



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

SOU'WESTER



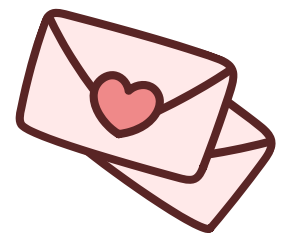
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UPCOMING EVENTS

COK Chapter Meeting: Joint Meeting with AGCOK
 February 11, 2025
 @Greens Country Club | OKC
 13100 Green Valley Dr, 73120
 11:30am to 1:00pm
[Click here to register.](#)

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Will Thompson

Hello all, and happy February! Hard to believe we are already a month into 2026. Thank you to all the chapter members who came to the chapter meeting on January 7th! We had a great turnout, and nearly 50 chapter members attended. Christian Taber with Big Ass Fans gave an excellent presentation about ASHRAE Standard 55. According to the evaluation sheets and the feedback at the meeting, the presentation was extremely helpful and informative. One of the unique things about our chapter is the high turnout for chapter meetings, and participation at the meetings. Please continue to show up, network, and be active at the meetings, and all the events!



President Will Thompson

The nominating committee met in January to compile a list of candidates to run through the chairs, and for 2026 BOG. The nominating committee is not only an underrated part of the chapter, but also an essential part because they are integral in selecting leaders to help guide the chapter now and into the future. Without a good nominating committee, it is difficult to strengthen leadership quality, sustain fairness, or support long-term credibility. If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone in the chapter please let me know and I will get you in touch with the nominating committee members.

February Chapter Meeting – DATE & LOCATION CHANGE!!!

Our Chapter Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of every month and at the same place. **February's meeting this year is different. It is second Wednesday of the month (2/11) at The Green's Country Club.** We wanted to have a joint meeting with a general contracting organization, and scheduled a joint meeting with AGCOK (Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma). Corey Toole with Entegrity Energy Partners will be giving a presentation over all things commissioning from both the HVAC side and general contracting side. Please show up and show out for ASHRAE! AGCOK has roughly 50 members that come to each of their meetings so it should be a fantastic networking opportunity.

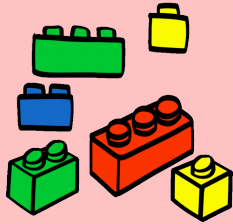
Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life

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

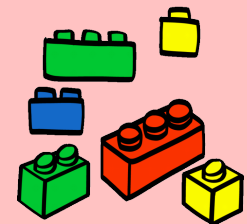
LiKE, **S**uBscRibe, **A**ND **F**oLLoW





STUDENT EVENTS K-I2

Payton Parker



In celebration of Engineers Week this month, we're excited to share a fun riddle from ASHRAE's Lucy's Engineering Adventure (written by Danielle Passaglia). It's a great activity to spark curiosity and conversation - perfect for sharing with the young engineers in your life!

How would you answer the riddle? My vote is to add some high-density server racks to the space. What would you choose?

Coloring Books & LEGOs @ Woodson Park

Tuesday, February 24th for Engineers Week! 🎉

4:30pm - 5:30pm

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

"When I walk in a room, it's much too cold.
My breath is showing: it's like the North Pole!
How would you fix this? What do you suggest?
What is the answer you think is the best?"



Lucy's Engineering Adventure Riddle

UNIVERSITY STUDENT EVENTS

Michael Atkins

Coming to AHR? Join the REGION VIII HAPPY HOUR and meet our OSU members!

The Central Oklahoma Chapter is expecting 9 student members to attend AHR in Vegas. We encourage you to introduce yourself at the Region 8 Happy Hour.

See event details and RSVP info in the "Did You Know" section of the newsletter.



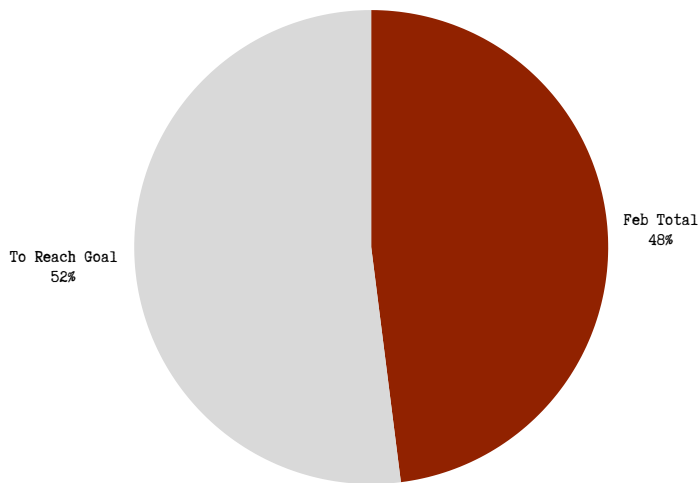
RESEARCH AND PROMOTIONS

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

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 Akins, Josh Arnett, John Dale, Brian Worthen, Michael Halcomb, Scott Sanders, Dusty Stoabs, Matthew Akins, Gavin Swenson, Caleb Deck, Payton Parker, Ashley Hayden, Stephanie Thomas, Heather Martin, Ty Klakulak, and Zach Snow

Presidents Report - Will Thompson

- Nomination committee discussion: BOG potential nominees: Joe Sanders, Aaron Cambell, Dusty Stoabs, Michael Halcomb.
- Dusty Stoabs recused himself from nominating committee so that he would be eligible for a Board of Governors nomination.
- The nominating committee has not identified a potential member for Secretary and going through the chairs.
- Discussion on attendance at chapter meetings, the cost of meals, and the fact that the chapter is losing a significant amount of money at each chapter meeting.
- Feb 11th joint chapter meeting with AGCOK at The Greens. Different day and location than our normal chapter meeting. BOG is asked to get the word out on the date and location.
- Region XIII 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 Michael's motions and Gavin's second. Motion approved.
- Discussion on potentially eliminating the current YEA meeting discount

Secretary's Report - Michael Akins

- Stephanie motions to approve the Oct, Nov, and Dec meeting minutes; John Dale 2nds. Motion approved.

<p><u>CTTC – Will Thompson</u> Still looking for speaker for the May meeting. Possibly a central plant panel discussion.</p>	<p><u>Sustainability – Zach Snow</u> Possibly two events this year. Would like a joint organization event with Edmond Schools?</p>	<p><u>Historian – Dusty Stoabs</u> Chapter history is now caught up from chapter inception in 1935 to the present. Mr. Stoabs asked that everyone try to take at least one photo at each event.</p>
<p><u>Government Affairs – Caleb Deck</u> Day on the hill is March 3rd. Working on getting meetings scheduled with lawmakers.</p>	<p><u>Newsletter – Rebecca Cawyer</u> Have articles to Rebecca by this Friday</p> <p><u>Honors & Awards – Will Thompson</u> Working on an getting chapter service awards, as well as other awards</p>	<p><u>Membership Promotion – Michael Halcomb</u> Need two more new members to meet our goal Discussion on 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>Scholarship – Brian Worthen</u> One awarded to a graduate student and one awarded to an undergraduate. We have selected the recipients, but it is not public knowledge yet.</p>	<p><u>Special Events – Michele Lefebvre and Ashley Hayden</u> Cornhole tournament on 3/27. Clay Shoot on May 8</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 in April w/ highschoolers</p>
<p><u>YEA – Ty Klakulak</u> Potentially a Feb 12 happy hour event at Social Capital</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</p>



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Caleb Deck

WHY DO ASHRAE VOICES MATTER IN STATE RULEMAKING?

The term “government affairs” feels very foreign to most of us as engineers. Before joining this committee, it felt well out of my wheelhouse, but the reality is much more aligned with our goals and skills than you may think. Many of the most important decisions for our industry are decided at a state and local level, through the development of building and energy codes, and government affairs for ASHRAE is simply making ourselves an available resource to those elected officials.



Caleb Deck

ASHRAE and our industry as a whole should have a real voice in the discussion at our state legislative level. The HVAC industry across the U.S. has a market of over \$100b annually. Per the US Bureau of Labor, the HVAC industry employs over 8,000 Oklahomans in just the manufacturing and design sectors, not including the many thousands in installation and contracting. Additionally, other industry research estimates a market value of ~\$1.2b in 2025. This shows the scale of our impact on our community and illustrates the need for advocacy to maintain the safety, affordability, and long-term effectiveness of the built environment for Oklahoma.

While OUBCC is the group officially tasked with developing and recommending codes to the legislature, there is a need for technical advising to our elected officials. ASHRAE members can bring critical knowledge of our standards as well as years of experience in the HVAC design, manufacturing, and construction industry to help guide the decisions that so commonly affect us. The goal with this ASHRAE representation is also not political advocacy or lobbying of any sort, but technical stewardship and advising as requested. When ASHRAE members engage with our legislators, we hope to provide clear and practical advice to help them better understand the impacts of bills that touch our industry in a neutral way.

A big part of this advocacy is simply meeting and being available to those very legislators discussed above! And we just so happen to have an event which does this very thing with our Day on the Hill! It has been rescheduled slightly for Tuesday, March 3 from 9-11am in conjunction with the NEOK ASHRAE chapter. If you're interested in joining this event, reach out to me at caleb.deck@haskell.com and let me know you will be joining! Our goal this year is to know who is attending so we can set up scheduled meetings with each member's state senator and representative, so providing your name and address as soon as possible will be a great help as we get planning!



HISTORIAN'S UPDATE

Dusty Stoops

HEAT PUMP RESEARCH AND OSU

When I was an engineering student at OSU in the early 1990s, I took Dr. Spitler's Thermo and HVAC classes. His Thermodynamic II class was probably my favorite out of all the classes I had. In that class, Dr. Spitler assigned everyone a big design project, and due to his extensive background in geothermal heat pump research, the topics we could work on were related to that subject. My project was entitled "Rankine Vapor Power Cycle Utilizing Solar Energy and a Phase Change Thermal Storage Unit." The final report was 29 pages long including figures and appendices. I still have a copy of it today. When I read through it, I can't believe I was the one who wrote it. Especially thinking back to that time in history when you couldn't simply ask Google for answers. The internet was very primitive, containing mostly FTP sites and forums with very few actual web servers. Most of the research came from textbooks and a lot of time in the library.

The history of heat pump research at Oklahoma State University acts as the foundation for the modern ground-source heat pump industry, earning the institution the reputation of being the "Silicon Valley" of this technology. This journey began during the energy crisis of the 1970s, driven by Dr. Jim Bose, a professor of Mechanical Engineering who is now widely considered the father of the modern geothermal heat pump industry. The catalyst for this research was a practical problem involving a local homeowner who wanted to use a heat pump to heat his swimming pool. Dr. Bose engineered a system to circulate water through pipes in the ground, effectively creating a closed-loop ground heat exchanger.

Before this, geothermal systems were largely experimental, one-off projects lacking standardized sizing methods. Dr. Bose and his colleagues changed this by developing the foundational engineering equations for closed-loop ground heat transfer, which allowed engineers to reliably calculate borefield sizes based on load and soil thermal properties. Recognizing that the technology could not scale without a trained workforce, Dr. Bose founded the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association on the OSU campus in 1987. This organization served as the central hub for training, certification, and standards development, creating the Accredited Installer credential that became a benchmark in the trade.

As the industry matured into the 1990s and beyond, the focus at the university shifted from basic feasibility to complex system modeling and optimization. This era was led prominently by my professor, Dr. Jeff Spitler, who helped develop GLHEPRO, the industry-standard software for commercial ground loop heat exchanger design. His team focused on experimental validation, utilizing test borefields to verify simulation models against real-world performance data. Today, this legacy continues under the Center for Integrated Building Systems (CIBS), formed in 2020, where researchers investigate optimal control of hybrid systems and long-term ground temperature changes, ensuring that the work begun by Dr. Bose continues to evolve to meet modern engineering needs.

YEA UPDATE

Ty Klakulak

Happy new year to everyone! On February 19th, we will have a joint event with Refrigeration. We are going to have a happy hour before the event just to hang out before the tour!

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! 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. 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).

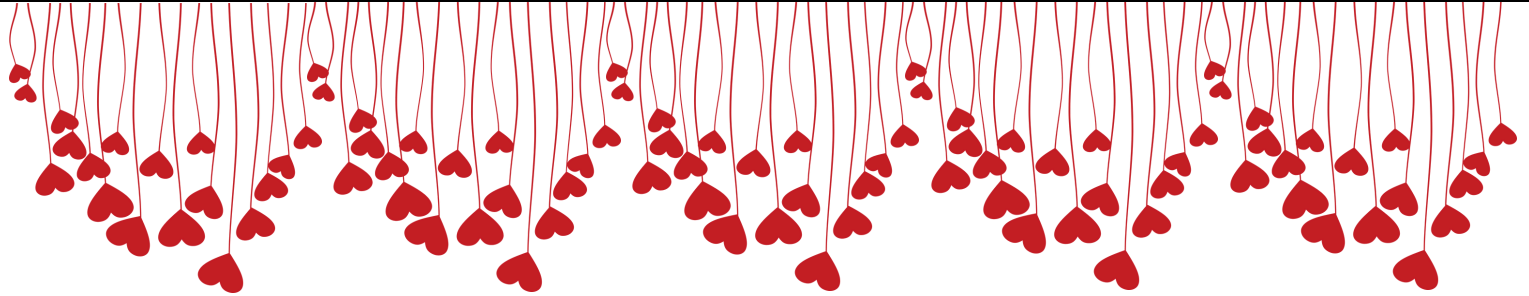
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- OPERATION & MAINTENANCE
- INDOOR AIR QUALITY
- COST EFFECTIVENESS
- INNOVATION
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



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?



You Can Join the REGION VIII HAPPY HOUR

Monday, February 2, 2026
 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
 Ole Red Las Vegas
 3627 South Las Vegas Blvd.
 Las Vegas, NV, 89109
 Email reihl@swbell.net to RSVP



COK ASHRAE CALENDAR 2025-2026



FEBRUARY 11, 2026
GREENS COUNTRY CLUB
CHICKEN N PICKLE
11:30AM - 1:00PM

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

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.”