

- 2023 Meeting Update
- November 7<sup>th</sup> - SAFETY
- Election 2024 Officers

## 2023

### Meeting Dates

#### November 7<sup>th</sup>

(Tuesday) Note Day Change!

Board & General Mtg.

Topic:

True Cost of Safety

Speaker:

John LaFayette

Place: Carmody's

Election of 2024

Officers

#### December -

No Meetings



*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 Upcoming Events

### The True Cost of Safety – How Effective Programs Can Improve Your Bottom Line

#### John LaFayette

is the owner of One Stop Safety Consulting and One Stop Safety and Supply.

He has been practicing safety for 25 years and holds a Master of Science Degree in Safety Sciences from IUP. John also holds the designation of Certified Safety Professional. He has been in business in the Pittsburgh area since 2010 providing training, staffing and outsourced safety services for small to medium sized companies in the region with a focus on Construction and Oil and Gas. In 2016, John opened One Stop Safety and Supply, a brick-and-mortar safety supply business located in Moon Township, PA where he sells PPE, Safety Equipment, and work clothing.

#### Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

(Date Change)



4905 Grand Avenue (on Neville Island)

Pittsburgh, Pa 15225 - 412-458-1813

Upstairs meeting room.

**REGISTRATION FLYER ATTACHED!**

**Come join us for our last  
2023 General Meeting!**

**Coming soon:  
2024 General Meeting Topics!**

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# **The True Cost of Safety – How Effective Programs Can Improve Your Bottom Line**

## **John LaFayette**

is the owner of One Stop Safety Consulting and One Stop Safety and Supply.

He has been practicing safety for 25 years and holds a Master of Science Degree in Safety Sciences from IUP. John also holds the designation of Certified Safety Professional. He has been in business in the Pittsburgh area since 2010 providing training, staffing and outsourced safety services for small to medium sized companies in the region with a focus on Construction and Oil and Gas. In 2016, John opened One Stop Safety and Supply, a brick-and-mortar safety supply business located in Moon Township, PA where he sells PPE, Safety Equipment, and work clothing.

(date change) **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** (date change)



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 - \$50.00**

**RSVP: 724-687-7860 (phone, email, or fax) – NO cancellations after Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, noon!**

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**\* Important – RSVP is a must! \***

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

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner Buffet - \$50.00**

**NO Cancellations after Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - NOON. No shows will be Invoiced.**

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



**Not a Contractor or Associate member?  
We'd love to serve you, too.**

For additional information visit

[www.accwpa.org](http://www.accwpa.org)

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**Additional reasons for membership are:**

- Company membership applies to all employees of your firm.
- **NEW!! Contractors Free Associate Membership in Service RoundTable!!**
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- 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!



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**2023**

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**Happy Thanksgiving  
November 23<sup>rd</sup>!!!**

## There are a lot of good reasons to use a Humidifier

– Grainger

When the air's too dry, it can make people uncomfortable, with itchy eyes, cracked lips, sore throats and other symptoms.

More worryingly, dry air can help diseases spread. Scientists believe that dry air allows flu, cold, COVID-19 and other airborne viruses to remain active and infectious longer while simultaneously diminishing the body's ability to fight off infections.

And it's not just your health that's at risk. Overly dry air can have consequences for your work and your equipment. In a wood shop, for example, a veneer attached to a plywood or medium-density fiberboard substrate can quickly warp or crack when the humidity drops. And in workplaces with sensitive electronic equipment, dry air can create the conditions for static electricity discharges that damage or destroy devices.

### What's the Best Workplace Humidity Level?

To keep workplace air comfortable and healthy, the American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends targeting a relative humidity (RH) level between 30 and 60 percent. In this range, the growth of bacteria, viruses and other organisms is minimized, as is the speed at which chemical interactions occur.

To prevent static electricity from interfering with sensitive electronics, NASA specifies RH of between 30 and 70 percent. An inexpensive digital hygrometer can quickly tell you where things stand in your building.

### What to Do Before Humidifying

If low humidity is a problem in your workplace, consider ensuring that the building envelope is protected with insulation, sealants and weatherstripping. Preventing colder, drier air from mixing with warmer indoor air will help keep indoor humidity levels stable. Weatherproofing will also reduce the potential for condensation to form where humidified indoor air meets a cold exterior wall, helping to prevent mold and mildew.

### How Do Humidifiers Work?

All humidifiers do the same basic job — adding water vapor to the air. But they don't all do it the same way. There are three basic technologies that humidifiers can use:

- Evaporative humidifiers use a fan to force dry air over a damp wick filter or pad, releasing its moisture into the air.
- Steam humidifiers heat up water until it boils, creating vapor that the dry air absorbs.

Ultrasonic humidifiers use an extremely high frequency vibration to agitate water in an evaporation chamber, creating tiny droplets that are quickly absorbed into the dry air.

### Warm-Mist vs. Cool-Mist Humidifiers

These humidification technologies can also be divided into warm-mist or cool-mist categories:

- Steam humidifiers are called warm-mist humidifiers because they use a heating element to convert water to warm vapor. The boiling water helps eliminate mold, and there's no wick or pad to change, which means that warm-mist humidifiers simplify routine cleaning and maintenance.
- Evaporative units can be called cool-mist humidifiers because they add moisture to the air without heating the water. Since they have no heating element, cool-mist portable humidifiers are preferred for safety around pets and children. Many people also prefer cool mist when humidification is necessary in the warmer months of the year.
- Ultrasonic humidifiers also use a cool-mist technology, but some units can deliver warm mist as well.

### Portable Humidifiers for Flexibility

Portable humidifiers are easy to set up and move from place to place to keep people comfortable. And when conditions change, they're easy to pack away.

If you're humidifying a single room or a small space, just about any portable humidifier can do the job. But don't write off portable units for whole-building humidification—the largest, most powerful portable units can handle several thousand square feet. There are three basic types of portable humidifiers:

- Portable steam humidifiers are very quiet, because the water vapor escapes without the aid of a fan. Because they use a heating element to boil water, they tend to consume slightly more energy than comparable evaporative humidifiers. They can only humidify smaller spaces of around 700 or 800 square feet.

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*Integrity is the  
essence of  
everything  
successful.*

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and JOY  
thru out 2023!**

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

**Inspiration**



Continued on Next Page.

- Ultrasonic humidifiers are also quiet, because the ultrasonic vibration is above the threshold of human hearing. Some ultrasonic humidifiers are also designed to diffuse essential oils, adding a comforting scent to the room. Ultrasonic humidification is a cool-mist technology, but some units also have the capability to deliver warm mist when desired. (These units heat the water but do not boil it.) They can only humidify smaller spaces, typically 700 square feet or less.
- Evaporative humidifiers are the most powerful portable units, and some are capable of humidifying very large spaces, up to 4,000 square feet. They have humidistats — like thermostats but for humidity — so they'll turn themselves off before the air gets too humid. Since they're fan driven, they can be loud. They deliver cool mist, which means they also require regular cleaning and disinfecting, and their pads need to be replaced periodically.

Here are some features to consider as you choose a portable humidifier:

- Housing style and size: Console, pedestal and tower-style humidifiers offer high output and large reservoirs, but they take up floor space. Smaller tabletop humidifiers are easily moved and stored, but they require more frequent refills and may add less moisture to the air.
- Daily humidification range: This is a measure of the humidifier's evaporative rate. A large evaporative humidifier console can add 14 gallons of water vapor to the air every day, while a small ultrasonic tabletop unit might only be able to evaporate one gallon of water per day.
- Coverage area: This is the square footage in which the unit can maintain an acceptable humidity level. A small tabletop unit can only humidify the room it's in, while a large console can keep several rooms or a very large space humidified.
- Reservoir size: The amount of water in a portable humidifier's reservoir determines how long it can run between refills. Some humidifiers can hold a full day's evaporative capacity, but compact units may require regular topping off throughout the day.
- Reservoir type: Pour-in reservoirs are fixed to the body of the humidifier, requiring refill from a pitcher. Bottle-type reservoirs can be detached from the unit and carried to the sink.
- Maximum runtime: This is the length of time that the humidifier can run at its lowest speed before draining the reservoir. It gives you an idea of how often you'll need to refill the reservoir during typical use.

#### Duct-Mount Humidifiers for Whole Buildings

Duct-mount humidifiers install directly into your HVAC ductwork, adding moisture to the air as it circulates through the system. That's why they're sometimes called whole-building humidifiers or whole-house humidifiers.

Duct-mounted units tap into your water line and refill themselves automatically. Installation can be significant, since they need to be placed inside ductwork and connected to water, power and a drain.

Whole-building humidifiers come in three basic types:

- Bypass humidifiers tap into the stream of heated air coming from the furnace and pass it over a wetted pad, using evaporation to add humidified air to the return. These humidifiers are simple, with no moving parts, but they require access to both the return duct and supply plenum, and they only operate when the furnace is on.
  - Fan humidifiers also use evaporation to increase humidity, but they don't rely on the heated air from the furnace. Instead, they have a built-in fan that forces air over the wick or pad, allowing installation at any convenient spot on the furnace's supply or return plenum. They add more moisture to the air than bypass humidifiers, and they can run when the furnace is off, as long as the system's blower fan is on.
  - Duct-mount steam humidifiers use electrodes to boil water that humidifies the air. They don't use wicks or pads that require regular replacement, and they can run when the furnace is off. They tend to be more expensive than other duct-mount options.
- When considering a duct-mount humidifier, look at your building's plenum to make sure it can accommodate an opening of the size that the unit requires. Continued on Next Page.

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as we have been since 1950.

#### Annual Membership Brings You the Following Benefits:

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changes within the industry
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- 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



### How Often Should Static Pressure Be Checked?

Matt Akins is the Manager of HVACR Technical Education at ACCA.

**Q: How Often Should Static Pressure Be Checked?** A: Static pressure should be checked on every single call so if you're in the habit of drilling in the static pressure ports where they belong and checking static pressure, this is going to save the technicians a lot of time when doing maintenance calls or going back on service calls to be able to easily check that static pressure and being able to check the static pressure and also document in the customer's file was also one way to help you diagnose any potential issues down the road if you see the static pressure rising or having other issues, So again, you need to make sure that you check it on every single call it's no different than going to the doctor and with them having or have your blood pressure checked so consider it like the blood pressure of the system and again, please check it on every single call.

Continued from previous page

### There are a lot of good reasons for using a humidifier at work.

When considering a duct-mount humidifier, look at your building's plenum to make sure it can accommodate an opening of the size that the unit requires.

#### Don't Neglect Cleaning

Whichever humidifier you choose, you should have a plan for cleaning and disinfecting it. The EPA recommends cleaning portable humidifiers every three days to prevent mold and mildew from colonizing the reservoir, which can cause hypersensitivity pneumonitis, also known as "humidifier lung," a chronic form of pneumonia. Using distilled water in your portable humidifier can also slow mold growth by depriving the mold of minerals. You can also add an algae and bacteria inhibitor to the reservoir when you refill it. For duct-mount humidifiers, an in-line water filter can remove minerals upstream of the unit.

*The information contained in this article is intended for general information purposes only and is based on information available as of the initial date of publication. No representation is made that the information or references are complete or remain current. This article is not a substitute for review of current applicable government regulations, industry standards, or other standards specific to your business and/or activities and should not be construed as legal advice or opinion. Readers with specific questions should refer to the applicable standards or consult with an attorney.*

## Upcoming Meetings!

### 2023

#### General Meetings Schedule!

### November 7<sup>th</sup>

(Tuesday) Note Day Change!  
Board & General Mtg.  
Topic: True Cost of Safety  
Speaker: John LaFayette  
Place: Carmody's

#### Elections for 2024 Officers

December -  
No Meetings



Work Hard in  
Silence,  
Let Success  
make the  
Noise!

Make  
Today  
Amazing



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## "Be There Fund"

*(Must be an ACCWPA member to Win!)*

**Next General Meeting - \$30.00**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING! NOV. 23<sup>rd</sup>!**



Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania 126 Resolution Drive • Mars, PA 16046-3719

## **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](mailto:pforker@accwpa.org)

**ACCWPA is proud to be a Service Roundtable Affiliate Associate.**



### **ACCWPA Upcoming Events**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday)

(Tuesday) Note Day Change!  
Board & General Mtg.

**Topic:**

True Cost of Safety

**Speaker:**

John LaFayette

**Place:** Carmody's

**Election of 2024 Officers**

**December** – No Meetings



Air Conditioning Contractors Western Pennsylvania



### **2023 Officers and Directors**



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