

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

SOU'WESTER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

COK Chapter Meeting
 March 4, 2025
 @Chicken N Pickle | OKC
 11:30am to 1:00pm
[Click here to register.](#)

BOG Meeting
 March 18, 2025
 @Chicken N Pickle | OKC
 11:30am to 1:00pm



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Will Thompson



2026 is rolling right along, and we are already in March!

Thank you to all who came out to the joint Chapter Meeting with Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma (AGCOK). Zach Kemer with Entegriy Energy Partners gave a wonder presentation about Building Commissioning. We had roughly 100 people total between the two chapters attend the meeting.

The final list of candidates for the 2026-2027 COK ASHRAE year are listed below:

- President** - Kale Harper
- President Elect** - Michael Akins
- Secretary** - Josh Weins
- Treasurer** - Stephanie Thomas
- Vice President** - Will Thompson



President Will Thompson

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

Our annual cornhole tournament is scheduled for Friday, March 27th at Chicken N Pickle. Registration is out, and please sign up! It's a very fun event, and even if you don't play, you can still come out and enjoy a good time. There are various board sponsorships, and vendor sponsorships. It is one of the most fun ASHRAE events of the year, so come out and have a good time!



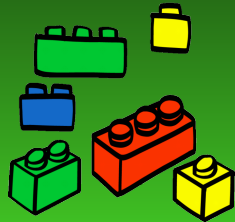
Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life

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

Li**K**E, **S**U**B**s**C**R**I**b**E**, **A**N**D** **F**o**L**L**O**W





STUDENT EVENTS K-I2

Payton Parker



NEXT GEN HVAC PANEL & LEGOS
© MELROSE RECREATION CENTER

Tuesday, April 7th
4:30pm - 5:30pm



HVAC Panel, AI Art

The Student Activities Committee is partnering with the Boys & Girls Club of Oklahoma County to host a fun afternoon centered on post-high school career pathways within ASHRAE and the HVACR industry. High school seniors will hear from local professionals about their career journeys, companies, and special interests. We'll conclude with a hands-on LEGO activity, offering an interactive opportunity to connect engineering concepts with creativity!

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

All volunteers are welcome! If you'd like to participate or have any questions, please reach out to Payton at payton@crtifac.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Don't Miss the 2026 ASHRAE Region VIII CRC – Register Today!

Registration is officially open for the 2026 ASHRAE Region VIII Chapter Regional Conference, 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! Follow the QR code to register today:

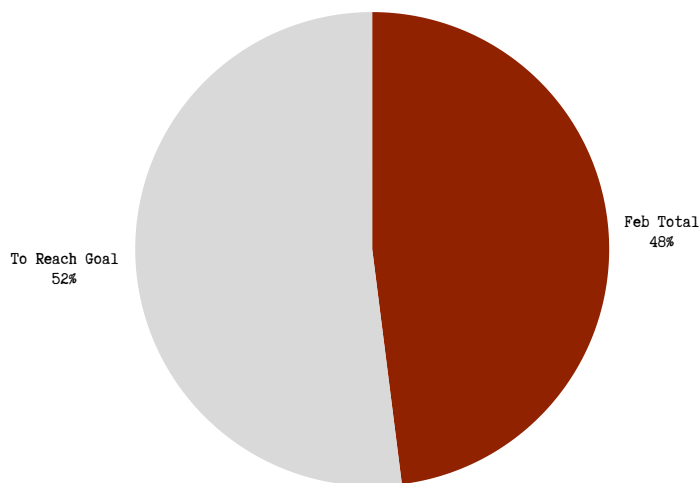


RESEARCH AND PROMOTIONS

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

4th Annual Cornhole Tournament – Friday, March 27, 2026

- @ Chicken N Pickle | OKC
- Registration | 11AM
- Tournament | 12-5PM

Clay Shoot – May 8, 2026

- @ Silverleaf Shotgun Sports

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 or Ashley Hayden at ashley.hayden@trane.com



JANUARY 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 19th Refrigeration Tour in Guthrie at Wander Folk Distillery. Bussing there & back</p>	<p><u>Honors & Awards – John Harrod</u> Working on getting chapter service awards, as well as other awards John suggested some motions for Stephanie Thomas & 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 3rd. Working <u>on getting</u> meetings scheduled with lawmakers.</p>



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Caleb Deck

ASHRAE 90.1 ISN'T STATIC – AND NEITHER IS THE GRID

ASHRAE Standard 90.1 is the foundation for most energy codes across the nation and has continued to drive increased efficiency throughout states and municipalities who have adopted it as code. In fact, ASHRAE 90.1 has averaged an efficiency improvement of roughly 10% per release, in every 3-year cycle. This reduction of energy is critical to both individual building function, utility costs, and the overall health of our regional energy grids.



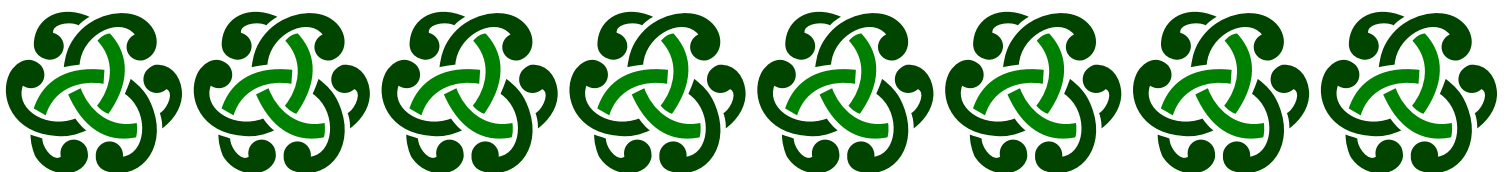
Caleb Deck

It's no secret that we are building at a furious rate both across the United States and globally. Not only are we adding square footage to the overall building stock of the world, but we are also seeing a spike in the energy intensity of the built environment. This is due to both developing countries advancing in their urban design and density and developed countries rapidly expanding high-intensity construction such as data centers and technology hubs. All these factors are driving a significant increase in total energy usage by buildings, and our infrastructure is certainly feeling the effects.

While many locations still use a mix of gas and electric for building energy needs, there is a not-insignificant number of countries, states, cities, and other municipalities that are encouraging electric-only design. This may help reduce the immediate carbon burning on-site for the affected buildings but puts additional strain on the electrical grid which is taking the brunt of our added industry.

As many of us well know, ASHRAE 90.1 and the corresponding efficiency increases are not required in the state of Oklahoma. Yet designing with the energy-efficiency measures included in ASHRAE 90.1 will help the overall energy environment of Oklahoma as our building energy loads continue to increase over time; and designing according to these standards will also help ensure we're on the top of our games when working in areas where it is required as part of the code!

As always, we encourage thorough study of the ASHRAE standards and if you ever want more information about the ever-evolving landscape around building energy efficiency feel free to reach out to me at caleb.deck@haskell.com or any of us on the ASHRAE committees!





HISTORIAN'S UPDATE

Dusty Stoabs

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH - CAROLYN R. CRAWFORD

As we enter March, we celebrate National Women's History Month, which is a great time to reflect on how female participation in ASHRAE has changed over the decades. For nearly five decades after our chartering in 1935, the Central Oklahoma Chapter was run exclusively by men. It took true pioneers willing to step into what was then very much a man's world to change that trajectory. This month, I wanted to dig into our archives to share the story of Carolyn Rae Crawford, our chapter's very first female member and, eventually, our first female president. Her journey is a vital piece of our chapter's heritage, and her own words provide an incredible window into what it took to break the so called "glass ceiling" in our industry.

Carolyn Rae Crawford holds a uniquely important place in the history of the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter, serving as a trailblazer for women in the HVAC and refrigeration industry. Her involvement with ASHRAE began during a pivotal time for the society. On August 16, 1972, ASHRAE Society Executive Director Andrew T. Boggs III sent a letter to all chapter presidents encouraging activities to interest women engineers in joining the society. At that time, the Central Oklahoma Chapter, which had been chartered in 1935, had zero female members. Prompted by this call to action, Membership Chairman Bobby Vermillion recruited Crawford, and just two months later (Oct. 1972), she became the chapter's first female member. At the time she joined, she was working as a sales engineer at Besco Sales. Later she would work at R&B Equipment Company.

Crawford continued to be active in the chapter over the next decade. In 1981, during Dr. Faye McQuiston's presidency, she was elected to move through the chairs. By 1984, she made history by becoming the first female president of the Central Oklahoma Chapter (following after Golden Gavel winner Tino Mendez). Since no other chapter in Region VIII had a female president yet, she also held the distinction of being the first female chapter president in the entire region.

On July 27, 1984, The Oklahoman newspaper ran a piece entitled "3 Engineers Say Their Gender May Have Helped Careers" highlighting her groundbreaking role as the incoming president. The following is the full excerpt of her part of the article:

>>>Carolyn Crawford, incoming president of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers, is a sales engineer with R&B Equipment Company. Originally from McAlester, she has worked in some area of the construction field since before her high school graduation.

"I don't have a degree," she said. "I'm what you'd call, I guess, a self-made woman. I've taken related courses, but I have no engineering degree. And I'm not ashamed of it. I think I appreciate it even more.

I started out working for a general contractor before I got out of high school as part of the distributive education program. I worked part time and he said, "When you graduate, I'd like you to work full time.' And so that's how I got started.

"Then for about 12 years I worked for mechanical contractors and I learned to do estimating. I wanted to learn as much as I could, so I took courses and paid attention to the people who knew what they were doing and tried to soak up just as much as I possibly could.

"I was living in Tulsa at that time and a firm there approached me with the idea of taking a position like I have right now. They were going to open a branch office in Oklahoma City and I jumped at the chance, not thinking about it, about the obstacles I'd have to overcome. I jumped off in a man's world."

Ms. Crawford said a minimum of 12 years experience has qualified her for membership in ASHRAE.

"You can start out as an affiliate member and upgrade your membership as the years go by," she said. "I started out as an associate member because I'd had quite a few years experience.

"I first went to an ASHRAE meeting in 1972 (in Oklahoma City). It was really awkward because at that time we were drawing about 80 to 100 members at a meeting and I was the only woman.

But I told myself, "Lady, if you're going to work in a man's world, you've got to hang in there.' So I did.

"The men, in the beginning, were kind of skeptical, until they learned I knew what I was doing, and then they respected me. Ever since, they've had nothing but support for me."

Discrimination has never been a problem for her, she said, and believes that, if anything, her sex has been a help.

"In fact," she said, "sometimes I can get in to see a mechanical engineer or a contractor because it's hard for them to turn a woman down."

Ms. Crawford said she enjoys her profession and finds it challenging.

"I'm always learning something new," she said. "I like the people I deal with. It's been good for me and I feel that I've done a good job." <<<



I truly hope that the members of our Chapter are as enthusiastic as your new President. The '84-'85 year will certainly be a challenge for all of us. The 1985 CRC will come home to Oklahoma City in April in conjunction with our 50th Anniversary. All of us fully intend to have our Chapter win the 'Golden Gavel', and that will be the first time a chapter has won four consecutive years.

A successful President is only as good as the people supporting him. I believe that we have the "cream of the crop" for Committee Chairpersons. I want our members to become caught up in the tide of excitement for the coming year. I want new members and members who have not become involved with Chapter activities before to take a look at what Committee you would enjoy and like to become involved in, and give me a call.

ASHRAE has certainly become a big part of my life—but you only get out of anything what you put into it. I'm excited, but humble. I have a lot of big footsteps to follow, and I will need all of your help.

See you at the BARBEQUE!

Carolyn Crawford

YEA UPDATE

Ty Klakulak



Another event that will be happening in the spring will be an Oklahoma City Comets game. Please keep an eye out for a sign-up for that event in the coming month, as this will be an event where sign-up is required.

Thank you to everyone for coming to YEA events this past year and looking forward to having more fun in the coming months!

If you have any questions about YEA or upcoming events, please feel free to reach out!



HONORS & AWARDS

John Harrod

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

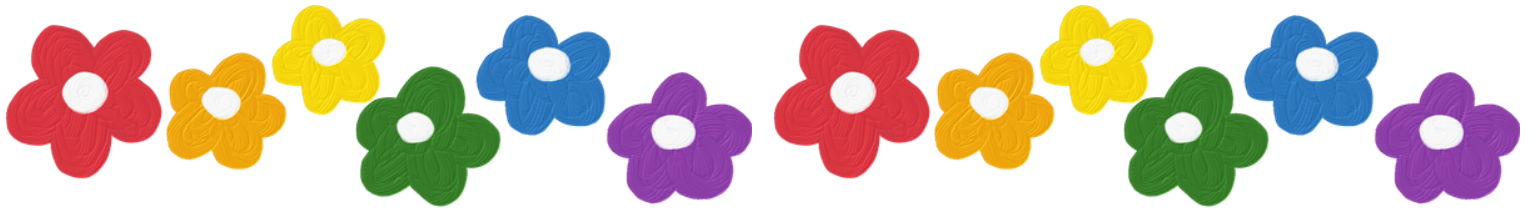
Below is a link to fill out a Chapter Technology Award Submission. The project should be occupied for at least one year for society submission. No requirement for regional submission. Download, populate, and submit [ASHRAE Technology Award Form](#) to john.l.harrod@gmail.com. Provide a system schematic/diagram 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	jjwilmore@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



February 2026 Registration Tour at WanderFolk Distillery in Guthrie, OK

MARCH 4, 2026
CHAPTER MEETING
CHICKEN N PICKLE
11:30AM - 1:00PM

MARCH 18, 2026
BOG MEETING
CHICKEN N PICKLE
11:30AM - 1:00PM

MARCH 27, 2026
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
CHICKEN N PICKLE
TBD

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

“THE CHAPTER DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO ACT FOR, OR IN THE NAME OF, SOCIETY.”