A message from Mr. Ashley Fernandez, SWFL ASHRAE President

Greetings SWFL,

December is upon us and we are reaching our half way point of the ASHRAE year. I was very excited to see the great attendance at our November meeting, once again we would like to thank all of our donors recognized for their support during the 2016-2017 year. We also cannot forget to equally thank our donors from July-November this year, as we are off to a great start towards meeting (and beating) our RP goal. We are looking forward to build on our strong first half and continue increasing attendance on all future meetings. If there is anything you are interested in or would like to see included as a part of our meeting program in the future, please contact our Programs Chair or myself with your suggestions.

Our December meeting, as done in previous years, will be a tour highlighting refrigeration. We are scheduled to visit Millenial Brewery Company which is located near Downtown Fort Myers, where we will see how they are using refrigeration on a daily basis to create their own local brews. Please be sure to RSVP and feel free to bring a friend or significant other, as we share some quality time while enjoying a refreshing beverage. Keep in mind this meeting tour will be on a Friday, which differs from our standard meeting date.

Last month I challenged our members to attend at least (1) meeting this year, this month I would like to challenge all of our members to talk to someone at work about ASHRAE and encourage them to attend a meeting. If they would like more information regarding ASHRAE, membership or local chapter events; please direct them to one of our committee chairs or contact me directly. We are always looking for new faces to get involved in chapter operations, but most importantly we are always looking for new members to join our chapter.

Lastly, our chapter is highly involved in local school STEM events and other volunteer opportunities. If you have an interest in getting involved in STEM events, please feel free to contact our Student Activities chair, Gena Knight, or be on the lookout for future opportunities. Also, if you are involved in anything associated with STEM outside of ASHRAE, please reach out to Gena so that we can share information and possibly learn of new opportunities.
New What’s App Group!

In order to improve the member’s communications, we created a “Whats App” group for all SWFL chapters’ members. The goal of this group is keep a permanent communication between members.

We can share:
1. ASHRAE and SWFL chapter events
2. Technical information related with ASHRAE
3. Meeting reminder
4. Social updates (birthdays, ASRAE awards, etc.)
5. Pictures of the events

If you want to participate in this group, please submit your phone number to:

William Mejia
at william.mejia@hotmail.com.

Miami-Dade County Sponsoring Building 305

Miami-Dade County has begun a new initiative, Building 305. The goal of BE305 is to increase energy and water efficiency in our building sector. The goals of the program are to:
- Increase profit margins for property owners through better energy and water management
- Expand access to financing tools to encourage energy efficiency improvements
- Empower consumers to make more informed decisions
- Assist our most vulnerable neighborhoods by reducing utility cost burdens
- Gather information about building energy and water use to increase awareness and data-driven decision making
- Reduce water supply constraints and preserve a critical natural resource
- Improve energy and water efficiency by supporting building code training and education

A series of seminars is being held on this initiative. The next is scheduled for January 17, 2018 from 11 am until 1 pm at the West Dade Regional Library, 9445 SW 24 St., Miami, FL 33165. Directions can be found here. Questions can be submitted to green@miamidade.gov (email) or call 305-375-5593 (telephone). For schedule updates or additional details, please check this webpage again before the event.

ASHRAE Earns UN Environment Award for Dedication in Advancing Montreal Protocol

On November 23 in Montreal, ASHRAE received the prestigious Partnership Award from the United Nations Environment Program’s (UN Environment) Ozone Secretariat for its extraordinary commitment and contribution to the progress and achievements of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

The Partnership Award recognizes the work of civil society and other international organizations that have played a critical role in the development of the Kigali Amendment and/or implementation of the Montreal Protocol. More information can be found here.

GGAC Encourages Chapters to Hold Day on the Hill Events

ASHRAE’s Grassroots Government Advocacy Committee continues to encourage Chapters to coordinate a Day on the Hill (DOHT) visit with your state or provincial legislative body. Last year, Chapters in seven states and in Canada organized meetings with their elected leaders, provided information about ASHRAE and offer to be the “go-to” professionals when issues arise affecting the industry. It is the goal of the Committee to continue promoting the DOHT visits and a number of Chapters have already been contacted. The Committee also encourages those Chapters who held a DOHT visit in the past to do so again.

Additionally, a second major focus this year is the establishment of a program, by each Chapter, to make regular contacts with members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for their State. Meetings with the member and local staff of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives could be held at the local offices throughout the State. The GGAC has established an MBQ to develop this program, therefore, you will be receiving more information in the near future. To learn more about how to organize a DOHT visit, a toolkit on how to organize this event can be found here.