



Chapter Year 2017-18

I enjoy highlighting our Golden Gavel winning years. I can't believe it's already been seven years since Damon was Chapter President! During the 2017-2018 chapter year, Damon McClure served as President of our Chapter bringing a unique perspective as a contractor and Project Manager at Harrison-Orr Air Conditioning, LLC. McClure's theme, Contribute. Purpose., shaped a year marked by impactful initiatives and achievements that distinguished our chapter as the best in Region VIII.

A key focus of Damon's presidency was increasing membership, particularly by involving trade apprentices and vocational students. Recognizing the untapped potential in this demographic, McClure collaborated with leaders from Local 124 (sheet metal) and Local 344 (plumbers and pipefitters) unions to highlight how ASHRAE membership could supplement their educational programs. This initiative led to a "Meet & Greet Night" at Local 344's apprenticeship school and a motion at the CRC in San Antonio to extend student membership rates to certified trade school students. These efforts aimed to integrate over 50 local apprentices engaged in HVAC&R education into the ASHRAE community.

The chapter also achieved significant success in Research Promotion fundraising through a series of events, including the annual golf tournament, which raised \$18,000, and the sporting clays event, which brought in \$8,000. Additionally, a new initiative, "Eat at the Garage Night," partnered with a local restaurant to donate 10% of sales to the chapter. To further support RP contributions, the Board of Governors doubled their usual donations, setting an example for individual giving.

Education and student programs were another hallmark of the year. The chapter hosted three Distinguished Lecturers, supported ASHRAE's webcast on energy efficiency, and maintained active student branches at institutions like OSU, OU, and UCO. A notable achievement was the sponsorship of 14 college students to attend the Winter Conference, a goal supported by \$2,600 in combined chapter and regional funds. These efforts were complemented by the "Student Protégé" program, which spotlighted graduate students' achievements in newsletters.

Community engagement and advocacy remained strong under McClure's leadership. Sustainability and service initiatives included participation in Rebuilding Together and cleaning the Boathouse District in Oklahoma City. The chapter also continued its joint "Day on the Hill" advocacy event with the Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter, involving 19 members.

The chapter received significant recognition during Damon's term. Dr. Jeff Spittler of OSU was inducted into the Chapter Hall of Fame for his extensive contributions to ASHRAE. The chapter's efforts culminated in winning the Golden Gavel at the 2018 CRC in San Antonio, marking the second time in four years it had received this prestigious award!

Reflecting on the year, McClure cited the sponsorship of students to the Winter Conference and outreach to trade and vocational schools as the chapter's most significant achievements. He attributed the chapter's success to teamwork and the dedication of its members, chairs, and volunteers, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and shared purpose.

McClure's leadership left a lasting impact on the chapter, achieving a well-rounded year that advanced ASHRAE's mission and established the Central Oklahoma Chapter as a standout in Region VIII. Our chapter went on to win the Golden Gavel again two years later. Visit our Past President's webpage to see all the years we've won the Golden Gavel: <https://ashraecok.org/pastpres.php>



Dusty Stoabs, PE
ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Historian



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