

- February Meeting
- Resolutions for New Year
- HVAC Emergencies

2023

Meeting Dates

February 9th

Board & General Mtg.
Back by Popular demand!
Contractor Roundtable
Develop Future Leaders
Federated Insurance
Presenter: Justin Daul
Place: Carmody's

March 9th

Board & General Mtg.
Place & Topic: TBD

March 24th Friday

ACCWPA Social Outing
Giant Oaks Winery
Finleyville, PA
4:30 to 10:00 pm
Watch for the Flyer.

April 13th

Board & General Mtg.
Place & Topic: TBD



The mission of the Air Conditioning Contractors of Western PA is to assist its members in managing their companies more efficiently, therefore becoming more profitable, together with increasing their exposure and credibility within the community.

2023 ACCWPA FEBRUARY MEETING

Contractor Roundtable Back by Popular Demand – Develop Future Leaders

One good hire today could become a great leader tomorrow. This continuing presentation will examine how to help your employees develop into future leaders to better position them in your organization to have well-trained, experienced people in key positions. Managing the succession of talent is a vital strategic process that can minimize gaps in leadership and enable your best people to develop the skills necessary for possible future roles.

Justin Daul

Local Marketing Representative for Beaver County & Allegheny County.
Federated Insurance

Thursday, February 9th



4905 Grand Avenue (on Neville Island)
Pittsburgh, Pa 15225 - 412-458-1813 Upstairs meeting room.

3:00 pm – Board Meeting ♦ 5:30 – 6:00 pm - Social (cash bar)
6:00 - 7:00 pm – Contractor Roundtable Discussion
7:00 pm – Dinner Buffet and Social resumes (cash bar)

Dinner Buffet - \$45.00

RESERVATION FLYER ON PAGE 3

February 14th!



5 HVAC Emergencies & How to Avoid them.

Do you suspect that your building may be having heating or ventilation problems? Whether you are experiencing issues now or are working on HVAC emergency planning, learning to identify common problems in your HVAC system can help you be more proactive to your facility's climate control needs.

1. Refrigerant Leak

Air conditioning systems use refrigerant to absorb heat and provide your system with cooled air. The refrigerant lines run between the compressor in the outside unit and the evaporator coils in the indoor unit. A leak in this line would cause a loss of refrigerant which could have a negative impact on your system. It will start running more frequently because it is not reaching the cooled ambient temperature that would trigger it to stop. This could cause your compressor to overheat or even burn out. Ice buildup on your lines and coils could cause system damage as well.

Signs of a refrigerant leak may include:

- The air coming from the vents is not as cool as it should be System is overrunning.
- Ice buildup on refrigerant lines
- Refrigerant lines are hissing.

Routine checks of your coils, refrigerant lines and compressor can help spot a leak before it causes damage to your system and in some cases prevent a leak before it starts. If you suspect a leak, you can use refrigerant leak detection to help identify the source before it worsens.

2. Clogged Lines

Air conditioning units build drain lines into the system to drain off water from the evaporator coil. Water can accumulate from the condensation that occurs naturally by the air conditioning process. Sometimes these drain lines can become clogged or blocked, which can cause a water backup into or around your system. A backup could mean serious water damage, especially if the clog goes unchecked for a long time. This isn't just water damage to your system, but water damage to your building as well.

Signs of a clogged drain line may include:

- Water leaking from indoor unit.
- Dampness in the air
- Mold or rust on or near the unit

Inspect your drain pan and the area around your indoor unit on a monthly basis. Annual flushing of the drain may help prevent clogs before they begin and help keep your system running properly.

3. Ventilation Problems

Common ventilation problems are often found in the air ducts. Items creating blockages in your facility's ductwork will prevent your heated or cooled air from distributing properly throughout the building. Causes of blockages in ducts include loose or fallen insulation and dirt, or dirty coils and filters. Ducts can also become damaged and leak conditioned air, making the system less effective overall. It is also possible for your vents to become blocked. Blockages are often caused by a piece of furniture or equipment being placed on or in front of the vent, though it is possible for debris to get stuck in the vents and cause an obstruction as well.

Signs of duct problems may include:

- Uneven temperatures among your facility's space
- Unit running more than usual
- Lower overall indoor air quality

Before turning on your system, check your vent locations to make sure they are clear of obstructions. You can also remove the vent covers and perform preventive sight checks of your duct system to ensure it is clear of debris.

Continued on page 4

**ACCWPA
Corner**



*Integrity is the
essence of
everything
successful.*

**PEACE, LOVE
and JOY
thru out 2023!**

**Smart Words
One Kind
Word can
change
someone's
entire day!**

Inspiration

**Work
HARD
Dream
BIG
Never
GIVE UP**

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Dinner Buffet - \$45.00

RSVP: 724-687-7860 (phone, email, or fax) – **NO cancellations after February 6th, noon!**

*** Important – RSVP is a must! ***

Email: pforke@accwpa.org or fax (724) 687-7860

Company _____

Name _____

Email address _____ Cell # _____

Dinner Buffet - \$45.00

NO Cancellations after February 6th NOON. No shows will be billed.

**IF YOU ALREADY MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS, THANKS!
PLEASE PASS THIS NOTICE TO SOMEONE ELSE THAT WILL BENEFIT!**

5 HVAC Emergencies & How to Avoid them - continued

4. Electrical Problems

If your system is not running, it could be that there is an interruption in the electrical system somewhere. The first place to check is always your breaker; it is very possible your unit has blown a fuse. Contactors are also a frequent culprit for electrical problems. Sometimes the contactor may stick, keeping the unit running. Contactors can also become worn, which can prevent electrical connections from being made and the current from making its full circuit.

Signs of an electrical problem may include:

- System not turning on
- System running continuously
- Burning smell

Routine maintenance of your electrical components can help prevent electrical problems. It's important to regularly maintain your system by changing out worn parts and frayed or damaged wires.

5. Gas Leak

Of all heating problems, a gas leak can be the most dangerous. If your heating system runs on natural gas, you can be at risk for a gas leak. Leaks are usually caused by a crack or a break in the gas line. These should always be taken seriously and fixed immediately; gas leaks can and do cause explosions.

Signs of a gas leak may include:

- Smell of gas or rotting egg

Professional HVAC contractors should offer inspections that include checking your gas lines for potential hazards. Heading off a leak before it starts is the best measure of safety and success.

Preventive HVAC Maintenance

Inspect your system annually, during the off-season, if possible, to make sure it is in its best running condition. Fixing heating problems or ventilation problems when the system is not in use can enable you to make any necessary upgrades without causing an interruption in your facility's climate-control needs.

Preventive maintenance can help the system achieve maximum efficiency, and as well as help you avoid replacing your HVAC system before it's necessary.

For more information about HVAC emergency prevention and services visit Grainger's Facility Services.

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Misc. Info

Every Job is a

**SELF-
PORTRAIT**

Of the Person
who does it.
Autograph your
work
with
Excellence!

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**ACCWPA
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all notices:**

If you like to get our
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email address to:
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Not a Contractor or Associate member?

We'd love to serve you, too.

For additional information visit

www.accwpa.org

or call 724-687-7860

Email: pforker@accwpa.org

Additional reasons for membership are:

- Company membership applies to all employees of your firm.
- **NEW!! Contractors Free Associate Membership in Service RoundTable!!**
- Networking!!!
- Monthly meetings with informative presentations that benefit both the Contractor and Supplier.
- Relevant technical training and educational classes.
- 4-year Apprenticeship School with curriculum that is focused only on the HVAC industry!
- Monthly newsletters and email communications filled with industry information and updates.
- Insurance for member's company discount.
- Social Outings that everyone can participate
- And much more to come!

Join today!

ACCWPA is the Professional Alliance designed exclusively for today's HVAC/R Contractor!

2022

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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!

Membership Benefits...

Air Conditioning of Western PA

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as we have been since 1950.

Annual Membership Brings You the Following Benefits:

- Networking events
- Discounts on seminar
- Current info from local suppliers
- Legislative efforts
- Local website
- Technical training courses
- Apprenticeship program
State recognized
- Monthly newsletter
- Information of industry news
changes within the industry
- Insurance for member's company discount
- Code enforcement updates • Local lobbying
- ACCWPA Apprenticeship School
- Voice for the local contractors
- Golf Outing
- Education opportunities for your technicians
office staff
- Advocacy agenda promote contractor interest.
- Labor and HR legal advice before utilities
- Helping members to stay ahead of the curve
- 8 Monthly informative meetings



Resolutions for the New Year ... Federated Insurance

The beginning of a new year brings excitement about new resolutions to accomplish over the next twelve months. But do you have any New Year's resolutions for your business? Consider some of these ideas to help start things off on the right foot in 2023:

- **Take Steps to Help Retain Your Most Valuable Employees.** What does your business have in place to help keep your workers from being lured away by a competitor?

Consider what incentives you could offer to provide motivation to stay with your business long-term. Items to consider can include a tax-qualified retirement plan, like a SEP or SIMPLE-IRA, or a Triple Protection Plan, under which the company provides periodic bonuses to select employees.

- **Protect Against the Loss of a Key Employee.** Have you considered what might happen to your business operations if one of your valuable key employees left the company or passed away unexpectedly?

Life insurance coverage is a cost-effective solution to help provide financial support for your company. It can help to keep the business running and growing, provide funds to attract, recruit, and train a replacement, and replace lost profits. It can also provide time and flexibility for survivors to make necessary business continuation decisions if the key person is you or another owner.

- **Evaluate Succession Plans.** Do you have a business succession plan in place? If so, are the documents up to date? Buy-sell agreements and funding should be reviewed periodically to make sure they still reflect the wishes of the owners.

If you don't have a succession plan in place yet, make it a resolution to get that done this year. It's important to think about your options now, when you have time to identify your successor and plan for a smooth transition — your family and co-owners will thank you for it!

Let this year's resolutions have a positive impact on the success of your business and your family.

This article is for general information and risk prevention only and should not be considered another offer of insurance or legal, financial, tax, or other expert advice. The recommendations herein may help reduce, but are not guaranteed to eliminate, any or all losses. The information herein may be subject to, and is not a substitute for, any laws or regulations that may apply. This information is current as of its publication date and is subject to change. Some of the services referenced herein are provided by third parties wholly independent of Federated. Federated provides access to these services with the understanding that neither Federated nor its employees provide legal or other expert advice. All products and services not available in all states. Qualified counsel should be sought with questions specific to your circumstances. All rights reserved.

Upcoming Meetings!

2023

General Meetings Schedule!

February 9th

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4:30 to 10:00 pm

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**Work Hard in
Silence,
Let Success
make the
Noise!**

Make
Today
Amazing

ACCWPA

Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania



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PRODUCTS • KNOWLEDGE • SERVICE

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"Be There Fund"

(Must be an ACCWPA member to Win!)

Next General Meeting - \$30.00

ACCWPA

Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania

PROUD AFFILIATE PARTNER WITH!!

Service Roundtable Affiliate Association



AWESOME CONTRACTOR BENEFIT!



ACCWPA is the Professional Alliance designed exclusively for today's HVAC/R Contractor!

Membership Advantages:

Networking with other contractors. This source of information is invaluable in handling problems within your own company. ACCWPA members help fellow members to be successful!



ACCWPA distributes ACCWPA Newsletters monthly to members and selected non-members, so that all those in the HVAC/R industry can keep informed of issues regarding our trade, and Chapter activities. We hope the non-members will see this newsletter as an example of the quality services that ACCWPA provide.

Contributions or suggestions can be emailed to pforker@accwpa.org

ACCWPA is proud to be a Service Roundtable Affiliate Associate.



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2023 Officers and Directors



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