



Wednesday, November 4

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Hotel Room Check-In, Conference Check-In

Hotel lobby

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Keynote: Kenneth Wertz

Johnnies - Gophers

TBD

6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Social Gathering

Legend's Bar & Grill

Thursday, November 5

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast

Bennies - Gophers

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Breakout Block 1

Facts on New Refrigerants

Johnnies – Gophers

Lori Bauer, Founder & Executive Vice President of Service | Climate Makers

Learn what you need to know about the changing refrigerant landscape. This session will provide an overview of A2L refrigerant blends, including their characteristics and associated hazards, as well as new EPA refrigerant service requirements taking effect in 2026.

Attendees will also learn about gas detection system requirements for new refrigerants, including when detection systems may be needed and key considerations for implementation.

Lori Bauer is President of Climate Makers, Inc. and brings extensive experience in the HVAC industry. She began her career as a field technician before advancing into sales and management roles. During her 12 years with a large metro-area mechanical contractor, Lori earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in business.

Since acquiring Climate Makers, Inc. in 2006, Lori has continued to expand her industry expertise, earning master licenses in refrigeration, oil, steam, hot water, and gas. Her combination of hands-on technical experience, business leadership, and industry knowledge provides a unique perspective on the evolving HVAC and refrigeration field.





OSHA Top Ten

Huskies

Jonathan Beale, OSHA Training Consultant | SafeAssure

Jonathan Beale has worked as an OSHA Training Consultant with SafeAssure Consultants, Inc. since 2007. He enlisted in the Army Reserves and trained as a Combat Engineer at age 17. He went on to earn a BA in Cartography/City Planning from Bloomsburg University, and a Masters of Science in Sustainable Building Design from Slippery Rock University. In 1996, Jonathan moved to Minneapolis and held various positions in the Environmental and Industrial Health sector. In 2009, he graduated with honors from the University of St. Thomas where he received his second Masters, this one in education. Today, Jonathan is one of the most diversified and knowledgeable OSHA compliance instructors in Minnesota. He provides safety training to municipalities (both large and small), construction, medical clinics, and manufacturing facilities.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote: Geothermal Systems

Johnnies – Gophers

Mark Rasmussen, Chief Operation Office & Co-Founder | inBYLT

Kristen Glaros Hanson, Business Development Executive | inBYLT

In this presentation, we will introduce geothermal systems and explore various designs suitable for installation in Minnesota. The three primary systems under review include the traditional vertical or horizontal systems, the submerged aquifer heat exchanger system, and the aquifer reinjection system. Our discussion will delve into the advantages and disadvantages of each system, highlighting their unique features. Furthermore, we will examine how these systems can qualify for the Direct Pay Tax Credit, enabling districts to leverage the 2023 Inflation Reduction Act to fund 30-50% of total project costs. We will review the IRS guidelines and outline the specific metrics that the project must meet to qualify for various tiers of funding. Additionally, we will address heating and cooling equipment options, comparing central versus distributed systems, and exploring how these systems can be integrated with gas/electric sources or function independently as a geothermal source. This comprehensive overview aims to equip you with insights into choosing the most effective geothermal solution for your specific needs.

Mark Rasmussen, P.E., is the Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of inBYLT. He holds degrees in business and engineering from the University of Minnesota and has worked in the industry since 1986. Mark's experience includes regulatory work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, consulting, construction management of large-scale industrial projects, and energy project development for public, municipal, and K-12 clients. Throughout his career, Mark has been involved with complex and innovative projects, including geothermal systems utilizing a variety of sources, from cliff walls to city water mains.

Kristen Glaros Hanson is a Business Development Executive for inBYLT. Her career spans 30 years working with owners, operators and municipalities building and/or expanding senior living campuses, clinics, hospitals, higher education campuses, manufacturing facilities, community centers, and mission critical projects while leading construction teams' strategy and growth. Some of her renewable energy career highlights include early adopters of geothermal energy. Ebenezer's York Gardens Senior Living in Edina was one of the first senior living campuses in Minnesota to include geothermal for both heating and cooling and Episcopal Homes Carty Heights campus in Saint Paul was the first Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 202 affordable housing for people aged 62 and older funded within this program to implement geothermal technologies.

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Breakout Block 2

Building Inspection 101

Johnnies - Gophers

TBD – Department of Labor and Industry (State of MN) Staff

Geothermal Operational Roundtable

Huskies

Greg Larsen, Building Operations Manager | Olmsted County

Alex Fleming PE, LEED AP BD+C, CxA, Mechanical Engineer | Questions & Solutions Engineering

This session explores the day-to-day operation and maintenance of geothermal systems, from startup and project closeout to ongoing service and performance.

Greg Larsen brings over 30 years of experience in facility maintenance, including 28 years with Olmsted County. He currently serves as the Building Operations Manager. Throughout his tenure, Greg has witnessed significant organizational and technological advancements and has played an active role in applying evolving technologies to improve building operations and address emerging challenges. Outside of work, Greg enjoys snowmobiling when conditions allow, camping, and staying actively involved in his family's farming operation which he punched the time clock around age five and has never punched out.

Alex Fleming has over 9 years of experience working with HVAC, plumbing, and other major building systems. Alex is a licensed Professional Engineer in Minnesota and has worked on commissioning projects and engineering investigations nationwide.



11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Keynote: Brothers Fire Panels**

Johnnies - Gophers

Jason Admundson, Area Sales/Estimator | Brothers Fire & Security

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Business Meeting, Awards, Lunch

Johnnies – Gophers

- Call to Order
- 2025 Annual Business Meeting Minutes (action item)
- 2027 Budget (action item)
- 2027 Meeting Schedule
- Mentorship Graduation
- Bylaws Updates (action item)
- Membership Committee Report
- Education Committee Report
- Basecamp Tool Tutorial
- Vice President Election (action item)
- Transfer Presidency
- Outstanding Contributor of the Year Award
- Presidential Award

1:00 – 1:45 p.m.

Breakout Block 3

Solar Energy Presentation

Bennies - Gophers

Mike Lexvold, | Dakota County

TBD – Elevator Inspections and Updates

Huskies

TBD

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Break

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.



Keynote: State Government Project Management and Contracting Overview

Johnnies - Gophers

Sam Hicks, Senior Contract Administrator/Contract Specialist | State of MN, Department of Administration

Wendy Kufner, Principal Project Manager | State of MN, Department of Administration

Eric Radel, Director of Real Estate and Construction Services | State of MN, Department of Administration

This session will provide an overview of State project management and contracting practices, processes and whys. Knowledge and information sharing from State a State government lens.

Samantha Hicks is a Senior Contract Administrator/Contract Specialist at Department of Administration, Real Estate and Construction services Division. Over 30 years of professional experience across government and private sector organizations, including 14+ years extensive expertise in statewide procurement, professional/technical contracting, contract administration, workflow optimization, budgeting oversight, compliance, and cross-functional business services.

Wendy Kufner is a Principal Project Manager at the Department of Administration in Real Estate and Construction Services. She has a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota and has been a project manager in the construction industry for over 30 years. She has worked for General Contractors and Construction Managers for much of her career. She managed multiple projects at the University of Minnesota and several projects for the Target Corporation in the Midwest. For the past 8 years, she has focused her experience at State agencies managing many campus projects for MnDOT, MDVA, and DPS. She is currently managing the new State Patrol Headquarters in Roseville.

Eric Radel is the Director of Real Estate and Construction Services for the State of Minnesota, Department of Administration. Eric has over 30 years of experience in the construction industry with many of those years as a State Facilities Manager that managed regions and large campuses. He is also the State Project Manager for the State Office Building Renovation and Addition on the State Capitol Complex. Eric is also an Instructor for the University of Minnesota, College of Continuing and Professional Studies.

3:00 p.m.

Conference Adjourns