

## **ASHARE Maine Chapter – A synopsis for 50 years and counting!**

### **1. The Beginning**

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) have a long history in our country and abroad. It was founded in 1894 in New York City and held annual meetings since 1895 becoming during the years a global organization holding national and international events.

In Maine, ASHRAE started as a local Chapter in 1972.

In the fall of 1971 eight members of this National Society met over dinner to discuss the feasibility of forming a Maine Chapter. Up to that time, the closest Chapter meeting a member could attend was in Boston, MA.

Between the fall of 1971 and the summer of 1972, the Maine contingency grew from eighteen to sixty plus members with a lot of interest for potential growth.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1972, two Society officers came to Maine. Mr. Walter Spiegel, the Society's President, and Mr. Bruno Morabito, Regional Chairman, presented the Maine Chapter with its charter.

The Maine Chapter officers who were installed came from a good cross- section of the mechanical engineering field from the State of Maine.

Mr. Daniel W. Vachon, Assistant Director of Electric Space Conditioning at Central Maine Power Company was sworn in as President.

Mr. Albert Milasauskis and Mr. Edward Blaisdell, from A. Harriman Associates, were respectively installed as First and Second Vice Presidents.

Mr. Paul Gardner of Daris Refrigeration of Auburn was elected the Chapter's Secretary.

Mr. Manley Irish of Group Design of Portland was elected Treasurer and Mr. John McHugh of Honeywell was named as Member at Large on the Board of Governors.

As the Chapter had to have a Past President, Mr. John Roman of Higgins, Webster and Partners from Bangor was installed as an Honorary Past President. He acted as an adviser and aide to the Chapter President.



*From Left to Right: Mr. John Rohman, Mr. Edward L. Blaisdell, Mr. Walter Spiegel, Mr. Daniel Vachon, Mr. Bruno Morabito and Mr. Albert Milasauskis. Photo taken on September 23, 1972*

**2. Past Presidents**

From the Chapter opening in 1972, this is the list of the past presidents up to the actual one:

	<b>Maine Chapter</b>	
	CHAPTER NAME: ASHRAE Maine	
	CHAPTER GRANTED : 1972	
	<b>CHAPTER PAST PRESIDENTS</b>	<b>Period Served</b>

1	Daniel W. Vachon	Sept 1972 - June 1973
2	Edward D. Blaisdell	June 1973 - June 1974
3	Manley L. Irish	June 1974 - June 1975
4	Anthony J. Lisa, Jr.	July 1975 - June 1976
5	Philip D. Rodgers	July 1976 - June 1977
6	William Henderson	July 1977 - June 1978
7	William S. Bennett	July 1978 - June 1979
8	John W. Germond Jr.	July 1979 - June 1980
9	John W. Dumont, Jr.	July 1980 - June 1981
10	Steven W. Morrow	July 1981 - June 1982
11	Frederick J. Bishop	July 1982 - June 1983
12	William A. Lotz	July 1983 - June 1984
13	Armand A. Dube	July 1984 - June 1985
14	Stephen Doel	July 1985 - June 1986
15	David W. Walker	July 1986 - June 1987
16	Thomas R. Nastro	July 1987 - June 1988
17	Richard D. Miles	July 1988 - June 1989
18	Daniel D. Thayer	July 1989 - June 1990
19	Clifton W. Greim	July 1990 - June 1991
20	Russell A. Martin	July 1991 - June 1992
21	Russell A. Martin	July 1992 - June 1993
22	Douglas W. Martin	July 1993 - June 1994
23	Scott D. Teller	July 1994 - June 1995
24	Gilbert E. Hendry	July 1995 - June 1996
25	Daniel Broderick	July 1996 - June 1997
26	James Hughes	July 1997 - June 1998
27	Harrison Horning	July 1998 - June 1999
28	Bob Brown	July 1999 - June 2000
29	Steve Martel	July 2000 - June 2001
30	Steve Clay	July 2001 - June 2002
31	Jeff Lapierre	July 2002 - June 2003
32	Jeff Lapierre	July 2003 - June 2004
33	Jeff Charette	July 2004 - June 2005
34	Ron Willey	July 2005 - June 2006
35	Ron Willey	July 2006 - June 2007
36	Doug Martin	July 2007 - June 2008

37	Steve Martel	July 2008 - June 2009
38	Dick Rollins	July 2009 - June 2010
39	Mike Richard	July 2010 - June 2011
40	Gary Robinson	July 2011 - June 2012
41	Jonathan Kerbel	July 2012 - June 2013
42	Ryan MacLean	July 2013 - June 2014
43	Ryan MacLean	July 2014 - June 2015
44	Rachel Roy	July 2015 - June 2016
45	Rachel Roy	July 2016 - June 2017
46	Rachel Roy	July 2017 - June 2018
47	Mackenzie Sutter	July 2018 - June 2019
48	Nick Melanson	July 2019 - June 2020
49	Ben Hackett	July 2020 - June 2021
50	Ben Hackett	July 2021 - June 2022
51	Danny Bronshvayg	July 2021 - June 2023

### **3. Organization**

During the years, the Chapter structure with Elected President, Vice- President, Secretary and Treasurer, Past President remained very similar to the original, with a few minor changes.

Task committees were added with designated members for a better organization of the Chapter.

Here are some example of the Committees from the '70's:

- Program
- Membership
- Attendance
- Reception
- Technical
- Education
- Publicity
- Special Events
- Nominating

- Auditing
- Operation
- Research program

After the 1973-1974 Oil Crisis, Energy Conservation became an important topic in the country that affected most industries including the HVAC and construction.

In the 80's Maine Chapter introduced the Energy Management Committee. The number of Committees was reduced or changed due to the needs of the Chapter:

- Program
- Membership
- Education
- Energy Management
- Publicity
- Reception
- Research and Promotion
- Nominating

In 1984, a Chapter Historian was introduced. The first Maine ASHRAE Historian was Mr. Winston W. Phipps.

In 1991 the first Golf Tournament was held in Portland, so in the 90's a separate committee was assigned for this event.

In 2001, with the evolution of digital technology, the Maine Chapter website was introduced. During the years the website evolved and became the main vehicle to inform the members about the Chapter, organize meetings and up-date with all news in the industry. With the introduction of the website, another committee was formed – Webmaster.

Lately, the committee Chapter structure remained as it is today:

- CRC Committee Chair
- Historian
- Reception
- Government Affairs
- Student Activities
- Special Events
- Newsletter Editor
- Webmaster or Website

#### **4. Annually Meeting Schedule**

Maine Chapter meetings start every September and end in June the following year with the Golf Tournament. There are 9 informative meetings with presentations of different topics suggested by the Chapter Board in every session.

#### **5. Maine ASHRAE Chapter and Students Activities**

Since the beginning, the Chapter has been involved in bringing student body members from Maine universities, technical institutes and vocational colleges.

The Maine Chapter has now a separate committee for the Student Activities that involves students from University of Maine and Community Colleges from all over the state.

In the last few years, April meetings were designated to the students involved in the Maine Chapter or with special academic achievements. The Chapter recognizes and rewards student's achievements with two Scholarships every year.

In 2018 the Chapter formed the "Youth Maine ASHRAE Chapter" where young engineers and students are encouraged to participate at the meetings.

#### **6. Special Events**

In 1992 and in 2006 Maine ASHRAE Chapter was the host of the Region 1 CRC meeting that was held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland.

The Maine ASHRAE Chapter is one of the most recognizable organizations in the state that gather professionals and personnel from the construction fields related to HVAC and mechanical engineering.

The number of members grew from 68 in 1972 to 189 in our days with potential of expansion.

*Note: Historical information in this synopsis was gathered from the Maine Chapter Archive.*