

**A TIMELINE HISTORY
of the
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
of
ASHRAE**

Year:

2025-2026



A Timeline History of the Central Oklahoma Chapter of ASHRAE, Year: 2025-2026

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Dusty Stoabs, PE

© Central Oklahoma Chapter

An Authorized Chapter of ASHRAE

The Chapter does not have authority to act for, or in the name of, Society





Introduction to Chapter Year 2025-2026

The Central Oklahoma Chapter entered a new year with Will Thompson assuming the role of Chapter President. He succeeded Golden Gavel President Michael Halcomb, who gained the title Past-President while simultaneously transitioning into the role of Vice President in accordance with the chapter By-Laws. The leadership team welcomed Michael Akins as Secretary, setting him on the path to move through the chapter chairs. On the Board of Governors, Jon Wilmore and Josh Arnett concluded their service, making way for Gavin Swenson and Scott Sanders to join incumbents Damon McClure, John Dale, and Payton Parker.

Committee leadership also underwent some reorganization. Kale Harper advanced to the role of President-Elect, handing the Chapter Technology Transfer Committee reins to Shima Shahahmadi. The Membership Promotion chair passed between ES2 colleagues, shifting from Bill Kinser to Michael Halcomb. This was a very welcome change in that many past presidents often drop out of active participation, let alone taking on a committee chair position. The chapter thanks Michael for his continued effort and support!

In other transitions, Robert Smith stepped down as Scholarship chair after a tenure of nine years, passing the duty to Brian Worthen. Notably, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion chair position remained unfilled, a vacancy that potentially reflected the broader federal political shift regarding DEI initiatives. Also, while someone did step in to lead the Sustainability committee, filling a position that had been vacant the previous year, the committee, unfortunately, did not hold any events or activities this year.

The following pages provide a chronological review of the activities of the Central Oklahoma Chapter for the year 2025-26 and is provided as a historical record and timeline. We invite you to visit and follow our social media pages at: [Facebook: ASHRAEcok](#), [Instagram: ashraecok](#) and [LinkedIn: ASHRAE COK](#)



July 2025

2025-07-24, Audit Committee meeting

The Audit Committee, comprised of Michael Akins, Michele Lefebvre, and Dusty Stoabs, met to review the chapter financial documents provided by Treasurer Stephanie Thomas. The committee found all records to be perfectly in order, with the exception of a single typo, and confirmed that chapter taxes were filed on time last November. Subsequently, Chair Michael Akins issued a letter to the Board of Governors on July 30, 2025, certifying the audit and recording the current account balances.

Form 990-EZ		Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations) Do not enter social security numbers on this form, as it may be made public. Go to www.irs.gov/Form990EZ for instructions and the latest information.		OMB No. 1545-0047 2024 Open to Public Inspection
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service				
A For the 2024 calendar year, or tax year beginning 7/01, 2024, and ending 6/30, 2025				
B Check if applicable: ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Final return/terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending				
C AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING REFRIGERATING & A-C ENGINEERS 6303 N PORTLAND AVE #302 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73112				
D Employer identification number 73-1046365				
E Telephone number (405) 254-5038				
F Group Exemption Number 2475				
G Accounting Method: ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual Other (specify): _____				
I Website: WWW.ASHRAECOK.ORG				
J Tax-exempt status (check only one) – ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () (insert no.) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527				
K Form of organization: ☐ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other: _____				
L Add lines 5b, 6c, and 7b to line 9 to determine gross receipts. If gross receipts are \$200,000 or more, or if total assets (Part II, column (B)) are \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ \$ 99,570.				

2025-07-26, Summer planning session at Chicken N Pickle



President Will Thompson

The annual planning meeting was held at noon on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at Chicken N Pickle. An overview of the 2024-2025 year was provided by everyone briefly discussing highlights that they recall, which led to a request by Chapter President Will Thompson for attendees to share lessons learned. The group discussed the Society President's initiatives for the 2025-2026 term, specifically the theme "Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life," which highlighted the interplay between energy efficiency and IEQ and presented practical solutions to enhance air quality, thermal comfort, acoustics, lighting, and water quality. Mr. Thompson then presented his initiatives for 2025-26,

which included accelerating the membership of young engineers, steering the chapter to focus on all aspects of the construction industry including general contractors and architects, and exhausting all means to recruit fresh faces to serve as committee co-chairs. Regarding Board of Governors meetings, the leadership instructed chairs to review and update MBOs monthly with the RVC and emphasized the importance of keeping PAOE points up to date.

During the group discussion, the attendees addressed the Golf Tournament, noting the need to raise prices per team and distribute sponsorships as soon as possible. Discussions also covered the selection of a venue for chapter meetings and the allocation of PDHs for the upcoming year. It

was ultimately determined to keep meeting at Chicken N Pickle for both the BOG and chapter meetings. The group addressed the Golden Gavel judging committee nomination, determining that the Central Oklahoma chapter must nominate a past president to attend the CRC in Little Rock in April 2026 and serve on the judging committee. It was noted that nominees could not be a regional vice chair or regional officer, and the group emphasized the critical nature of confirming the nominee's intention to attend and willingness to serve. A general discussion followed covering events and strategies for RP, Student Activities and campus outreach, Refrigeration, YEA, DEI, Sustainability, and Government Affairs. The meeting concluded with discussions regarding CTTC programs, Chapter History, Membership Promotion, a potential joint meeting with another society group, and updates regarding chapter communications, social media, and the newsletter. Mr. Thompson expressed a desire to have the joint meeting's topic be one that aligns with the Society President's theme.

August 2025

2025-08-20, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The Central Oklahoma Chapter Board of Governors convened on August 20, 2025, at Chicken N Pickle. The meeting was attended by President Will Thompson, Michael Halcomb, Kale Harper, Stephanie Thomas, Michael Akins, Scott Sanders, Gavin Swenson, Damon McClure, and other board members and committee chairs. President Will Thompson opened with a report reminding officers and board members to complete Sexual Harassment and Decarbonization 101 training to accrue points and noted that the PAOE points for Membership Promotion had decreased by 200. He also instructed members to check in with their respective Regional Vice Chairs.

Treasurer Stephanie Thomas presented the chapter budget, which was approved following a motion by Michael Akins that was seconded by Michael Halcomb. The Treasurer's report was also approved after a motion by Kale Harper and a second by Payton Parker. In committee updates, Shima Shahahmadi reported that the CTTC was working on signing up presenters for October, while Historian Dusty Stoabs was documenting the previous year's history, including an interview with past president Michael Halcomb.

Membership Promotion Chair Michael Halcomb announced that new members would be recognized at chapter meetings, and Student Activities Chairs Michael Akins and Payton Parker noted that scholarship recipients would be recognized in October or November. Regarding special events, Stephanie Thomas volunteered to man the golf registration desk, and the committee planned to email past presidents regarding sponsorship for the past presidents' luncheon. Newsletter Editor Rebecca Cawyer requested that all articles be submitted by the Friday following the meeting.



September 2025

2025-09-08, Golf at Kickingbird in Edmond

The annual golf tournament for the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter was held on September 8th and proved to be a resounding success, drawing 26 foursomes to the course—a strong showing comparable to the 29 teams from the previous year. The event was also a financial triumph, generating approximately \$37,082 in income against \$15,608 in expenses. This resulted in a profit of around \$21,474 for the chapter, allowing for a \$12,000 donation to ASHRAE Research Promotion while retaining the balance for chapter operations. This achievement was made possible by the dedicated participants, sponsors, and vendors who took the time to support the event. Special recognition was given



to Michele Lefebvre, whose planning and hard work were the driving forces behind the tournament's execution, as well as to ES2 for volunteering to serve as the tournament sponsor once again. The leadership expressed deep gratitude for the energized group of individuals that continues to sustain the chapter. The day concluded by celebrating the tournament winners, led by the first-place team of Steve Motley, John Nimmo, and Steve Nevels. Second-place honors went to Matt Akins, Ryan Sutton, Will Kinser, and Tyler Cotner, while the team of George Christensen, Jon Wilmore, Erik Omlid, and Brandon Hall secured third place. Individual accolades were awarded to Matt Akins for the Longest Drive and Ryan Sutton for Closest to the Pin.

2025-09-17, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The Board of Governors convened again at Chicken N Pickle for their monthly meeting. President Will Thompson presided over the session, instructing officers and board members to complete sexual harassment training and view the Decarb 101 material to accrue points. Thompson also emphasized the importance of monthly check-ins with Regional Vice Chairs and requested the immediate submission of Management by Objectives (MBO's). President-Elect Kale Harper reported on the progress of updating chapter bylaws to align with society standards, noting they



would be brought for approval once finished. The board approved the Treasurer's report submitted by Stephanie Thomas following a motion by Kale Harper and a second by Gavin Swenson . Similarly, the minutes were approved after a motion by Payton Parker and a second by Michael Halcomb, with Secretary Michael Akins noting a template update for future meetings. In committee news, Student Activities planned for the OSU Fall Callout featuring Jeff Foreman on September 26th and looked toward recognizing scholarship recipients later in the fall. Research Promotion Chair Matthew Akins identified November 15th as the Full Circle cutoff, while Government Affairs Chair Caleb Deck reported booking a Day on the Hill for February. The Special Events committee celebrated a successful golf tournament and discussed cost-saving measures for the upcoming Pickleball event. YEA Chair Ty Klakulak worked on scheduling a Paycom event with speaker Cory Futrell, and Newsletter Chair Rebecca Cawyer set a deadline for articles for the Friday following the meeting.

2025-09-26, Student Activities event: OSU Fall Callout

Chapter member Jeff Forman met with the OSU student branch for an “Air Handler 101” presentation and promoted ASHRAE student membership. The event was open to all undergraduate and graduate students interested in the HVAC industry.



October 2025

2025-10-01, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The Central Oklahoma Chapter held its first monthly meeting of the year with President Will Thompson calling the session to order. The business portion of the meeting began with a recognition of the sponsors for the recent golf tournament, followed by an announcement regarding the upcoming Pickleball Tournament, scheduled for Friday, November 2nd, at Chicken N Pickle. A



highlight of the opening announcements was the recognition of Michael Halcomb, who was honored with the Golden Gavel award!

The technical program featured a presentation on "Liquid Desiccant Dehumidification" by Kathabar, delivered by guest speakers Greg Schmelz and Nathan Gora. Mr. Schmelz, who manages the liquid desiccant technology group, holds a chemical engineering degree from Purdue University and brought decades of experience from his time at Cummins and Alfa Laval, ranging from high-horsepower engine service to food processing efficiencies. Co-presenter Nathan Gora, a mechanical engineer from North Carolina State University and current MBA student at the University at Buffalo, utilized his background in automotive heat exchangers and liquid desiccant design to discuss innovative air treatment solutions. President Thompson provided closing remarks, and the meeting was adjourned. The meeting was attended by 47 individuals, including 10 YEA members, 1 student member, and 3 guests.



Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle on October 1, 2025

2025-10-15, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The Board of Governors for the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter met for their October meeting again at Chicken N Pickle. President Will Thompson opened the meeting by instructing officers and board members to complete their monthly checks with Regional Vice Chairs and to



again ensure they watched the Sexual Harassment Training and Decarb 101 courses to earn points. Treasurer Stephanie Thomas presented the financial report, noting a monetary loss during the previous meeting but confirming that taxes had been paid; the report was approved following a motion by Michael Akins and a second by Payton Parker. Secretary Michael Akins presented the minutes from the prior meeting, which were approved after a motion by Stephanie Thomas and a second by Damon McClure. Various committees provided updates on their progress, with the CTTC working on a joint meeting with the AOGC, the YEA committee planning an event at the Paycom Arena for October 24, and Student Activities scheduling a visit to Oklahoma State University for October 20 alongside plans for scholarship presentations in November. Additionally, Research Promotion Chair Matthew Akins noted the November 15 cutoff for Full Circle, while Government Affairs Chair Caleb Deck announced that a "Day on the Hill" was being booked for February.

2025-10-24, YEA Paycom Arena Tour

The arena tour was held at 2:00 PM in the afternoon. Cory Futrell and Eddie Lykins lead the tour and walked everyone through Cory's design for the building's new hydronic heating water system and pumping skids.



November 2025

2025-11-05, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The Chapter convened again for another monthly meeting with Vice President Kale Harper presiding. The meeting commenced with business regarding the Nomination Committee. The recognized committee members included Heather Martin, Michele Lefebvre, Dusty Stoabs, Scott Sanders, and Jon Wilmore. A motion to approve the committee was made by Jeff Foreman and seconded by Alex Roswell. Additionally, the upcoming Pickleball tournament scheduled for November 7 was advertised to the group. The technical presentation was given by Kirk Phipps, VP of Key Accounts for Hays Fluid Controls, on the topic of Fluid Controls and Balancing Valves. Phipps, who has over 15 years of experience in the industry, discussed the importance of hydronic balancing in relation to the TAB process, operating efficiencies, pump



performance, and occupant comfort. Vice President Kale Harper offered closing remarks, and the meeting adjourned. A total of 48 individuals attended the meeting, including 9 YEA members and 5 guests, with no student members present.

2025-11-07, Pickleball at Chicken N Pickle

The chapter gathered at Chicken N Pickle for the third annual Pickleball tournament. Designed primarily as a social event with a target to simply break even, the tournament was a success both financially and in terms of community building. The event hosted 24 two-person teams, a strong turnout that rivaled the 27 teams seen in the previous year. The competition concluded with congratulations to Joe Shiff and Matt Heasley, who secured first place, while Dale Clark and Jim Clark took home second-place honors.

Financially, the event exceeded expectations; with a total income of approximately \$4,054 against costs of \$3,284, the chapter was able to add around \$770 to its operating funds. This event was made possible through the robust support of industry sponsors. The chapter extended a special thank you to ES2 for serving as the Tournament Sponsor. Additionally, the event was supported by an impressive roster of Court Sponsors, including Federal Thermal, Boone & Boone, Wilo, Trane, CaptiveAire, Mechanical Sales Midwest, Harrison Energy Partners, Spur Design, and RB Akins.



2025-11-18, K-12 Student Activities, “Books & Legos” event at Coolidge Elementary

The Student Activities Committee was excited to team up again with the Boys & Girls Club of Oklahoma County. The organization provides Clubs where kids can go after school and during out-of-school time to grow beyond the classroom. Since they started over 30 years ago in 1995, they have grown from one Club to over 16 Club locations, serving 1,500 each day and over 18,000 each year. This event was an interactive session with local 2nd graders that combined reading the book “Lucy’s Engineering Adventure” and playing with a cat-themed Lego robot, a Lego dollhouse with mini figures, and assembling their own Lego kit of a piece of mechanical equipment.



2025-11-19, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The Board of Governors for the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter met for their November session at Chicken N Pickle. While a quorum was not met, the board proceeded with officer and committee reports. Chapter President Will Thompson confirmed that the February meeting would be a joint event with the AOGC at the Will Rogers Theatre, scheduled for the third Wednesday of the month rather than the usual first Wednesday. Treasurer Stephanie Thomas reported that taxes were filed on time and discussed the \$12,000 donation made to the Research Promotion campaign as budgeted.

Committee updates highlighted various chapter achievements and plans. Historian Dusty Stoabs coordinated with the newsletter editor on article formats and established a Dropbox location for archiving event photos. Research Promotion Chair Matthew Akins announced that the chapter had achieved Full Circle status, aided by additional donations from board members, and noted that donors would be recognized at the next meeting. The Student Activities committee reported a successful LEGO and Book event. Zach Snow was introduced as the newly appointed Sustainability Chair. Government Affairs Chair Caleb Deck confirmed the Day on the Hill for February 25th, noting the possibility that the ASHRAE Society President might attend. Additionally, the Scholarship committee submitted their selection to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation.

The meeting concluded with discussions regarding future programming and budget items. President Thompson planned to thank the eight court sponsors from the pickleball tournament at the upcoming chapter meeting. The board reviewed the meeting calendar, noting that May was the only month remaining to be scheduled. Discussions for the May program considered a panel format versus a single presenter, with potential topics focusing on government projects or a central plant discussion involving operators, designers, and contractors.

December 2025

2025-12-03, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The Central Oklahoma Chapter of ASHRAE convened for its regular chapter meeting with President Will Thompson calling the session to order at 11:50 AM. Thompson began the proceedings by expressing gratitude to those who attended the annual Pickleball Tournament, specifically acknowledging the sponsors who made the event possible. The business portion of the meeting also included recognition of Research Promotion donors by Matthew Akins and an announcement regarding the upcoming January 7th meeting.



The technical presentation for the afternoon, titled Cooling Today's High Performance IT Systems, addressed how accelerated computing driven by artificial intelligence and high-density architectures is fundamentally reshaping thermal requirements in data centers. The program outlined essential technologies such as cold plates, coolant distribution units, and rear-door heat exchangers, while highlighting the design and operational imperatives necessary for deploying high-performance compute environments.

The featured speaker was Russ Hoppes, a Senior Technical Sales Manager at Vertiv specializing in Liebert Thermal Management solutions. With over three decades of experience in mission-critical environmental systems, Hoppes drew upon his background in engineering and international sales to discuss energy-efficient and sustainable system designs. A graduate of Ohio State University and Ohio University, he shared his expertise on maximizing performance while reducing operational costs.



President Thompson offered closing remarks before the meeting adjourned. The event saw a total attendance of 48 individuals, including 9 Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) and five guests, though no student members were present.

2025-12-17, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

During the BOG officer reports, the Treasurer's report presented by Stephanie Thomas was accepted following a motion by Will Thompson and a second by Gavin Swenson. Committee updates provided insight into the chapter's future planning and current status. Shima Shahahmadi of the CTTC reported that the committee is looking for a speaker for May, potentially for a panel discussion, and mentioned a possible joint meeting with AGCOK on February 11th that could attract over 100 attendees. Dusty Stoabs announced that the chapter is almost caught up on its history narrative, from charter to present day, with the goal of being the only chapter in Region VIII to fully achieve this. In other committee news, Membership Promotion noted a decrease of four members, while Student Activities requested officer attendance for an upcoming event on February 24th. The Sustainability committee discussed potential events with Edmond Schools and another joint organization, and the Scholarship committee selected one graduate and one undergraduate recipient, though the winners were not yet public knowledge. Finally, the Honors & Awards committee planned to submit an article while continuing to seek Fellow candidates, and Government Affairs estimated the Day on the Hill would take place on March 4th. The lunch meeting concluded at 12:30 PM, with minutes submitted by Kale Harper.

January 2026

2026-01-07, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The chapter convened for its regular meeting, commencing shortly before noon under the direction of Chapter President Will Thompson. The assembly drew a total of 50 attendees, a figure that included 13 Young Engineers in ASHRAE, 2 students, and 4 guests, reflecting a broad cross-section of the local engineering community. The primary agenda of the gathering was a technical presentation by Christian Taber, a



Principal Engineer specializing in codes and standards at Big Ass Fans. Drawing on his extensive background collaborating with bodies such as the International Code Council and the U.S. Department of Energy, Mr. Taber guided the audience through the complexities of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55. The lecture focused on the evolution of occupant thermal comfort requirements, with specific attention given to the changes incorporated into the 2020 iteration of the standard.

Beyond the regulatory updates, he focused on the physics of heat transfer and the modernization of HVAC comfort strategies. The presentation highlighted the benefits of integrating traditional air conditioning with air movement technologies to improve building resiliency and energy efficiency.

2026-01-16, Nominating Committee meeting at Deep Deuce restaurant

In preparation for the upcoming administrative transition, the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Nominating Committee convened to deliberate on the future leadership of the organization. The committee, consisting of Heather Martin, Michele Lefebvre, Jon Wilmore, Scott Sanders, Dusty Stoabs, and Will Thompson, met with the express purpose of identifying and vetting potential candidates for the Board of Governors and chapter chair positions for the 2026-2027 society year. Through collaborative discussion, the group utilized their collective experience to review the membership roster, aiming to secure a slate of nominees capable of upholding the chapter's standards and continuing its momentum into the next term.



Chapter Nominating Committee meeting on January 16, 2026

2026-01-21, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The session was attended by a broad group of members, including Will Thompson, Michael Akins, Stephanie Thomas, and various other board members and committee chairs. President Will Thompson opened with a report that addressed the progress of the nomination committee, listing Joe Sanders, Aaron Cambell, Dusty Stoabs, and Michael Halcomb as potential Board of Governors nominees. It was noted that Dusty Stoabs



had recused himself from the nominating committee to ensure his eligibility for a board nomination, though the committee had not yet identified a candidate for the Secretary position. The board discussed financial concerns regarding the cost of meals and the losses incurred during chapter meetings. Thompson also announced a joint chapter meeting with AGCOK scheduled for February 11th at The Greens and noted that the Region XIII CRC would take place in Little Rock, Arkansas, from April 23rd through April 25th.

Stephanie Thomas provided the Treasurer's Report, which led to a discussion regarding the potential elimination of the current YEA meeting discount. The report was accepted by the board following a motion by Michael and a second by Gavin. Secretary Michael Akins presented the minutes for October, November, and December, which were approved following a motion by Stephanie and a second by John Dale.

The meeting continued with updates from the various committees detailing their progress and upcoming schedules. The CTTC indicated a search for a speaker for May, potentially for a central plant panel discussion, while Historian Dusty Stoabs reported that the chapter history was finally fully updated from its inception in 1935 to the present. Membership Promotion Chair Michael Halcomb noted the chapter needed two more members to meet its goal and proposed that members keep their own name badges to reduce logistical efforts. Research Promotion reported reaching 48 percent of its \$30,000 goal. Upcoming activities included a YEA happy hour at Social

Capital on February 12th, a refrigeration tour at Wander Folk Distillery on February 19th, a cornhole tournament on March 27th, and a clay shoot on May 8th. Government Affairs announced that Day on the Hill was set for March 3rd, and the Scholarship committee confirmed that recipients had been selected but not yet publicly announced.

February 2026

2026-02-11, Chapter Meeting at The Greens Country Club

The Central Oklahoma Chapter of ASHRAE held a joint lunch meeting with the Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma at The Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City. The proceedings began with introductions and announcements led by ASHRAE COK President Will Thompson. Among the chapter business discussions was an announcement regarding a cornhole event and the presentation of the Nominating Committee's selected candidates for the following year's officers and Board of Governors. President Thompson opened the floor for additional nominations;



finding none, member Dusty Stoabs motioned to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by John Harrod and approved by a unanimous vote. It was established that the slate of names would be published in the upcoming newsletter, with the final vote for installation scheduled for the March meeting.

Following the business session, AGC Executive Director Bobby Stem provided welcome remarks to the assembly. Cory Toole of Entegriy Energy Partners then introduced the keynote speaker, Zach Kremer, who presented on the topic Commissioning 101. Kremer, a licensed Professional Engineer and the Service Leader for Commissioning Services at Entegriy Partners, shared expertise derived from a career spanning mechanical design and commissioning. His professional background included significant projects such as the AT&T Center renovation in San Antonio and work at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis. The event drew a total attendance of 100 people, a figure that included members of the AGC, 16 YEA members, two students, and five guests.





Joint meeting with the Associated General Contractors of Oklahoma at The Greens Country Club

2026-02-18, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The session was again attended by a broad group of members consisting of the board members and committee chairs, and a quorum was present. President Will Thompson opened with a report and stated that the names for nomination to next years' BOG is set and will be published in the upcoming March newsletter. The names are: Kale Harper as President, Michael Akins as President Elect, Josh Weins as Secretary, Stephanie Thomas as Treasurer, and Will Thompson as Vice President. The newly elected Board of Governors consists of Aaron Campbell, Joe Sanders, Michael Halcomb, and Dusty Stoabs. President Thompson gave a broad report on behalf of the committee chairs that were not in attendance: The Distinguished Lecturer scheduled for April has fallen through and a replacement speaker is needed. The May meeting will be a panel discussion on central plants. Day on the Hill is scheduled for March 3rd. A combined YEA and Refrigeration tour is scheduled for Feb 19 in Guthrie at Wander Folk Distillery. Scholarship chair Brian Worthen stated that two scholarships have been awarded and expressed a desire that the recipients attend an upcoming chapter meeting to be recognized. Honors and Awards Chair John Harrod expressed desire for the chapter's Delegate at the CRC to present a motion allowing members to receive the Chapter Service Award more than once if they've qualified at different chapters. This is applicable to Stephanie Thomas who has already received the award in Pennsylvania but now has enough points to receive it again in Central Oklahoma. The board again discussed financial concerns regarding the cost of meals and the losses incurred during chapter meetings, a discussion that has taken place at almost every BOG meeting for past several years. Joe Sanders brought up a potential issue concerning members who do not pay local chapter dues. He stated that Society may give

chapters the choice to change the ASHRAE renewal application form to force a member to pay chapter dues or not be assigned to a chapter at all. He expressed concern that it is not known how this change will affect membership and finances. Sanders encouraged the board to think about whether they will choose this option or not. The decision must be made by end of June.

2026-02-19, Refrigeration & YEA joint event at Wander Folk Distillery in Guthrie

Fourteen total, including chapter members and guests, hopped aboard two buses and headed to Guthrie for the second YEA event of the year. Making this a joint YEA & Refrigeration event, they took over Wander Folk Distillery for a fantastic evening out. The knowledgeable guide walked them through the local history of Prohibition before treating the group to samples of their whiskey and vodka. However, the main purpose of the event was an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the distillation equipment and a walk through the warehouse to see exactly where their signature whiskey ages in wooden barrels.



2026-02-24, K-12 Student Activities, “Books & Legos” event at Woodson Park

The ASHRAE Student Activities Committee partnered again with the Boys & Girls Club of Oklahoma County to host an engaging afternoon with 5th–6th grade students focused on STEM and HVAC engineering. Payton Parker, Stephanie Thomas, and Michael Halcomb volunteered at the Melrose Recreation Center, bringing ASHRAE-donated LEGO kits, STEM-themed coloring books, and art supplies. Students were invited to choose their preferred activity, and ASHRAE volunteers circulated among the groups to assist with LEGO builds and facilitate



conversations about engineering. The interactive format encouraged hands-on learning while allowing for meaningful one-on-one engagement. The students had a great time! Some proudly completed their LEGO kits, while others enjoyed coloring STEM-themed pages. All materials were donated to the Boys & Girls Club following the event. Overall, the program was a successful outreach effort that fostered curiosity about engineering in a fun and accessible way.

March 2026

2026-03-03, Day on the Hill at the Oklahoma State Capitol

The Central Oklahoma and Northeastern Oklahoma chapters united for a joint “Day on the Hill” at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Industry professionals from both chapters met in the Capitol lobby to distribute national Government Affairs Committee packets and strategize before visiting offices. The Central Oklahoma chapter was represented by Caleb Deck, Will Thompson, and Chris Forth, while the Tulsa chapter was represented by Chad Smith and Ben Dye. The event successfully established connections with state lawmakers and positioned ASHRAE as a neutral, professional resource for building and energy-related legislation.

The chapters divided to maximize their reach, with the Central Oklahoma delegation successfully dropping in on Representative Mike Osburn, Senator Adam Pugh, Senator Carri Hicks, and Representative Cindy Munson. The primary legislative target of the day was Senate Bill 1285, proposed by Senator Bill Coleman. The group secured a brief sit-down with Senator Coleman to discuss the legislation, and he requested further follow-up via email. Drawing on his daily expertise in national HVAC regulations, Chris Forth provided critical insights regarding the bill's viability. He cautioned that the current language mandating specific energy efficiencies could conflict with federal law, potentially inviting swift legal challenges that would shut the program down. The delegation strongly advised amending the bill to either establish an incentive-based program or simply require projects to comply with ASHRAE 90.1



rather than listing specific metrics. Furthermore, the group noted that a recently amended version of the bill created confusion regarding the scope of work, specifically whether costly energy models would be mandated for all projects. The joint effort was a notable success. By offering clear, actionable alternatives to problematic legislative language, the two ASHRAE chapters successfully advocated for the industry while offering their ongoing technical expertise to the state government.

2026-03-04, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The chapter meeting took place with 41 total attendees, which included 6 YEA members, 3 students, and 4 guests. Chapter President Will Thompson opened the meeting to make an announcement regarding a cornhole event and subsequently led a vote electing the officers and Board of Governors for the next year. The election results named Kale Harper as President, Michael Akins as President Elect, Josh Weins as Secretary, Stephanie Thomas as Treasurer, and Will Thompson as Vice



President. The newly elected Board of Governors consists of Aaron Campbell, Joe Sanders, Michael Halcomb, and Dusty Stoabs. Following the announcements, Einar Frobom of Carson Solutions delivered a presentation titled Displacement Induction Ventilation (DIV): A Clear IAQ Benefit for Classrooms. He explained how displacement systems differ from mixed air systems by supplying cool air near the floor, which then naturally rises upon contacting heat sources like human bodies to bring fresh air to the breathing zone while pushing airborne contaminants upward. The system pairs a Dedicated Outdoor Air System to handle latent moisture loads with classroom terminal units that utilize a Venturi effect to draw room air over a hydronic heating and cooling coil. Frobom highlighted that because these in-room units do not have internal fans or filters, they operate quietly, require almost no maintenance, and save significant energy by allowing the overall air volume to be downsized. He noted that K-12 school environments, particularly renovations replacing aging unit ventilators, are the ideal application for this technology.

2026-03-18, BOG at Chicken N Pickle

The Chapter gathered for their March Board of Governors meeting. The meeting was well-attended by chapter leadership, including 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. A central focus of the meeting was the chapter's programming and event schedule. Stepping in for CTTC, Will Thompson noted the ongoing search for an April speaker, as well as plans for a central plant panel discussion in May. The Special Events committee, spearheaded by Michele Lefebvre and Ashley Hayden, laid out upcoming social activities, including a cornhole tournament on March 27th and a clay shoot set for May 8th. Meanwhile, Zach Snow outlined a proposed sustainability initiative involving a filter changeout and presentation with Edmond public schools potentially in March. The chapter's government affairs committee members were also active, with Caleb Deck reporting on the March 3rd "Day on the Hill" and efforts to schedule meetings with lawmakers.

Membership and student outreach remained key priorities for the chapter. Michael Halcomb, leading Membership Promotion, noted the chapter was just two members shy of its goal. In a practical administrative plea, he also requested that members begin taking their name badges home to spare him the effort of hauling the "badge suitcases" to every meeting. Student Activities, managed by Michael Akins and Payton Parker, reported success with the Student Design Competition and planned a potential K-12 STEM event with high schoolers for April 7th. In the realm of scholarships, Brian Worthen confirmed that recipients had been notified and invited to an upcoming meeting.

Looking ahead to regional recognition, the chapter prepared for the Region IIX CRC in Little Rock, Arkansas, scheduled for April 23-25. John Harrod, handling Honors & Awards, prepared chapter service awards and specifically suggested putting forth motions at CRC for Stephanie Thomas and Joe Sanders. Research Promotion, under Matthew Akins, reported reaching 48% of their \$30,000 goal for the year.



2026-03-27, Cornhole Tournament at Chicken N Pickle

The air was filled with the rhythmic thud of beanbags and the lively banter of engineers, contractors, and sales representatives stepping away from their computers and project sites to engage in the chapter's highly anticipated 4th Annual cornhole tournament!

The scale of the event was a testament to the thriving local industry, boasting an impressive turnout of 55 two-person teams. The tournament's success was deeply rooted in the generous support of industry partners. Between matches, attendees were

able to network and explore offerings from a dedicated group of vendors, which included Mitsubishi, Addison, Dynamic AQS, Onicon, and WaterFurnace. The gathering was further made possible by an extensive roster of sponsors who championed the chapter. MSM, Federal Thermal, ABS, Trane, Addison, Air Technologies, EEI, Lieber Mechanical, Midwest Machinery, Olsson, RK Akins Company, Saker Mechanical, and Streets all threw their backing behind the event, ensuring a well-provisioned and lively atmosphere for everyone involved.

As the afternoon wore on and the bracket narrowed, the casual tossing gave way to intense, focused competition. In the end, it was the aptly named duo, Bagging and Braggin, who emerged victorious from the massive field. George Christensen and Jon Wilmore demonstrated unparalleled precision and consistency on the boards, ultimately claiming the championship title and securing their bragging rights within the HVAC community for the year to come.



April 2026

2026-04-01, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The chapter convened for its regular assembly, with a turnout of 44 total attendees. The gathering highlighted the chapter's continued commitment to fostering the next generation of engineers, with 12 Young Engineers in ASHRAE members and two students present, alongside two guests. Chapter President Will Thompson called the lunch meeting to order, then, following the opening introductions,



President Thompson formally announced the upcoming chapter clay shoot, a key networking and fellowship event for contractors in the area. The meeting's technical program was anchored by Michael Halcomb of ES2. Halcomb delivered an in-depth presentation examining the practical applications and comparative merits of "Field Mounted vs. Factory Mounted Controls," providing valuable industry insights to the specifying engineers present.

2026-04-08, Student Activities Legos Event

ASHRAE volunteers Kale Harper, Michael Akins, and Payton Parker spent an afternoon engaging, this time, with high school students at the Memorial Park Boys & Girls Club. The team presented a range of HVAC career pathways, including highlighting opportunities within the industry and the impact of the built environment on everyday life. The session concluded with a hands-on activity in which students assembled LEGO kits while interacting with the volunteers. Overall it was a great event!



2026-04-23 through 2026-04-25, Region VIII CRC in Little Rock, AR

The annual ASHRAE Region VIII Chapter Regional Conference took place, bringing together all fifteen chapters from the region for their annual meeting. The conference covered a variety of topics and provided a valuable opportunity for the chapters to gather, learn from one another's experiences, and engage in fellowship while discussing regional operations and best practices. Throughout the event, attendees participated in meetings and networking opportunities designed to strengthen the individual chapters and the region as a whole. At the conclusion of the conference, the Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter was honored for its outstanding achievements and came away with the prestigious Golden Gavel trophy, recognizing them as the best chapter in Region VIII for the year.



*Heather Martin received the Communication Award for Region VIII at the CRC.
with Chapter President, Will Thompson*

2026-04-30, Panel Pre-Meeting at Bellini's Ristorante & Grill

On April 30, 2026, at 3:00 PM, a preparatory meeting was convened on the patio overlooking the pond at Bellini's Ristorante & Grill to organize the upcoming ASHRAE Chapter Meeting Panel Discussion on Central Plant Design, scheduled for May 6, 2026. The planning session was attended by panel moderator Kale Harper, alongside featured panelists Dusty Stoabs, Cory Futrell, Todd Lewis, and Eddie Lykins, with additional participation from members Will Thompson and Michele



Lefebvre. To ensure a successful and well-coordinated event, the group focused their discussion on establishing the logistical framework for how the panel will be conducted, while also collaboratively outlining potential topic questions and anticipating the panelists' responses to guide the flow of the upcoming presentation.

May 2026

2026-05-06, Chapter meeting at Chicken N Pickle

The Central Oklahoma Chapter held its last meeting of the Society year featuring a panel discussion focused on the intricacies of central plant design. Moderated by Kale Harper, the panel included industry professionals Dusty Stoabs from Jackson Streets Mechanical, Cory Futrell from FSB, Todd Lewis from Vicinity Energy, and Eddie Lykins from United Mechanical. The interactive session, driven by questions from both the



moderator and chapter members, explored the defining characteristics of successful central plants, emphasizing the critical balance between system complexity and the realistic skill levels of facility operators. The comprehensive dialogue covered a wide array of technical and operational considerations, including the proper application of building codes for varying occupancies, the necessity of rigorous schematic design analysis for load diversity and part-load performance, and the downstream consequences of overlooked details such as trade coordination, service clearances, and water quality. Furthermore, the panelists addressed modern challenges like electrification, future-proofing, and maintaining controls integrity over time, stressing that thorough specifications, accurate bypass valve sizing, and detailed sequences of operation are vital for successful commissioning and long-term maintainability. The meeting concluded with highly positive feedback from the membership, who found the practical insights and collaborative discussion on avoiding common design pitfalls both interesting and insightful.

*2026-05-08, Clay Shoot at Silverleaf Shotgun Sports

The chapter marked a significant institutional milestone this year by hosting its 10th consecutive Annual Sporting Clay Event. What began as a neat idea for a fun social gathering a decade prior has firmly established itself as a cornerstone tradition, fostering camaraderie and professional fellowship among the local engineering, sales representative, owner and mechanical construction communities. The successful execution of this milestone tournament was the direct result of the extensive planning and leadership of event organizers Michele Lefebvre and Ashley Hayden, whose meticulous coordination ensured a seamless experience for all participating members and guests. The 2026 tournament was characterized by exceptional marksmanship and a particularly dominant showing from the R.B. Akins



Company, which achieved the rare distinction of having representatives placed across all three of the top-winning teams, including Michael Akins, Tim Mincey, and Byron Hughes. The overall tournament victory was claimed by the formidable first-place squad of Michael Akins, Luke Mohr, Christian Foshee, and Conner Walters. Continuing his streak of precision, Luke Mohr once again successfully defended his title, securing the Best Shooter award for the event.

Industry support remained a vital component of the event's ongoing success and the chapter's ability to host this decade-long tradition. The chapter formally acknowledged the generous contributions of the 2026 Gold Sponsor, EEI, as well as Silver Sponsors, CaptiveAire and Federal Thermal. Additionally, the chapter extended its appreciation to Rigid Fabrication for designing and providing the highly praised custom trophies awarded to this year's top competitors. The 10th annual event stands as a testament to the chapter's enduring community engagement and the strength of the professional network within the Central Oklahoma region.



June 2026

2026-06-18, New Year Kickoff/Planning Session at The Truck Yard

The 2026-27 BOG and other interested members met for Happy Hour to plan events and set goals for the upcoming year. The meeting was broken up into two distinct parts: 1) President Will Thompson presided over the final BOG meeting of the year with the current BOG voting to approve the latest minutes for the record, and 2) Will officially turning over the meeting to President-Elect Kale Harper to conduct a planning session for the upcoming year with the new BOG members (many of whom are returning from 2025-26). The next ASHRAE Society year doesn't officially start until July 1, but President-Elect Kale Harper was eager to jump in and get things going ahead of schedule!

Kale expressed that he has high hopes for the upcoming year even stating an upfront goal of making it the best year our chapter has ever had. Well, no reason to not aim for the stars! More on what came out of the planning session will be written up in next years' history document.



OFFICERS:

President	Will Thompson
Vice President	Michael Halcomb
President Elect	Kale Harper
Secretary	Michael Akins
Treasurer	Stephanie Thomas

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Board of Governors	Damon McClure
Board of Governors	Gavin Swenson
Board of Governors	John Dale
Board of Governors	Payton Parker
Board of Governors	Scott Sanders

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Communications	Josh Arnett
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	
Government Affairs	Caleb Deck
Historian	Dusty Stoabs
Honors & Awards	John Harrod
Membership Promotion	Michael Halcomb
Newsletter	Rebecca Cawyer
Refrigeration	John Dale
Research Promotion	Matt Akins
Scholarship	Brian Worthen
Social Media	Heather Martin
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre/Ashley Hayden
Student Activities	Michael Akins/Payton Parker
Sustainability	Zach Snow/Zach Childers
Technology Transfer	Shima Shahahmadi
Electronic Communications	Josh Arnett
YEA	Ty Klakulak