

Chapter Year 2022-23



Jon Wilmore, Chapter President 2022-23

This year's Chapter President, Jon Wilmore, only served one month as Secretary in 2021-22 before being promoted to President-Elect after the resignation of the President-Elect who was slated for that year. With that loss of experience equivalent to one out of three chapter chair years, one would not have been surprised if Jon had initially struggled a little governing the chapter. However, Mr. Wilmore hit the ground running by quickly introducing some unique and, as it turns out, wildly successful new ideas.

He went into the year having the opinion that the chapter's normal agenda had become too routine. He had a few new, creative ideas bouncing around in his head and was hoping these ideas, coupled with his natural sales skills, would stoke life into an organization that was still stagnating from the lingering aftermath of the COVID pandemic. Jon also believed that his new ideas might generate increased donations for the chapter and society in the process. As it turns out, he was correct on both. Mr. Wilmore's energy, along with the

combined efforts of all the committee chairs this year, really propelled the chapter forward such that we could finally say that we've left the black hole that was COVID behind.

Highlights of 2022-23

- President Wilmore energized the chapter with bold, new ideas.
- Launched the inaugural Oklahoma HVAC & Plumbing Expo, drawing 600 attendees and raising nearly \$40K.
- Added the "Take It Out on the Reps" fundraiser to the fall golf tournament for extra fun and revenue.
- Introduced an NCAA-style Cornhole Tournament with 200+ attendees and 64 sponsored teams.
- Special Events champions Andy Donehue, Heather Martin, Michele Lefebvre and Zach Childers delivered highly successful golf, expo, cornhole, and sporting clays fundraisers.
- YEA participation grew with 10 new members and reduced lunch pricing.
- Chapter programs delivered with diverse technical presentations and two Distinguished Lecturers.
- Communications excelled with timely newsletters, website updates, social media outreach, and the "HVAC Magicians" podcast.
- Added a net 22 new members through strong outreach and recruitment at events.
- Student Activities strengthened OSU/OU engagement, funded students, awarded scholarships, and supported grants.
- Government Affairs secured an Engineers Week proclamation and advanced OUBCC energy code efforts.
- Continued community service continued through Rebuilding Together, Restore OKC, and Habitat for Humanity.

Right off the bat, in order to have productive BOG sessions where creative new ideas could be properly discussed, Mr. Wilmore moved the BOG meetings from Clark Crew BBQ on NW Expressway to the private upper room at Chicken N Pickle near Britton and Broadway. Clark Crew was simply too loud to hear people talking at the other end of the table.

Caleb Spradlin, last year's Chapter President, was forced to find a new venue for the meetings since Chris Dolan, chapter president the year before him, had simply held the meetings at his office and catered pizza. Clark Crew offered good food, a centralized location, and appeared on the surface to be a good choice. However, the room they had wasn't isolated enough from the noise of the main dining space. Moving to Chicken N Pickle provided the quiet atmosphere needed to really get to work.

At the first BOG meeting in August, Jon Wilmore introduced the idea of having a very large HVAC and Plumbing trade show at the brand new OKC Convention Center complete with training classes for engineers needing professional development hours. After a brilliant sales pitch and extensive discussions on logistics and financing, the chapter leadership agreed to move forward with the lofty project. In just a couple of short months, and after an extraordinary amount of effort by the newly formed Expo Committee, especially Heather Martin, this event, held on October 12, 2022, turned out to be the largest event that our chapter has ever put on outside of hosting the CRC.

It was officially called the Oklahoma HVAC and Plumbing Expo and was a joint venture between Central Oklahoma, the Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter of ASHRAE, and the OKC Chapter of the American Society of Plumbing Engineers. The expo had 100 booths from a variety of manufacturers. It had a dozen technical presentations including some from our local ASHRAE student Members. It had over 600 people in total attendance at the one-day event! Dozens of prizes were given away at a happy hour at the end of the day, and the expo raised nearly \$40,000 which was split with the local ASPE Chapter! It was such an overwhelming success the expo committee decided to make it an annual event, swapping locations every other year with the NEOK chapter in Tulsa.

At the annual fall golf tournament, President Wilmore had the new idea of a "Take it out on the Reps" fundraising experiment where they took pictures of three individuals who were product reps in our market, then created life size posters of each and placed them out on the driving range. This wasn't too offensive coming from him, as he was a product rep himself. For a small contribution, members could hit golf balls at the life size posters propped up on the driving range. This added attraction at the golf tournament ended up being a lot of fun and many members had a great time trying to hit their favorite (or least favorite) rep. The chapter actually awarded a prize to the sales rep whose image was hit the most. Next year, they plan on doing it again but changing it to "Take it out on the Contractor"!



2022 Oklahoma HVAC and Plumbing Expo at the Oklahoma City Convention Center

Springboarding off the success of the Expo, President Wilmore introduced another new idea to promote membership, comradery and to raise more money, of course, in the process: an NCAA Bracket Style Cornhole Tournament. This new idea came to reality in the Spring, occurring on March 31, 2023 at Chicken N Pickle, and was the second largest event of the year, behind the Expo, with over 200 in attendance! Along with the competition, the event included food, drinks and manufacturers' show and tell booths set up around the outdoor playing area. 64 teams competed on custom cornhole boards with printed company logos which were sold as sponsorships.

While Jon Wilmore's leadership and guidance was key, the success of each of this year's major fundraisers really came down to a single champion on the Special Events committee that ensured every detail was covered. Andy Donehue organized the annual golf tournament, Heather Martin turned the Expo idea into reality, Michele Lefebvre setup, marketed and ran the Cornhole Tournament, and Zach Childers put together the annual Sporting Clays shoot.



*Golf Tournament "Take it out on the Reps"
Joe Sanders, Chris Dolan, and Tony Arango*

Increased YEA participation (members 35 years old and under) was also one of Jon's initiatives for the year, and the YEA Committee was active and productive supporting both professional development and chapter engagement. To enhance technical learning, YEA held a presentation on control sequences led by the Chapter President-Elect, Scott Sanders. In a way to encourage more YEA attendance at chapter meetings, President Wilmore throughout the idea of lowering the cost for YEA to attend down to \$15, which the BOG approved.

YEA members played a major role in chapter leadership, with several serving as chairs, co-chairs, or on the Board of Governors, and one leading the chapter's social media efforts. Membership grew with the addition of a net 10 new YEA members on the year. The committee partnered with Refrigeration for a joint tour and concluded the year with a successful paintball event. On the DIA front, this marked the second year Society provided sexual-harassment-prevention training videos, allowing chapters to earn PAOE points for members watching the videos.

Speaking of chapter meetings, President Wilmore was concerned that past years were too heavily weighted toward manufacturer presentations. This year, he really wanted the CTT committee to schedule more speakers that didn't work directly for or rep any equipment manufacturer. The committee succeeded in putting together a diverse agenda that included a presentation on load modeling, one on engineering ethics, another on indoor air quality, and ended the year with a panel discussion which included the design and construction teams for the new Omni Hotel that just opened in downtown OKC. The CTT committee was also able to work in two ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturers, which are always popular. On the following page is the full slate of chapter meeting presentations:

Oct-22, Oklahoma City Convention Center, **Jim Riendeau with ESC/Ebtron**, Building Pressurization

Nov-22, Will Rogers Theatre, **Ted Duffy with LAARS**, High Efficiency Boilers

Dec-22, Will Rogers Theatre, **David Archer with GPS Air**, Indoor Air Quality using Ionization

Jan-23, Will Rogers Theatre, **Patrick Pease with Cove Tool**, Load Modeling

Feb-23, Will Rogers Theatre, **Eric Casper with the Oklahoma Board of Professional Engineers**, Engineering Ethics

Mar-23, Will Rogers Theatre, **Dru Crawley Ph.D and ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer**, Decarbonization

Apr-23, Will Rogers Theatre, **Chris Mathis – ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer**, ASHRAE 90.1

May-23, Omni Hotel, Panel Discussion on the Omni Hotel design and construction process

Our communications chair positions (Email/Newsletter & Social Media) were a bright spot in our chapter. Both roles were held by YEA members. Austin Fulmer sent the newsletter out on time each month looking great. The website, which is hosted by StarChapter, was given a thorough once-through by Josh Arnett to get everything up-to-date and to fix all broken links.

Our Social Media Chair, Jess Fitzpatrick, continued to promote the Chapter through a wide range of outreach efforts, including producing monthly episodes of her “HVAC Magicians” podcast—launched in April 2022—in which she interviews industry professionals ranging from equipment representatives and contractors to building owners, professors, and engineers. She also created a YouTube channel to highlight Young Engineers in ASHRAE, consistently posted Chapter events across Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, and produced a Chapter Summary Video that was shown at the CRC. All “HVAC Magicians” episodes can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, and other platforms by searching for the podcast name.

Including the 10 new YEA members, the chapter added a total of 22 net new members this year. This was accomplished through a concerted outreach effort including a membership booth at the Expo, organizing three chapter meetings to have “Bring-a-Non-Member” award incentives, and encouraging members to bring non-members as their playing partners at the Cornhole Tournament.

The Student Activities Committee had a productive year, strengthening our outreach and support for local university programs. They visited both Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, hosting a research symposium at OSU featuring student presentations on refrigerants and compressors, and meeting with OU students to discuss the value of ASHRAE membership—both during school and after graduation. The chapter sponsored four students to attend the Winter Conference in Atlanta and awarded three \$1,500 scholarships to student members. Faculty at OSU and OU continued their strong performance by securing three Undergraduate Program Equipment Grants collectively. Chapter members remained actively engaged by mentoring and judging senior design teams.



*Fun on the way to OSU; Cowboy Travel Plaza, Hwy 51
Engineers Week Feb. 2023; Jon Wilmore and Michael Akins*

In the K-12 demographic, the chapter donated 25 copies of ASHRAE’s new “Lucy’s Engineering Adventure” paperback book to Read OKC – On the Go which is a mobile book bus program. The rhyming picture books introduce children to HVAC engineering through the various activities of a curious young girl named Lucy. In the book, she finds unique solutions to STEM problems and ASHRAE hopes these books will encourage young people to think about careers in engineering and HVAC&R.

This year, Government Affairs Chair, Byron Hughes, led several successful advocacy initiatives on behalf of the chapter. Working with state leadership, Byron helped secure a statewide proclamation from Governor Kevin Stitt recognizing Engineers Week, which was celebrated February 19–25, 2023. He also continued to closely watch the activities of the Oklahoma Uniform Building Code Commission (OUBCC) as they review the 2018 International Residential Code and the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. The committee anticipates adoption of the updated residential energy code very soon, and the commercial energy code adoption is hoped to follow in future years.

Byron participated in multiple OUBCC meetings and collaborated with Chris Bruehl in the Governor’s Office to recommend appointments for two newly created OUBCC positions stemming from last year’s advocacy. Additional government affairs activities included the annual Day on the Hill and hosting virtual meetings with Senator Lankford and Representative Hern.

The chapter again hosted sustainability events this year: Rebuilding Together, Restore OKC, and Habitat for Humanity. One-day construction projects and clean-up efforts have become an annual way the chapter gives back to the community.

In all, it was a great year. President Wilmore and his Special Events crew proved themselves to be masters at conceiving of and executing large-scale, high attendance fundraising events. When asked about his experience in chapter leadership and what advice he would give to future leaders, he had this to say:

“Stay involved, be passionate, and have fun above all else. I understand how much work goes into putting together an ASHRAE Chapter President Year and I know it is easy to say “OK, I’m done,” but we need leaders to stay engaged. If you show people that you are committed to doing a great job, others will get behind you. If you aren’t having fun, do something else.”



2023 Central Oklahoma Chapter Cornhole Tournament



Chapter Year 2022-23

OFFICERS:

President	Jon Wilmore
Vice President	Caleb Spradlin
President Elect	Scott Sanders
Secretary	Michael Halcomb
Treasurer	Stephanie Thomas

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Board of Governors	Caleb Deck
Board of Governors	Chris Dolan
Board of Governors	Jess Fitzpatrick
Board of Governors	Josh Arnett
Board of Governors	Will Thompson

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Communications	Josh Arnett
Diversity in ASHRAE	Lauren Moriarty
Government Affairs	Jeff Forman
Historian	Dusty Stoabs
Honors & Awards	John Harrod
Membership Promotion	Jesse Gentling
Newsletter	Austin Fulmer
Refrigeration	John Dale
Research Promotion	Anson Brady
Scholarship	Michael Akins
Social Media	Jess Fitzpatrick
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre
Student Activities	Michael Akins
Sustainability	Adam Fitzpatrick
Technology Transfer	Heather Martin
Webmaster	Josh Arnett
YEA	Tanner Jones

