Applications



February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023; 2 pm to 5 pm

Course Lecturer: Artorius Reyes,  
Member ASHRAE

Registration will be available in the future [here](#)

Elias Barker, CTTC Chair 2022-2023,  
ASHRAE Toronto Chapter

## COLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2023

### ASHRAE and SCANVAC HVAC Cold Climate Conference 2023 March 6-8, 2023

Marriott Anchorage Downtown, Anchorage, Alaska

[\*\*View Papers for the conference\*\*](#)





Early Bird Rates are Extended  
Until January 20th!

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## DECEMBERFEST PHOTOS



Decemberfest photos from Froilan de Guzman

ASHRAE Toronto Chapter



