



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

# SOW WESTER



## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2-3 Message from the President
- 3 Stay Connected
- 4-5 Student Events
- 6 Research & Promotions
- 6 Special Events
- 7 BOG Meeting Notes
- 8 Legislative Updates
- 9 Historian's Update
- 10 YEA Events
- 10 Honors & Awards
- 11-12 Chapter Member Directory
- 12 Did You Know?
- 13 COK Chapter Calendar

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- COK Chapter Meeting**  
April 1, 2025  
@Chicken N Pickle | OKC  
11:30am to 1:00pm  
[Click here to register.](#)
- BOG Meeting**  
April 15, 2025  
@Chicken N Pickle | OKC  
11:30am to 1:00pm
- ASHRAE CRC**  
April 23-25, 2025  
@Little Rock, AR



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Will Thompson*

Happy April, All!

What happens in April? Like they say, April showers, bring May flowers? While true, not the correct answer. April is ASHRAE CRC month! It is being hosted in Little Rock, AR. Registration is officially open, and we're excited to welcome members from across the region to Little Rock this April. This year's CRC will feature valuable technical sessions, business meetings, networking opportunities, and memorable social events designed to connect and inspire our ASHRAE community. Spots are filling quickly – secure your registration today and make plans to join us in Little Rock!



President Will Thompson

Other than the capitol of Arkansas, below are some fun facts about Little Rock, AR.

1. Little Rock has developed into a major microbrew player, and is now one of the South's leading beer destinations. Popular hotspots include Blue Canoe Brewing, Diamond Bear Brewing, Rebel Kettle Brewing, and Stone's Throw Brewing.

2. Every city needs a heart, that place where everyone gathers for a great meal, some live music or a little bit of shopping. The Little Rock River Market district offers all that and more, including a farmers market, artisan boutiques, an amphitheater and a fabulous park situated on the banks of the Arkansas River.

3. Looking for a nice house? Little Rock has more than 50 individual neighborhoods, with names like Broadmoor, Brodie Creek, East End, MacArthur Park, Quapaw Quarter and Woodlands Edge. The median home price in the city is a reasonable \$153,500.

4. Students here have access to a number of top-notch higher education institutions, including the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Arkansas Baptist College, Philander Smith College, and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

5. For air travelers, the Clinton Nation Airport in Little Rock is the largest commercial airport in Arkansas, with more than 100 flights each day and nonstop jet service to 18 cities.

6. Paintings by Van Gogh, O'Keeffe and Rembrandt have a home in Little Rock's Arkansas Art Center, a popular interactive museum. The Art Center features an ever-changing collection, an art school, children's museum and roving art mobile.



Scan to Register for CRC



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Will Thompson*

7. The medical industry is in good shape, led by a 356-bed Arkansas Children's Hospital that has more than 500 physicians and 4,500 staffers. Arkansas Children's has a Level I trauma center and serves children from birth to age 21. Also in Little Rock are several other well-established hospitals.

8. Most large cities in the U.S. have one or two sister cities they befriend in the world, but Little Rock has six. Their sister city correspondences are in Belgium, China, Italy, Mexico, South Korea and Taiwan.

Lastly, Congratulations to our 2026-2027 Central OK ASHRAE Board of Governor's:

President Elect - Michael Akins

Secretary - Josh Weins

Treasurer - Stephanie Thomas

Vice President - Will Thompson

Board of Governor's - Aaron Campbell, Joe Sanders, Michael Halcomb, and Dusty Stoabs

Kale Harper will be the Central OK ASHRAE Chapter president for the 2026-2027 year.

Until next month!



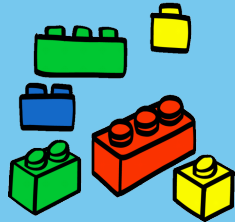
## *Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life*

The theme for the ASHRAE 2025-26 Society Year is "Healthy Buildings: Designing For Life." This theme emphasizes the critical role of indoor environmental quality (IEQ) in creating healthier and more resilient communities, focusing on factors such as air quality, thermal comfort, and access to safe water.

## Click the Icons Below to Stay Connected

**L**i**K**E, **S**U**S**c**R**i**B**E, **A**N**D** **F**o**L**L**O**W





## STUDENT EVENTS K-I2

*Payton Parker*



The Student Activities Committee recently hosted another successful STEM event for 5th and 6th grade students at the Melrose Recreation Center! Volunteers Payton Parker, Stephanie Thomas, and Michael Halcomb led the afternoon's activities, bringing ASHRAE-donated materials and personalized support to each student.

This event was a great success, with students exploring creative outlets and many proudly completing their LEGO kit builds!

**We are seeking YEA volunteers to join our upcoming "panel" and share their experiences with local seniors.** If you're passionate about our industry, we'd love to have you participate!



Melrose Recreation Event



Students with Lego Kit Builds

### Next Gen HVAC Panel & LEGOs @ Memorial Park

- Tuesday, April 7th
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Reach out to [payton@critfac.com](mailto:payton@critfac.com) for the calendar invite.



## STUDENT EVENTS HIGHER ED



Michael Akins



Several members of the OSU ASHRAE Chapter attended AHR and the ASHRAE Winter Conference this year. While in attendance, Mohammadreza Azaddel, a student at OSU, presented a paper co-authored by himself and Dr. Christian K. Bach titled, "Influence of Tube Circuit Design on Residential Heat Pump Heat Exchangers Using R454C."

When asked to summarize his findings, Mr. Azaddel writes, "Fin-tube heat exchangers are central to refrigeration performance, and transitioning to low-GWP refrigerants like R454C introduces new design challenges due to differing pressure levels and increased refrigerant glide. This study evaluates five circuit configurations, including splitter and non-splitter designs, under fixed outlet conditions and varying air-inlet velocities. Results show that while the baseline design achieves the highest cooling capacity, the end-circuit split configuration delivers comparable performance with only a 3-5% reduction in capacity and a significantly lower pressure drop. Overall, tube circuitry strongly affects system performance, with the end-circuit split offering the best balance and suggesting that fewer inlets may further optimize splitter-based designs."

In addition to student participation, Mr. Azaddel stated that "Dr. Christian K. Bach served as the chair of ASHRAE Technical Committee (TC) 8.4 and organized the committee meeting in Las Vegas. Dr. Haotian Liu served as the chair of TC 8.3 and was also the technical track chair for Refrigeration & Refrigerants at the conference."

If you would like to learn more about this important research, please contact [mreza.azaddel@okstate.edu](mailto:mreza.azaddel@okstate.edu).



Mohammadreza Azaddel Presents Findings



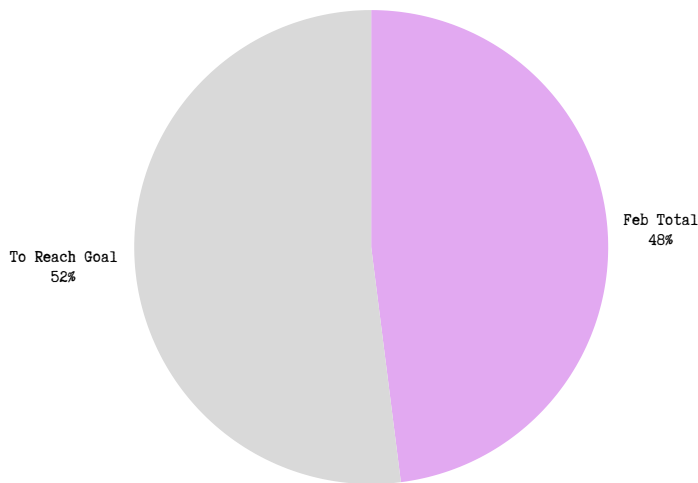
Mohammadreza Azaddel, Dr. Christian Bach, Dr. Jeffrey Spitler, and Dr. Haotian Liu at ASHRAE Conference

# RESEARCH AND PROMOTIONS

*Matthew Akins*

We have a very successful year going. We have contributed 48% of our target contributions to Research Promotion! We would like to thank all of our current and previous donors for their generosity towards this cause.

We encourage our ASHRAE members to donate a gift to our chapter's RP fund. If you would like to make a donation you can visit the ASHRAE website or use this URL: <https://www.ashrae.org/about/invest-in-the-rp-campaign>

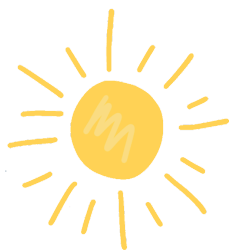


# SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

*Michele Lefebvre & Ashley Hayden*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Clay Shoot – May 8, 2026**  
@ Silverleaf Shotgun Sports



Registration details coming soon!

Thank you for allowing us to serve you again this 2025-2026 year. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at [mlefebvre@rbakins.com](mailto:mlefebvre@rbakins.com) or Ashley Hayden at [ashley.hayden@trane.com](mailto:ashley.hayden@trane.com)



# MARCH BOG MEETING NOTES

*Michael Akins*

Attendees: Will Thompson, Michael Halcomb, Kale Harper, Stephanie Thomas, Michael Akins, Scott Sanders, Gavin Swenson, Dusty Stoabs, Payton Parker, Brian Worthen, John Harrod, Zach Snow, Joe Sanders, and Josh Wiens

## Presidents Report – Will Thompson

- Nomination committee discussion
- Need a speaker for April meeting
- Region IIX CRC will be in Little Rock, AR April 23-25; A registration link is not yet available

## Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Thomas

- Treasurers Report Accepted by the BOG by Kale Harpers’ motion and Payton Parkers’ second; Motion approved

## Secretary’s Report – Michael Akins

- Payton Parker motions to approve the Jan BOG meeting minutes & Feb meeting minutes; Will Thompson 2nds. Motion approved.

<p><u>CTTC – Will Thompson</u> Still looking for <u>speaker</u> for the May meeting. Central plant panel discussion. Working on April as well</p>	<p><u>Special Events – Michele Lefebvre and Ashley Hayden</u> Cornhole tournament on 3/27. Clay Shoot on May 8</p>	<p><u>Membership Promotion – Michael Halcomb</u> Need two more new members to meet our goal Discussion <u>on</u> chapter name badges. Would like to have everyone take their badge home with them to eliminate the effort of Michael having to bring the badge suitcases to each meeting</p>
<p><u>Research Promotion – Matthew Akins</u> 48% of our \$30,000 goal</p> <p><u>Refrigeration – John Dale</u> Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Refrigeration Tour in Guthrie at Wander Folk Distillery. Bussing there &amp; back</p>	<p><u>Honors &amp; Awards – John Harrod</u> Working on getting chapter service awards, as well as other awards John suggested some motions for Stephanie Thomas &amp; Joe Sanders to be presented at CRC for chapter service award</p>	<p><u>Student Activities – Michael Akins and Payton Parker</u> Need officers at an event, February 24th. Ask Payton for a meeting invite if you plan to tag along. Potential K-12 STEM event on April 7th w/ highschoolers Student Design Competition going well</p>
<p><u>YEA – Ty Klakulak</u> Joint meeting w/ refrigeration</p>	<p><u>Newsletter – Rebecca Cawyer</u> Have articles to Rebecca by this Friday</p>	<p><u>Historian – Dusty Stoabs</u> Nothing to Report</p>
<p><u>Sustainability – Zach Snow</u> Filter changeout and presentation w/ Edmond public schools in March</p>	<p><u>Scholarship – Brian Worthen</u> Recipients have been notified they won/lost the scholarship. Will invite them to the meeting</p>	<p><u>Government Affairs – Caleb Deck</u> Day on the hill is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Working <u>on getting</u> meetings scheduled with lawmakers.</p>



# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

## Caleb Deck

### DAY ON THE HILL: WHAT WE HEARD, WHAT WE SAID, AND WHY IT MATTERS

Earlier this month, members of our chapter participated in ASHRAE's Day on the Hill at the Oklahoma State Capitol. A few consistent themes emerged: rising energy costs, grid reliability, and the role of building policy in addressing both.

These discussions are directly connected to the systems we design every day. HVAC systems are a major driver of building energy use, and decisions made at the policy level can significantly impact cost, performance, and constructability across the state.

One bill of particular relevance is Senate Bill 1285, which proposes establishing minimum efficiency requirements for state-funded buildings.

While the intent aligns with improving building performance, the current language specifies minimum equipment efficiencies directly. Our chapter encouraged legislators to instead reference compliance with ASHRAE 90.1, which provides a comprehensive, regularly updated framework for building energy performance.

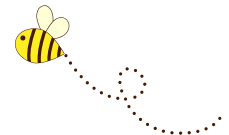


Caleb Deck



2026 Day on the Hill

While this may seem like a slight difference, it's important! Prescriptive equipment requirements can quickly become outdated and may not account for system-level tradeoffs. Referencing a standard like ASHRAE 90.1 allows for flexibility in design while maintaining a consistent and nationally recognized benchmark for efficiency.



## WILLIS CARRIER'S 1902 DESIGN


*Dusty Stoops*


Have you ever wondered how modern air conditioning got its start? The genesis of modern air conditioning actually didn't emerge from a desire for human comfort, but rather from an industrial necessity. In the summer of 1902, the Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company in Brooklyn, New York, faced a crisis. The oppressive heat and wildly fluctuating humidity of the New York summer were wreaking havoc on their four-color printing process. Paper dimensions expanded and contracted with the moisture in the air, causing disastrous misalignments of the colored inks.

To solve this, a 25-year-old engineer named Willis Carrier, recently graduated from Cornell and employed by the Buffalo Forge Company, was tasked with finding a solution for their client. Carrier realized that to stabilize the paper, he had to control the environment's dew point. He began with a practical experiment, forcing air over pipes chilled with cold water drawn from an artesian well. By carefully balancing the temperature of the cold coils with the speed of the airflow, he successfully cooled the air below its saturation point, forcing excess moisture to condense. This 1902 installation is recognized as the first modern air-conditioning system because it accomplished the four fundamental functions: controlling temperature, humidity, air circulation, and air quality.

While this cold-coil system solved the immediate problem, Carrier's profound scientific breakthrough occurred a few months later in the late fall. While waiting on a cold, foggy train platform in Pittsburgh, Carrier stared into the dense mist and had a sudden realization. He deduced that if he could saturate air and control its temperature at saturation, he could dictate the exact amount of moisture it contained. This epiphany moved his design from a mechanical fix to a precise science, eventually establishing the foundational laws of psychometrics.

For the next two decades, this nascent industry remained strictly focused on industrial applications like textile mills and munitions factories. These early systems were gargantuan, expensive, and utilized toxic or flammable refrigerants like ammonia, making them entirely unsuitable for public spaces.

The critical transition to commercial comfort cooling occurred in the 1920's, driven by Carrier's invention of the centrifugal refrigeration machine in 1922. This chiller utilized a safer, non-toxic refrigerant and a far more compact compressor, making it viable for commercial basements. This technological leap paved the way for the movie theater industry to catalyze public acceptance. In 1925, the Rivoli Theater in Times Square debuted its new cooling system. Utilizing a sophisticated overhead distribution method, patrons were bathed in cool air, escaping the sweltering urban heat and effectively giving birth to the summer blockbuster.

What began as an ingenious solution by a Buffalo Forge engineer to keep paper flat evolved, in less than three decades, into a transformative technology that redefined architectural design and fundamentally elevated the standard of human comfort.

# YEA UPDATE

*Ty Klakulak*



It's Baseball Season! And what better way to celebrate than joining YEA for an OKC Comets game!

OKC Comets Game

Thursday, May 7, 2026 @ 6:35PM

Sign up will be sent out next week. Please look out for a YEA announcement sent to your emails.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

[tklakulak@eei-ok.com](mailto:tklakulak@eei-ok.com)

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# HONORS & AWARDS

*John Harrod*

We are accepting applications for chapter technology awards! Appy [HERE](#).

Below is a link to fill out a Chapter Technology Award Submission. The project should be occupied for at least one year for society submission. No requirement for regional submission. Download, populate, and submit [ASHRAE Technology Award Form](#) to [john.l.harrod@gmail.com](mailto:john.l.harrod@gmail.com). Provide a system schematic/diagram not larger than 11" x 17" in size. In addition, attach a brief narrative (maximum of 4 pages). The narrative should include the gross and net building areas applicable to the project, a description of the major building areas (Ex. operating rooms, laboratories, computer rooms, industrial processes, offices, warehouses) and a brief discussion regarding the following five criteria ( if a criterion is not applicable, state accordingly).

- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- OPERATION & MAINTENANCE
- INDOOR AIR QUALITY
- COST EFFECTIVENESS
- INNOVATION
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



# 2025-2026 COK CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	Company	Phone	Email
President	Will R Thompson	Mechanical Sales Midwest	(405) 441-2019	wthompson@mechsales.com
President Elect	Cristian Kale Harper	IES	(405)919-1929	kaleharper@icloud.com
Vice President	Michael Halcomb II	ES2	(405) 600- 8818	mhalcomb@es2built.com
Treasurer	Stephanie A Thomas	Moxify Engineering LLC	(405) 254- 5038	stthomas@moxifyllc.com
Secretary; Membership; Student Activities	Michael R Akins	RB Akins	(405)761-7733	makins@rbakins.com
Student Activities; BOG	Payton M Parker	Critical Facility Group	(206) 670-2582	paytonmarie97@gmail.com
Refrigeration Chair; BOG	John C Dale	Trane	(405) 568-8574	john.dale@trane.com
BOG	Scott H Sanders	Alvine Engineering	(405) 936- 3480	ssanders@alvine.com
BOG	Gavin Swenson	KCL Engineering	(405) 795- 7051	gswenson@kclengineering.com
BOG	Damon McClure	Harrison-Orr	(405) 520-2492	damonm@harrisonorr.com
Government Activities	Caleb A Deck	Benham, Haskell	405-840-2931	caleb.deck@gmail.com
Research Promotion	Matthew R Akins	RB Akins	(405) 227-6621	mattakins@rbakins.com
Historian	Dusty Stoabs, PE	Streets, LLC	(405)388-2271	dstoabs@streetsLLC.com
Honors and Awards	Matthew Caleb Spradlin	DA Engineering	(405)514-5757	cspradlin@daemep.com
ECC/Social Media	Josh Arnett	CaptiveAire	(405) 438-0047	josh.arnett@captiveaire.com
ECC/Social Media	Heather A Martin	R.B. Akins Company	(405) 947- 6502	hmartin@rbakins.com
YEA Chair	Ty Steven Klakulak	Engineered Equipment	(405)534-1882	tklakulak@eei-ok.com
Special Events	Ashley M Hayden	Trane Technologies	(405) 833-1743	ashley.hayden@tranetechnologies.com
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre	RB Akins	(405) 802-4347	mlefebvre@rbakins.com
Honors and Awards	John L Harrod		(405)206-8341	John.L.Harrod@gmail.com
ECC/Social Media	Josh Arnett	CaptiveAire	(405) 438-0047	josh.arnett@captiveaire.com
ECC/Social Media	Heather A Martin	R.B. Akins Company	(405) 947- 6502	hmartin@rbakins.com
YEA Chair	Ty Steven Klakulak	Engineered Equipment	(405)534-1882	tklakulak@eei-ok.com

# 2025-2026 COK CHAPTER CONTACT INFORMATION



	Name	Company	Phone	Email
Sustainability Chair	Zach Snow	Mechanical Sales	(404) 999-0595	Zsnow@mechsales.com
Sustainability Chair	Zach Childers	DA Engineering	(405) 397-3474	zchilders@daemep.com
Scholarship Chair	Brian Worthen	Alvine Engineering		bworthen@alvine.com
CTTC	Shima Shahahmadi	Nortek Coil Solutions	(405) 334-6951	shima.shahahmadi@nortek.com
	William Patrick Kinser	ES2	(405)657- 6577	wkinser@es2built.com
	Ryan K Sutton	ES2	(405)528- 4500	rsutton@es2built.com
	Jon K Wilmore	RB Akins	(405)947-6502	jwilmore@rbakins.com
Newsletter Chair	Rebecca L Cawyer	AAON	(580)512-1112	rebecca.cawyer@aaon.com

## DID YOU KNOW?



APRIL 13-14, 2026

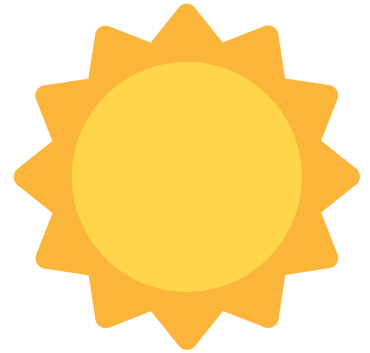
OMNI Las Angeles @ Los Angeles, CA

Join us for two days of connection, inspiration, and leadership growth with women from across the HVACR industry—from students and early-career professionals to seasoned veterans. This isn't just for engineers—it's for every woman making an impact on the built environment.

Learn more and register [HERE](#).



# COK ASHRAE CALENDAR 2025-2026



**APRIL 1, 2026**  
CHAPTER MEETING  
CHICKEN N PICKLE  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

**APRIL 15, 2026**  
BOG MEETING  
CHICKEN N PICKLE  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

**APRIL 23-25, 2026**  
ASHRAE CRC  
LITTLE ROCK, AR

**MAY 6, 2026**  
CHAPTER MEETING  
CHICKEN N PICKLE  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

**MAY 20, 2026**  
CHAPTER MEETING  
CHICKEN N PICKLE  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

**JUNE 17, 2026**  
BOG MEETING  
CHICKEN N PICKLE  
11:30AM - 1:00PM

