

Chapter Year 2023-24



Scott Sanders, Chapter President 2023-24

The Central Oklahoma Chapter commenced its activities for the 2023-24 year with a blend of camaraderie and strategic vision during a summer planning meeting held in July at the residence of President-Elect Michael Halcomb. Amidst the social gathering that welcomed members' families, including kids, for a cookout and pool time, the leadership established a robust roadmap centered on four critical objectives: overall chapter growth, boosting chapter meeting attendance, increasing fundraising of individual donors, and strengthening commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

Along with these goals, Chapter President Scott Sanders championed operational stability. Understanding that ASHRAE's volunteer leadership can be volatile at times and there can be disconnects between one year to the next, President Sanders created a "living document" operations calendar with notes. Based on the ASHRAE Manual for Chapter Operations, this master schedule includes critical deadlines—such as audit completions, nominating committee formation and when annual votes

must take place—ensuring continuity between leadership year to year regardless of turnover. The need for this type of document was proven via case-in-point when Board of Governors members Jared Wilson and Adam Fitzpatrick resigned due to professional demands, and the Board appointed replacements Payton Parker and Eli Sanchez. A quick review can bring new board members up to speed quickly.

Highlights of 2023-24

- Added 38 new members and transitioned 3 students to Associate status.
- Increased average meeting attendance from 39 to 53 by relocating to a new venue and focusing on technical topics.
- Hosted Society President Ginger Scoggins for student outreach and a technical session on the climate crisis.
- Reduced carbon footprint for chapter meetings by offsetting emissions.
- Expanded YEA roster to 21% of membership, with 15 members serving in leadership roles.
- Met the \$41,840 Research Promotion goal driven by excellent participation in social tournaments.
- Launched the inaugural pickleball tournament, exceeding participation goals with 37 teams and over 100 attendees.
- Grew the scholarship endowment to nearly \$94,000 and awarded \$6,000 to three engineering students.
- Continued producing "HVAC Magicians" podcasts and extensively utilized social media for recruitment.
- Influenced state legislation during "Day on the Hill," aiding the passage of HB 4013 and modifying HB 3819 concerning energy codes.
- Chapter President Scott Sanders received the Jack Thompson Award for most effective Chapter President in Region VIII.

Chapter Meeting Speakers and Topics:

10/4, Chicken N Pickle, **Nathan Kegal with IES**, Energy Modeling

11/1, Chicken N Pickle, **Mark Fly (DL) with AAON & Joe Sanders ASHRAE Region VIII DRC**, Vibration Fundamentals/Society Strategic Plan

12/6, Chicken N Pickle, **Mike Thompson with ZFI**, Seismic Design for Non-structural Elements

1/3, Chicken N Pickle, **Gus Gagliardi with Rated Engineering**, Life Safety Dampers in the Code

2/7, Chicken N Pickle, **Michael Halcomb with ES2**, HVAC Controls

3/6, Chicken N Pickle, **Darrin Beller with Air Products Supply**, Geothermal Heat Pumps and Available Tax Credits

4/2, Chicken N Pickle, **Ginger Scoggins with Engineered Designs and ASHRAE Society President**, Challenge Accepted: Tackling the Climate Crisis

5/1, Chicken N Pickle, **Healthcare Panel Discussion**



*Chapter Meeting.
Mark Fly, Scott Sanders and Joe Sanders*

Recognizing that the post-pandemic landscape had altered how engineers engage with professional societies, the leadership executed a pivot to revitalize attendance. Under the guidance of Chapter Technology Transfer (CTT) Chair Kale Harper, the Chapter relocated regular meetings from the oversized Will Rogers Theatre to the "Be Amazing" room at Chicken N Pickle. This new, intimate venue, with a capacity of 125 and casual couch seating, fundamentally changed the dynamic, encouraging members to arrive early and stay late. Simultaneously, the Chapter shifted programming toward deep-dive engineering topics. The meeting schedule included topics such as Energy Modeling, Vibration Fundamentals, Seismic Design, Life Safety Dampers, DDC Controls and a Healthcare panel discussion.

This strategic shift yielded results, with average meeting attendance going from 39 to 53. The Chapter also made a concerted effort to align with Society President Ginger Scoggins' decarbonization goals. By scheduling almost all local speakers that utilized car travel—even Scoggins driving from Bentonville, Arkansas, and Mark Fly driving in from Tulsa—the Chapter calculated the resultant total carbon footprint reduction and even logged offsets via Sustainable Travel International.

To support the goals, Membership Promotion (MP) chairs Ryan Sutton and Will Kinser, alongside Communications committee members Josh Arnett, Eli Sanchez, and Jess Fitzpatrick implemented a multifaceted recruitment strategy. Josh managed the distribution of 84 email blasts, while Jess generated 97 social media posts across LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. This digital visibility yielded tangible results; a notable example was a new member joining specifically to attend a tour of the downtown OKC central utility plant after seeing a posted announcement. The digital presence was further bolstered by the Chapter's outreach podcast, "HVAC Magicians," which reached Episode #18 this year featuring Dr. Jeff Spitler of OSU. Additionally, the committee modernized administrative processes by introducing QR

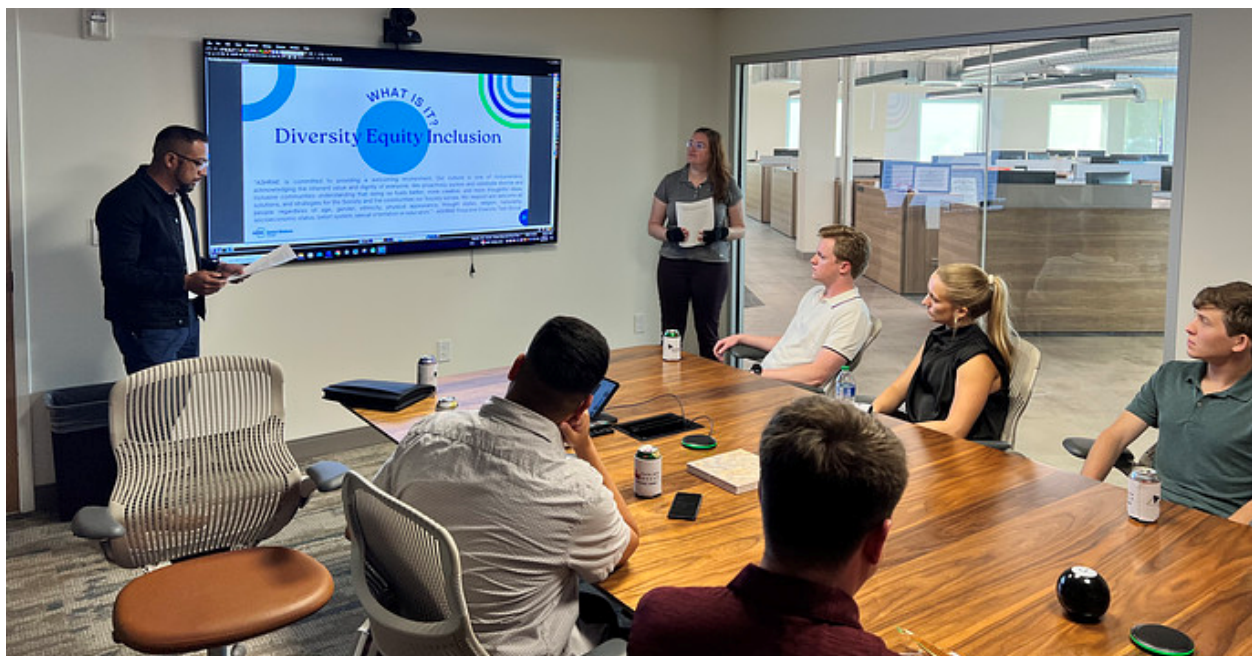
codes at meetings for instant access to evaluations, PDH certificates, and membership applications. These efforts, combined with a "Bring a Non-Member" initiative in January and personalized outreach via calls and visits, resulted in the addition of 38 new members.

This energy extended to fundraising efforts, which were necessary to meet a significantly increased Research Promotion (RP) goal of \$41,840. To achieve this, RP Chair Heather Martin established a Special Events Committee comprising Michele Lefebvre, Andy Donehue, Jon Wilmore, Zachary Childers and President Sanders. The strategy began with returning the golf tournament to the renovated Kickingbird Golf Course, where thirty teams competed, raising nearly \$12,000 over the budgeted income.

Momentum continued with an inaugural pickleball tournament on November 3, 2023, which attracted 37 teams and over 100 attendees. The second annual cornhole tournament also saw growth, filling a sixty-four-team bracket and tripling the previous year's net proceeds; the winning team even donated their \$200 prize back to RP.

Internally, a raffle for a \$450 gift card incentivized individual giving. Concluding with a clay shoot in May, these combined efforts ensured a highly successful RP campaign. To win the \$450 gift card, awarded at the May meeting, members—excluding officers and voting BOG members— had to attend at least six of the eight scheduled chapter meetings and make a one-time minimum \$25.00 to RP.

While the Chapter worked to secure its financial goal, it remained equally dedicated to cultivating the next generation of engineers. Under Student Activities Chair Michael Akins, outreach spanned from K-12 to graduate research. YEA member Payton Parker led K-12 engagement through "Read OKC," sharing the book "Lucy's Engineering Adventure" in local classrooms. Her work even inspired Abryn Wyatt, an author of STEM books, to join the Chapter. At the collegiate level, members Chris Carlsen and Korey Wheeler mentored students at the University of Oklahoma, while Michael organized a manufacturing tour at Loren Cook in Springfield, Missouri, for Oklahoma State University (OSU) students. The Chapter also funded seven college students to attend the Winter Conference in Chicago.



*YEA/DEI September Educational Session Lead by Eli Sanchez and Jess Fitzpatrick.
Location: Alvine Engineering*

The collegiate programming peaked on April 2, 2024, when Society President Ginger Scoggins visited OSU. She toured ASHRAE-funded research labs and presented “Challenge Accepted: Tackling the Climate Crisis” to 78 mechanical engineering students. To help support these future engineers, the Chapter continued to grow its scholarship endowment, managed by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. A task force revamped the selection process to eliminate bias, resulting in the awarding of three \$2,000 scholarships—one to a graduate student and two to undergraduates—selected from a growing pool of applicants. Furthermore, the focus on retention paid off, with three student members transitioning to Associate Member via the Societies new SmartStart program—a three-year prepaid membership offering students the Associate member benefits at a reduced cost.

As students transitioned into professionals, the Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) demographic experienced robust growth, now comprising 21% of the total membership with 49 members. Under Chairs Austin Fulmer and Aaron Gooden, YEA programming blended technical skill with social awareness. A standout event in September combined "Acoustics 101" with a presentation on workplace ageism and microaggressions led by Jess Fitzpatrick and Eli Sanchez. Other social events included a unique visit to a Cat Café in February and their traditional paintball outing in May. YEA members also pursued society service and education with Aaron Gooden attending Leadership Weekend 2.0, Jess Fitzpatrick attending the Leadership Academy, and member Brian Worthen along with Jess serving on a national Technical Committee (TC9.06).



November Pickleball Tournament at Chicken N Pickle

The Chapter's commitment to inclusivity was further formalized by renaming the "Diversity in ASHRAE" (DIA) committee to the "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" (DEI) committee. Along with the combined September event, Chairs Jess and Eli also presented on "The Basics of DEI" at a BOG, hosted a book club discussion on "I Never Thought of It That Way" by Monica Guzman, and organized a "New Management Mentality" event in May.

Beyond internal growth and development, the Chapter turned its attention outward to influence public policy under Government Affairs Chair Caleb Deck. The committee focused on the "Healthy and Efficient Schools" program, visiting six public school systems and one university. Advocacy efforts culminated on March 12, 2024, during "Day on the Hill." Fifteen members from the Central and Northeastern Oklahoma Chapters met with state legislators to discuss infrastructure and energy codes. This engagement contributed to the passage of HB 4013 (passing overwhelmingly 84 to 4), which funds higher education infrastructure, and the successful removal of a restrictive "7-year payback" amendment from HB 3819, ensuring that the eventual upgrade to the state energy

code could proceed based on previously verified ASHRAE Standard 90.1 savings.

The year concluded with high honors at the ASHRAE Region VIII Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) in Dallas. Chapter President Scott Sanders received the prestigious Jack Thompson Award, recognizing him as the most effective Chapter President in the region. Upon accepting the award, Sanders reflected on the collective effort of the Chapter:

"The guy that was presenting the award might have tipped his hand a little prior to announcing, because he had been as cool as a cucumber all evening, but when presenting this award, he started stumbling over his words a little... When it was announced, I was somewhat surprised... The first thing I did was hug my wife because without her support I would not be able to pursue my passions... The first thing I said for the acceptance was while this award had my name on it, it was the effort of our Chapter that deserved the recognition; my job was simple: empower and encourage those around me to be the best ASHRAE volunteer that they could be."



Chapter Meeting at Chicken N Pickle's "Be Amazing" Room

Chapter Year 2023-24

OFFICERS:

President	Scott Sanders
Vice President	Jon Wilmore
President Elect	Michael Halcomb
Secretary	Will Thompson
Treasurer	Stephanie Thomas

BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Board of Governors	Caleb Spradlin
Board of Governors	Eli Sanchez
Board of Governors	John Dale
Board of Governors	Josh Arnett
Board of Governors	Payton Parker

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Communications	Josh Arnett
Diversity in ASHRAE	Jess Fitzpatrick
Government Affairs	Caleb Deck
Historian	Dusty Stoabs
Honors & Awards	John Harrod
Membership Promotion	Ryan Sutton
Newsletter	Eli Sanchez
Refrigeration	John Dale
Research Promotion	Heather Martin
Scholarship	Robert Smith
Social Media	Jess Fitzpatrick
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre
Student Activities	Michael Akins
Sustainability	Adam Fitzpatrick
Technology Transfer	Kale Harper
Webmaster	Josh Arnett
YEA	Austin Fulmer

