

## CONFERENCES AND EXPOSITIONS COMMITTEE

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026

Las Vegas, NV

DRAFT MINUTES

### Members Present

Kristen Cetin, Chair  
Suzanne LeViseur, Vice Chair  
Atilla Biyikoglu  
Aaron Boranian  
Craig Bradshaw  
Li Song  
Robin Bryant  
Haotian Liu  
Jon Cohen  
Jim Liston  
Ng Yong Kong  
Joshua Vasudevan  
Kevin Brown  
Joe Chow  
Ehab Mamdouh  
Dennis Alejandro  
Mike Bilderbeck  
Ahmed Elatar  
Jeslu Jacob  
Raul Simonetti  
Bassel Anbari, BOD ExO

### Members Absent

Cindy Calloway  
Richard Gunpat  
Anuj Gupta  
Mikael Salonvaara  
Joshua Vasudevan  
Vínod Venugopàl

### Guests

Kaustubh Wani  
Doug Cochrane  
Michael Cooper  
Danielle Passaglia  
Mohamad Fakhoury  
Frank Shambach  
Cameron Labunski

### Staff

Chris Preyor  
Ragan McHan

#### 1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Kristen Cetin called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

#### 2. **Approval of June 21, 2025 Minutes**

Mr. Jon Cohen moved, and Ms. Robin Bryant seconded to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2025 meeting. VOTE: 18-0-0, CNV. Passed

#### 3. **BOD ExO Comments**

Mr. Bassel Anbari presented the ASHRAE Leadership Presentation, a wide-ranging and in-depth view of the Society's activities since June 2025. The presentation provided a comprehensive update on ASHRAE's programs, initiatives, strategic direction, and member resources for the 2025–2027 period. It highlighted the Society's commitment to ethics, diversity, equity, and inclusion; outlines updated policies; and reinforced ASHRAE's values of excellence, collaboration, and integrity. Several slides introduced key resources available to members such as Marketing Central, the ASHRAE Bookstore, professional development opportunities, and the latest standards and guidelines.

Major organizational updates included highlights from recent Board of Directors meetings, such as an upcoming \$5 dues increase in the 2026–27 Society Year, the DEI Committee becoming a standing committee under Members' Council and the creation of the Indoor Environmental Quality Center of Excellence.

Technical and strategic initiatives featured prominently, including work from the Center for Excellence in Building Decarbonization, AI/data center frameworks, refrigerant transition efforts, building code

modernization, whole life carbon research, and supermarket decarbonization strategies. Updates on the Standards & Guidelines portfolio highlighted newly released and forthcoming standards. Government affairs priorities were also detailed covering topics such as IAQ/IEQ, energy codes, refrigerant policy, and workforce development.

Mr. Anbari reported more than \$4.8 million in contributions across ASHRAE Foundation and RP campaigns, along with scholarships and program support. He also explained the redesigned membership model, proposed dues structure, World Bank-based economic tiers, and a timeline for implementing new bylaws and membership changes through 2027. Additional benefits, such as the new ASHRAE Mastercard program and discounts for early career members, were outlined to support engagement and accessibility.

#### **4. Host Committee Reports**

Cameron Labunski, the 2026 Annual Conference in Austin host committee chair, reported that planning is going well. The Welcome Party will take place at the Bulloch Museum; the entertainment chair is working to finalize entertainment for Members' Night Out including custom cowboy hats and a local band. The committee is meeting bi-monthly.

Danielle Passaglia, general chair, gave the host committee report for the Winter 2027 Conference in Chicago. The Welcome party and Members' Night Out entertainment are booked. The committee is working to organize tours. Monthly meetings are scheduled and ASHRAE staff will be doing a planning visit in September.

Frank Shamback, host committee member for 2027 Annual, attended and informed CEC that host committee planning was underway for 2027 Annual in New Orleans.

#### **5. 2026 Winter Conference, Las Vegas**

Mr. Aaron Boranian, 2026 Winter Conference Chair, thanked CEC for everything building up to the conference including reviews of abstracts, papers, and presentations. The Vegas program was made of 118 sessions including 4 advance virtual paper sessions. The conference accepted 212 papers, 6 panels, 6 forums, 63 seminars, 3 workshops and 4 debates. 37 speakers who were affiliated with national labs had to withdraw at the last-minute resulting in 3 sessions being removed. Only 28 presentations were missing when the Confex portal closed a week in advance of the conference. 27 new and revised presentations have been emailed to the CEC Gmail account for onsite review and upload. The conference was not networked, no same-day presentation uploads would be allowed.

#### **6. 2026 Annual Conference, Austin**

197 paper abstracts were received for the 2026 Annual Conference. The program submission site launched in mid-January. Full papers and program submissions are due February 25, 2026.

#### **7. 2027 Winter Conference, Chicago**

Ms. Li Song, 2027 Winter Conference Chair, gave an update on tracks. The conference tracks are out for review Ms. Song will combine comments and send final list with track chair assignments post-Vegas. Volunteers were requested for tracks and if all slots were not filled, she would assign and contact the CEC members responsible.

#### **8. Subcommittee Reports**

##### **a. CEC Executive Committee**

Status of Referred Motions

Motion: CARICOM Chapter recommends to the Members Council that the timeline to access the free conference benefit for new members be extended to three (3) years, implemented by July 1st, 2026.

Answer: CEC recommends that Members Council approve the CARICOM Chapter's recommendation that the timeline to access the free conference benefit for new members be extended to three (3) years, implemented by July 1st, 2026. Based on fiscal analysis, the program brings in over \$150,00 per year in total revenue. Overall, the program has had a positive impact. The conference budget has been adjusted since 2023 to account for this new member group, and the revenue loss is offset by broader gains across society.

**Vote – 20-0-0, CNV**

#### Future Annual and Winter Conference Sites

- a. Annual, June 27-July 1, 2026 – Austin
- b. Winter, January 23-27, 2027 – Chicago
- c. Annual, June 12-16, 2027 – New Orleans
- d. Winter, February 7 – 9, 2028 – Orlando
- e. Annual, June 24-28, 2028 – St. Louis

### **b. Topical Conferences Subcommittee**

#### Additional Information

##### Topical Conferences Held Since June 2025

- a. August 13-15, 2025, 2025 ASHRAE Conference for Integrated Design, Construction, & Operations, Denver Colorado. Final attendance was 135 with \$27,000 in sponsorship dollars.
- b. September 24-16, 2025, IEQ 2025 Conference, co-organized by ASHRAE and AIVC. Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Final attendance was 300 with \$101,500 in sponsorship dollars.
- c. October 22-24, 2025, 2025 ASHRAE Building Decarbonization Conference, Chicago, IL. Final attendance was 409 with \$160,000 in sponsorship dollars.
- d. December 8-11, 2025, 2025 Buildings XVI Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL. Final attendance was 188 with \$18,500 in sponsorship dollars.

##### Topical Conferences In-Process

- e. April 13-14, 2026 – Women in ASHRAE Leadership Symposium, Los Angeles
- f. April 24-25, 2026 – 4th Developing Economies Conference, Delhi, India
- g. Sept. 23-25, 2026 – 2026 ASHRAE Building Decarbonization Conference, Seattle, WA
- h. October 8-9, 2026 – The Seventh ASHRAE International Conference on Efficient Building Design - Materials and HVAC Equipment Technologies, Beirut Lebanon
- i. November 16-18, 2026 – ICERD-9, Kuwait

Mr. Haotian Liu gave the committee update on the topicals that taken place since June and the 5 topicals that are currently in development. Mr. Liu requested volunteers to act as liaison to the future topicals with Joshua Vasudevan and Ahmed Elatar volunteering to work on the 2027 Hot Climates Conference.

The 2026 ASHRAE Data Center and AI Integration Conference was approved by CEC ExCom as a society level topical conference.

The 2027 Fourth International Conference on Energy and Indoor Environment for Hot Climates brought forward by the Qatar Oryx Chapter was approved by CEC ExCom as a society level topical conference.

### **c. Joint Expo Policy Committee**

Ms. Kristen Cetin reported on the Joint Expo Policy Committee and reviewed the upcoming AHR dates. Ms. Suzanne LeViseur confirmed that she would represent CEC at the joint Expo meeting while in Vegas.

**d. Operations Subcommittee**

Ms. Suzanne LeViseur reported on the work of the operation subcommittee. The committee has been meeting every other month. The subcommittee has updated basecamp to act as the revised operations manual. The subcommittee also recommended changes to the MOP including removing the Carolyn and Damon Gowan learning center, renumbering section three and adding a new section 13 to address the standard operating procedure of topical conferences.

In addition to updates, Ms. LeViseur recommended assigning one of the CEC voting members be a CEC liaison to the Technical Activities Committee. Mr. Kevin Brown volunteered to fill the roll.

Hatioan Liu move made the motion to accept all the suggested edits to the MOP with Kevin Brown as the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote – 20-0-0, CNV

**e. Paper Submission ad hoc Committee**

The Paper Submission Ad Hoc Committee reported that it is reviewing technical papers from STBE as part of a planned special issue. For the Annual Conference, 34 authors were invited, with 10 confirming participation. These papers will undergo review by the end of the year, with publication expected in early 2027. Work has also begun on a special issue for the Winter Conference, coordinated with Ms. Song for the Las Vegas program. The committee noted a policy for paper withdrawals and continued efforts to improve networking opportunities for researchers. The group also discussed considerations related to AI policies. Additionally, Robin Bryant and Jon Cohen will meet to further explore the development of practitioner-focused case studies track in Chicago next Winter.

**f. Analytics Benchmarking**

Ms. Li Song gave an update on Ms. Cindy Calloway’s efforts as lead of the Analytics Benchmarking subcommittee. Ms. Calloway is leading the effort and has set up monthly meetings. The group is reviewing opportunities to expand topics based on attendance data, especially those with the highest attendance, for future ASHRAE conferences. The goal is to automate and analyze this data to improve scheduling and program placement. Ms. Calloway and the group working on this effort is developing recommendations for ASHRAE regarding track topics and is still determining the best path forward. A clear process and summary are currently being assembled.

**g. Region Referred Motion**

Motion: CARICOM Chapter recommends to the Members Council that the timeline to access the free conference benefit for new members be extended to three (3) years, implemented by July 1st, 2026.

Answer: CEC recommends that Members Council approve the CARICOM Chapter’s recommendation that the timeline to access the free conference benefit for new members be extended to three (3) years, implemented by July 1st, 2026. Based on fiscal analysis, the program brings in over \$150,00 per year in total revenue. Overall, the program has had a positive impact. The conference budget has been adjusted since 2023 to account for this new member group, and the revenue loss is offset by broader gains across society.

Vote – 20-0-0, CNV

**9. Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

**10. New Business**

**a. SY 26-27 Registration Rates**

CEC approved the 2027 Winter and Annual Conference registration rates as follows. The 2027 rates are flat, no increase from 2026. **17-1-1, CNV**

Member Early Bird	\$885
First Time Member Early Bird	\$860
Non Member Early Bird	\$1160
First Time Non Member Early Bird	\$1135
Life Member/Speaker/BOD/PM/LeadDRs/CEC	\$235
Member Advance	\$930
First Time Member Advance	\$905
Non Member Advance	\$1185
First Time Non Member Advance	\$1160
Member Onsite	\$1210
First Time Member Onsite	\$1185
Non Member Onsite	\$1465
First Time Non Member Onsite	\$1440
One Day Member	\$465
One Day Non Member	\$560
SBA/Student Member	\$25
Student Non Member	\$55
One Session Onsite	\$125
Virtual Member	\$560
Virtual Non Member	\$610
Virtual Reduced	\$140
Virtual Company Package (3-5)	\$2375
Virtual Company Package (6-10)	\$4465
Virtual Company Package (11-20)	\$8375

The committee discussed reviewing the registration formula in the future since it has not been edited in the last decade. In addition to future review of the formula, the committee discussed looking into the first member rates and potentially increasing the discount in the future. Jon Cohen called all questions and the committee voted in favor of the SY 26-27 rate

**11. MBOs**

**a. SY 25-26**

Ms. Cetin gave an overview of the current progress of the SY 25-26 MBOs. All the MBOs have been completed except for two that are still a work in progress.

The work with meridian to streamline virtual content is owned by the Pub-Ed Council and CEC is working for the initial implementation of the software to be released so the committee can best utilize its functionality for streamlining on-demand products.

The analytics subcommittee is actively working on MBO eight to align conference programs with targeted conference authors and attend

**12. Next Meeting**

Saturday, June 27, 2026 – Austin, TX

**13. Adjournment**

Ms. Cetin adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ragan McHan*

Ragan McHan