



Strength and Unity

2026  PHCC Legislative Conference

*In partnership with
American Supply Association*



May 5-6, 2026

YOTEL | Capitol Hill | Washington, D.C.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Welcome Message

Dear PHCC and ASA Members:

Welcome to Washington, D.C., for the 2026 Legislative Conference! This year, contractors and distributors are unifying our efforts under one voice, making this the premier national advocacy event in the plumbing-heating-cooling and HVAC industry. Our government affairs program continues to thrive as legislators, regulators and industry stakeholders look more to PHCC and ASA as critical resources for guidance in the policymaking process. For us, Legislative Day is Every Day!

Our message to the new Congress and administration: plumbing and HVAC contractors and our partners in the plumbing-heating-cooling-piping and industrial pipe valve fitting industry protect the health and safety of the American people:

- We provide clean water and indoor air to ensure the well-being of American homeowners and businesses.
- We depend on a regulatory scheme that ensures we can do our job effectively providing these essential services, so Americans stay healthy, safe and comfortable.
- We must continue to work toward a new narrative about careers in manufacturing and the building trades: it is not an alternative to college but a viable option with long-term career prospects and financial security, and we need policies to ensure every avenue is available for young people to become skilled in their trade.
- We need responsible energy policies that provide Americans with choices for how they power their homes.

While our government affairs teams work closely together to effectively reinforce this message on Capitol Hill every day, your federal representatives need to hear first-hand from real-life industry professionals like you.

Our schedule for the next two days will be educational and substantive. We welcome keynote speaker Brent Buchanan to offer a candid political analysis and long-term outlook to help PHCC and ASA members understand the political environment in which we find ourselves. We are offering panel discussions with top industry lobbyists to help you learn more about why modernization of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) is critical to the success of contractors, wholesale distributors and manufacturers, policy trends in workforce development, and how to be the best advocate for your industry and your customers. And most importantly, we are offering the opportunity to revel in the company of our valued friends in the supply chain.

If you need anything during your stay in Washington, please find us or any staff member from PHCC or ASA to make sure you get the most value out of this unique experience. We are forever grateful for the time and energy you invest into making our advocacy efforts first in class.

Thank you for being part of the PHCC and ASA families.



Jason Pritchard
President, PHCC – National
Association
PRICOR Technologies
SeaTac, Washington



Kip Miller
President, American Supply
Association
Eastern Industrial Supplies
Greenville, South Carolina

What To Know During Your Stay

Conference Hotel

YOTEL Washington DC
415 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 638-1616



YOTEL
WASHINGTON DC

Public Transportation

- **Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA), Metro Station** located at entrances to B and C Terminals on the main level (take Yellow Line train toward Mt. Vernon Square and disembark at Gallery Place, transfer to Red Line train toward Glenmont and disembark at Union Station).
- **Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD), Metro Station** located adjacent to Parking Garage 1 via underground tunnel (take Silver Line train toward Downtown Largo and disembark at Metro Center, transfer to Red Line train toward Glenmont and disembark at Union Station).
- **Thurgood Marshall Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI)**, southbound MARC Penn Line/Amtrak Northeast Corridor train runs directly to Union Station; free bus service from terminal to train station runs every 10 minutes.
- **Amtrak Northeast Corridor to Union Station Washington, D.C. (WAS).**

Rideshare and taxi service are available at the Main Hall entrance of Union Station and designated entrances at DCA, IAD, and BWI.

Things To Do in D.C.

YOTEL employees in the main lobby will be happy to help you discover dining and tourism options during your stay and also assist with transportation arrangements. There are many dining options for any budget within walking distance or a short car ride. YOTEL employees can.

Legislative Meetings



PHCC and ASA are partnering with Advocacy Associates to plan your legislative meetings. Advocacy Associates is an award-winning service that provides planning and logistics for Congressional fly-ins such as the PHCC Legislative Conference.



Your meetings are scheduled based on your state and Congressional district. You can access your meeting schedule and talking points via mobile device by downloading the Advocacy Day app on your Android/Google Play or Apple device. Scan the applicable QR code on the left for a free download

and use the login and password information assigned to you by Advocacy Associates. You should be able to locate this in your email inbox by searching for the sender "Advocacy Day" or go to phcc.constituentvoice.net to reset your password.

NOTE: If you already have the Advocacy Day app downloaded from previous conferences, be sure it is updated and is running the latest version.

Need Special Assistance?

- **PHCC MEMBERS:** Text or call Mark Valentini, PHCC Vice President of Legislative Affairs at (703) 629-8369 or email valentini@naphcc.org. Be sure to provide your name and PHCC state chapter.
- **ASA MEMBERS:** Text or call Steve Rossi, ASA Vice President of Advocacy at (312) 493-8603 or email srossi@asa.net.
- **ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES:** For assistance with your meeting schedule on May 6 (Running late? General confusion?) use the Advocacy Day app for immediate assistance – live help will be immediately available the day of your meetings in addition to instant updates, as they occur.

Gallery Passes

Gallery passes are only available via House and Senate offices. To obtain a gallery pass, ask the front desk assistant in any legislative office for a gallery pass before or after your meeting. This is a good way to spend time between meetings and see the legislative chambers.

Schedule of Events Day 1

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Registration

Hub Foyer

9:00 am – 9:50 am

PHCC Government Relations Committee Meeting *(by Invitation only)*

Hub 1

The PHCC Government Relations Committee meets monthly to review the federal and state policy landscape. This in-person meeting is mandatory for GR committee members, but you are welcome to participate as an audience member and meet the PHCC members that are active in driving our policy agenda. Please contact Mark Valentini at valentini@naphcc.org if you are interested in participating, space may be limited.

10:00 am – 10:50 am

First Timers Briefing and Advocacy Best Practices

Grand Hub Center

First time in D.C.? Twentieth? It doesn't matter, since VP of Regulatory Affairs, Chuck White and VP of Legislative Affairs, Mark Valentini will provide a personal briefing on advocacy alongside professional lobbyists from industry partners who will share their experiences and provide guidance.

11:00 am – 11:50 pm

Workforce Policy Trends

Grand Hub Center

Industry lobbyists involved with workforce development will participate in a panel discussion to discuss workforce policy trends in Congress and bring conference attendees up-to-speed on the issues impacting registered apprenticeship, federal funding, and contractors' ability to hire and retain top talent in the building trades.

12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Keynote Speaker Brent Buchanan

Grand Hub Center



Brent Buchanan is President & Founder of Cygnal, an international polling firm. He will provide a 2026 midterm election outlook based on his unique polling approach that examines not only the “what” but the “why” behind voter behavior, an approach which has proven highly accurate in his predictions. Buchanan helped create Cygnal’s proprietary Emotive Analysis which quantitatively analyzes voter emotions, allowing campaigns to bypass the logical brain and tap directly into the heart of what voters are feeling, not just thinking. He presents around the world on how to determine and then speak to voters’ and citizens’ values and internal drivers that drive behavior and choice.

2:00 pm – 2:10 pm

BREAK

Grand Hub Center and Hub Foyer

2:10 pm – 3:00 pm

The Chuck and Mark Show Featuring The Rossi Report

Grand Hub Center



PHCC’s own **Chuck White** and **Mark Valentini** will partner with ASA’s Vice President of Advocacy, **Steve Rossi** to provide a detailed briefing on legislative meeting protocols, an in-depth look at our policy agenda, and answers to any of your questions.



3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Washington Insider Panel: EPCA Reform, Energy Policy and Market Impact

Grand Hub Center

Chuck White and **Steve Rossi** will moderate a panel with elite lobbyists from water heating and HVAC manufacturers, wholesale distribution and energy companies to discuss the outlook of EPCA modernization and regulatory trends having a direct impact on the plumbing-heating-cooling-piping (PHCP) market.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

PHCC/ASA Joint Advocacy Reception

Capitol Visitors Center, Room HVC-201

After an informative day of educational content, wind down with refreshments and light fare with your industry colleagues at a reception on Capitol Hill co-hosted by PHCC and ASA. Several Members of Congress have been invited to join us for intimate conversations to learn more about our industry.

Schedule of Events **Day 2**

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

7:00 am – 9:00 am

Registration

Hub Foyer

7:00 am – 8:45 am

Breakfast and Planning Session

Grand Hub Center

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We will use this time for you to collaborate with attendees from your states over breakfast to review your meeting plan and talking points, and to get to know each other. PHCC and ASA staff will be available to provide guidance as you plan your day. Attendees will be assigned to tables by state.

9:00 am

Group Photo in Front of U.S. Capitol

East Front, U.S. Capitol (side of Capitol facing the U.S. Supreme Court)

We will gather in front of the East Front of the U.S. Capitol for a group photo before breaking for our meetings. NOTE: In the case of rain, we will assemble indoors at the Russell Rotunda in the Russell Senate Office Building, southwest entrance located on Constitution Avenue NE.

PHCC and ASA staff will be positioned beginning in the YOTEL lobby/main entrance and stationed at key points along the route from the hotel to the West Front as you walk to the photo location. After the photoshoot, we will break to head to our meetings: pedestrian traffic entering the House and Senate office buildings can be unpredictable in the same way security lines at the airport can be unpredictable, so act as if you need to make your flight!

Transportation will not be provided. If you require special assistance, please find a staff member from PHCC or ASA immediately so that we can assist you.



Legislative Meetings

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Capitol Hill Office Buildings

PHCC will make all arrangements for you and your state delegates to meet with your Members of Congress. You will have access to your meeting schedules via the Advocacy Day app. We will discuss the following issues:

- **Workforce Development and Funding** – As we enter appropriations season, we must ensure continued funding for programs that provide pathways to careers in plumbing and HVAC, including the Department of Labor’s registered apprenticeship program, Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), and Perkins Career and Technical Education (Perkins CTE). We must also support workforce policies that continue to ensure apprenticeship programs produce journey workers with the holistic skill sets needed to succeed in construction trades.
- **Consumer Impact on Electrification** – As the war against gas appliances rages on at the state level, plumbing and HVAC contractors and the wholesale distributors with whom they work know better than anyone else the costs and realities of electrification policies on consumers, such as the ability to keep homes warm and water hot during the winter months. Lawmakers need to hear from you on the importance of consumer choice and a diverse product offering to suit the needs of every home and workplace.
- **Responsible Energy Policy** – The growing patchwork of energy efficiency regulations across the country makes it more urgent than ever to reform the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Congress must pass legislation that reinforces EPCA’s federal preemption provisions to prevent state and local governments from imposing stringent policies that prohibit the use of gas appliances or appliance standards that exceed federal standards. EPCA reform should also extend the look-back period used by the Department of Energy after they implement an appliance standard so there is sufficient time to determine whether their policies are truly effective.

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Closing Reception

YOTEL Rooftop Bar and Swimming Pool

Sponsored by: SCORPION

After a long day of meetings, settle down with your industry colleagues and share your experience over hors d'oeuvres and libations. *NOTE: In case of rain, we will assemble in one of the Hub conference rooms on the ground level of the hotel.*

Speaker Biographies:

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Brent Buchanan

Founder and CEO

Cygnal

PHCC is excited to announce **Brent Buchanan** as the keynote speaker for the 2026 Legislative Conference. Brent is Founder & CEO of Cygnal, a top political polling and voter insights firm in Washington, D.C., and author of the bestseller *America's Emotional Divide* in Amazon's elections category. He'll provide the latest political and advocacy insights as well as critical context for a range of policy issues that attendees will discuss during your meetings with legislators.

Session Moderators:



Steve Rossi

Vice President of Advocacy

American Supply Association

Stephen draws on more than twenty years of diverse experience in public policy and strategic communications, along with the distinction of being an international award-winning political consultant. He currently leads the American Supply Association's national advocacy team on behalf of the PHCP and industrial and mechanical PVF industries. Previously, he worked on Capitol Hill as Projects Director for former U.S. Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald (IL), where he formulated legislative funding strategy and serving as the senator's point person on appropriations, grants, state-specific legislation, business/labor relations, along with engagement in foreign affairs. He served

as the Communications Director for the Illinois Lottery, handling high-profile media issues, while managing a team responsible for statewide marketing and legislative affairs during a transformative period in the Lottery's growth.

In 2007, Steve was the founder and principal of an internationally recognized advisory firm focused on communications, strategy, and public policy. The practice has provided expert advice to corporate, non-for-profit, and political clients. Over the course of his career, he has consulted for (or managed) almost 100 campaigns at the federal, state, and local levels.



Mark Valentini

Vice President, Legislative Affairs

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association

A veteran government relations professional with more than 20 years of experience in the United States Senate, and with several national trade associations, Mark applies his expertise in infrastructure policy, workforce and training initiatives, tax and insurance matters, and small business advocacy to lobby Congress on behalf of all PHCC members.



Chuck White

Vice President, Regulatory Affairs

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association

Chuck relies on over four decades of experience as a third-generation tradesman and a master plumbing, mechanical and electrical contractor to inform federal regulatory agencies on the impacts of their policies on the plumbing and HVAC industry. He chaired the North American Technician Excellence (NATE) Technical Committee and serves on the technical committees for the National Standard Plumbing Code; the International Code Council (ICC) International Plumbing Code; the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Uniform Plumbing Code; the IAPMO Uniform Mechanical Code; and the IAPMO WE Stand (Water Efficiency and Standard). Previously, Chuck was a member of the Department of Energy's Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ASRAC). He has been an apprentice instructor for more than 35 years.

Panel 1: First Timers Briefing and Lobbying Best Practices



Sean Robertson

Vice President of Membership, Advocacy and Events
Air Conditioning Contractors of America

Sean oversees all aspects of ACCA's membership programs, government affairs, and advocacy. He has two decades of experience developing advocacy and member engagement programs for prominent associations like Alzheimer's Association and Land Trust Alliance. He is particularly passionate about promoting incentives for quality installation of HVAC systems, which provides a more cost-effective pathway to energy efficiency, while bringing new revenue opportunities for quality contractors.



Palmer Schoening, M.P.P.

Chairman, Family Business Coalition
President, Schoening Strategies LLC

Palmer is an accomplished government affairs and political communications professional with experience representing the interests of business and association clients in a wide variety of industries before the U.S. Congress. Mr. Schoening serves as Chairman of the Family Business Coalition (FBC), a group of over 150 organizations dedicated to lowering taxes on America's family-owned and operated businesses. His firm Schoening Strategies provides on the ground representation for several private companies and associations in Washington, D.C.



Christopher Lindsay

Vice President, Government Relations
International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical
Officials (IAPMO)

Christopher actively works on legislative and regulatory issues impacting the water sanitation and construction industry. His experience on key development issues, such as water and energy, includes serving in the White House, as well as working for corporate and family foundations. An advocate for the smart and sustainable advancement of clean water and sanitation, Christopher has assisted governments in North America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa to improve governance, develop human capital, and implement the mechanisms necessary to build supply chain capacity.

Panel 2: Workforce Policy Priorities for the Building Trades



Craig Brightup
Chief Executive Officer
The Brightup Group LLC

Craig has worked with over 20 organizations since 2009, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and is also a founding member of E Street Partners, a bipartisan consortium providing public policy services to corporations, associations, and coalitions. He's worked with over 20 organizations since 2009, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and is also a founding member of E Street Partners, a bipartisan consortium providing public policy services to corporations, associations, and coalitions. Previously, Craig was Vice President of Government Relations for the National Roofing Contractors Association, opening its Capitol Hill office in 1990, and before that headed congressional relations for the Federal Trade Commission by appointment of President Ronald Reagan. In 2000, he was named to *Fortune Small Business* magazine's POWER 30 list of "influential insiders" in our Nation's Capital, and in 2020 was elected President of the Washington Industrial Roundtable.



Brandon Hudson
Director of Workforce Development
SkillsUSA

Brandon is responsible for SkillsUSA's experiential workforce development initiatives and oversees 115 different national competitions that serve as the premier showcase of America's most highly skilled career and technical education students and one of the largest hands-on workforce development events in the world. Prior to his arrival at SkillsUSA, Brandon served as the Senior Director of Workforce and Economic Development with the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). At THEC, Brandon assisted with the administration of the Governor's Investment in Vocational Education (GIVE) grants and the Supporting Postsecondary Access in Rural Communities (SPARC) grants and worked to align postsecondary Career and Technical Education with workforce needs by facilitating partnerships and sharing best practices across the State of Tennessee. Prior to THEC, Brandon was the Vice President at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Shelbyville and was the Coordinator of Special Projects at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Nashville.



Jimmy Koch

Government Relations Manager
Association for Career and Technical Education

Jimmy is the government relations manager for the Association for Career and Technical Education. Jimmy is ACTE's primary lobbyist, working alongside the public policy team to advocate for CTE priorities on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. Prior to joining ACTE, Jimmy was an education policy specialist for Bose Public Affairs Group and spent time on Capitol Hill in the offices of Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. John Sarbanes.



James Young

Senior Director of Congressional Relations for Labor, HR
and Safety
Associated General Contractors (AGC)

Jim works directly with members of the U.S. Congress, AGC members and press on a multitude of issues that directly affect the construction industry. Previously, Mr. Young worked for Direct Impact, a grassroots firm in Washington and Democracy Data and Communications which provides a comprehensive array of grassroots and political action solutions. Mr. Young began his career on Capitol Hill working for Congressman Benjamin Gilman (NY).

**Washington Insider Panel: Energy Policy and EPCA
Modernization**



Alex Ayers

Vice President of Government Affairs
Heating, Air-conditioning, Refrigeration Distributors
International (HARDI)

Alex is HARDI's lead lobbyist and regulatory expert, with over a decade of experience in Washington, D.C. A former Iowa caucus delegate, he built early roots in grassroots politics. He has lobbied, published, and testified on taxes, energy, environment, agriculture, and economics. His work has been cited by the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and the Tax Foundation.



Jim Collura

Vice President and Director of Government Affairs
National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI)

NEFI is a trade association that represents wholesale and retail distributors of delivered heating fuels including home heating oil and propane. Jim spearheads NEFI's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C., and is responsible for developing coalitions and partnerships with allied organizations, which is pivotal for success in today's political environment. Before coming to NEFI in 2005, Jim worked for a U.S. Senator from Hampshire and a prominent faith-based organization. He holds a bachelor's degree in politics from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire and has completed graduate coursework in Congressional Studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Jim originally hails from Massachusetts and currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia.



Allison Ealey

Managing Director, Governmental Affairs & Public Policy
American Gas Association (AGA)

Allison leads federal legislative efforts on issues such as end use, climate policy, energy efficiency, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, and other key priorities for natural gas utilities. Allison works to maintain AGA's role as the leading natural gas authority in Washington, D.C. and serves as a leading voice on issues related to natural gas end use and natural gas distribution systems in a clean energy landscape.



Robert Wolfer

Manager, Government Relations
Bradford White Corporation

Bob has been with Bradford White Corporation for more than five years. In this capacity he has daily interactions with policymakers and industry leaders to discuss important issues about the water heater and HVAC industries, and advocate for positive outcomes. Before joining Bradford White, Bob worked in several capacities for the Michigan Legislature focusing on campaign strategy, policy development, and constituent services.

Breakfast and Planning Session

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Welcome by Patrick Cunningham

National Account Executive
Federated Insurance

Since 1998, Pat has spent his entire career working in the marketing areas of Federated Insurance where he was a successful Marketing Representative, Account Executive ARMS, District Marketing Manager, and Senior Marketing Representative. Pat earned the trust of hundreds of business owners in the areas of safety, risk, and business management by focusing on value, service, and relationships. Pat was awarded membership into Federated's Chairman's Council, Big Hitter Club, Monthly Leadership Council, and Life and Disability Income Contest winner. He also participated in various company Focus Meetings and workshops, "Street-Talk" seminars, Risk Management Academy seminars, and pilot programs. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, and an alum of the University of Central Missouri with a bachelor's in business management, Patrick and his wife are the proud parents of three daughters and two grandchildren.

Closing Reception

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Kirby Oscar

Senior Vice President of Partnerships and Corporate
Development
Scorpion

Kirby leads Scorpion's mergers and acquisitions and strategic relationship initiatives. In this role, he identifies and evaluates marketing services companies that complement Scorpion's capabilities and support continued growth.

Kirby works closely with industry collaborators to expand Scorpion's products and services, with a focus on helping contractors grow their businesses and better connect with customers. He brings particular expertise in the skilled trades, supporting Scorpion's work across the plumbing, HVAC, and home services industries.



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