

## Chapter Year 2024-25



*Michael Halcomb, Chapter President 2024-25*

Michael Halcomb grew up in Cement, Oklahoma, and earned an associate degree in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technologies from OSU–Oklmulgee. His fascination with HVAC began in childhood and evolved into a career focused on systems, commissioning, and building automation—the “brains” that bring mechanical systems to life. As a leader at ES2, he emphasizes teamwork and problem-solving to improve building performance and efficiency. A dedicated ASHRAE member, Michael served as Chapter President this year, guiding the chapter to win the Golden Gavel through collaboration, mentorship, and clear goals. By empowering others, measuring progress, and keeping the work enjoyable, he led the chapter to another very successful year!

The year began with a planning meeting at Michael’s home in July, his second time hosting the event. Alongside good food, drinks, and conversation, chapter leaders discussed strategies to improve meeting attendance, address rising food and venue costs, grow membership, and organize social events beyond regular meetings. The tone for the year was one of teamwork, transparency, and inclusion.

As the new year approached, the chapter entered a period of transition when longtime member Jess Fitzpatrick moved away. Jess had made a lasting impact through her leadership in social media, her innovative “HVAC Magicians” podcast, and her work advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Although she had volunteered to serve as Chapter Secretary for 2024–25, her relocation required the Board to elect a replacement. Kale Harper, who was already serving as Chapter Technology Transfer Chair (CTTC), stepped up to fill the secretary position—graciously agreeing to carry out both roles for the year.

### Highlights of 2024-25

- Kicked off with a planning retreat hosted by Michael Halcomb
- Josh Arnett sent 60 email blasts; Heather Martin boosted social media.
- DEI: Committee renamed from DIA; Chair Jamie Whittington featured Stephanie Thomas in an interview
- Six members attended Day on the Hill, supporting pro-efficiency legislation
- Roy Crawford named the chapter’s 10th ASHRAE Fellow
- Added 26 members; hosted cornhole and “bring a non-member” events
- Golf, pickleball, and sporting clays tournaments held successfully
- Reached Full Circle; \$450 raffle awarded for attendance plus donation
- Added 15 students; sent 8 to Winter Conf.
- Added 6 YEA members; hosted 3 socials; 13 YEA served in leadership
- All speakers booked early, including Society President; QR code for PDHs
- Migrated all chapter files to the Society Basecamp platform
- Won the Region VIII Golden Gavel

In communications, Josh Arnett excelled as Communications Chair, distributing roughly 60 email blasts promoting meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities. Heather Martin maintained an active online presence through Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, ensuring the chapter stayed visible and engaged across multiple platforms. Together, their efforts significantly enhanced outreach and member connection.

This year, the former Diversity in ASHRAE (DIA) committee was renamed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) to align with Society’s national direction. Since its founding in 2019–20 under Chair Aruna and President Madison Schultz, the committee has strived to attain continuity and purpose. In 2024–25, Jamie Whittington chaired DEI and conducted a feature interview with Chapter Treasurer and Professional Engineer Stephanie Thomas. Stephanie, a Purdue graduate and founder of Moxify Engineering, shared her journey from HVAC sales at Carrier to entrepreneurship, emphasizing her commitment to creating inclusive work environments. A long-serving Treasurer, she has been a trailblazer for women in engineering and a strong advocate for DEI within ASHRAE.

The Government Affairs Committee remained active in legislative outreach. Six Central Oklahoma members attended “Day on the Hill” on February 27, joining colleagues from the Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter to meet with state legislators. The group supported bills promoting energy efficiency and professional standards—such as HB 1580 (tax credits for high-efficiency homes), HB 2084 (continuing education for contractor licensing), SB 99 (extension of energy efficiency tax credits), SB 614 (energy program listings), and SB 619 (industrial energy efficiency plans)—while opposing legislation that could hinder renewable energy or conservation efforts, including HB 1450, HB 1452, HB 2037, and SB 239.

As Chapter Historian for the ninth consecutive year, yours truly, Dusty Stoabs, continued chronicling the chapter’s legacy through newsletter articles and updates to the official history records. This year’s topics included the Gold Ribbon Award, Diversity in ASHRAE, and profiles of notable members such as Scott Sanders, Tino Mendez, Damon McClure, Bobbie J. Vermillion and Frank Loeffler Sr.; all past Chapter Presidents.



*Board of Governor’s Meeting, Chicken N Pickle, August 2024*

A major highlight of the year was the recognition of Dr. Roy R. Crawford of Johnson Controls as the chapter's newest ASHRAE Fellow—an honor that is rare and prestigious. With seven patents, 35 publications, and extensive contributions to HVAC research and education, Roy exemplifies the innovation and excellence required for this distinguished grade of membership. In the 90-year history of the Central Oklahoma Chapter, only ten members have ever achieved the rank of Fellow.

The Membership Promotion Committee, led by Bill Kinser, had another active year focused on recruitment and engagement. “Bring a Non-Member” meetings in March and April featured gift card raffles to encourage guests, while the third annual Cornhole Tournament provided a fun and relaxed networking opportunity. The chapter grew from 233 to 259 Area Assigned Members and introduced a QR code at meetings linking directly to ASHRAE’s membership page. The committee also recognized employers who sponsor their employees’ ASHRAE memberships, highlighting the importance of company support in fostering professional growth. Meanwhile, Special Events Chair Michele Lefebvre organized the chapter’s traditional golf, pickleball, and sporting clays tournaments—all well attended.



*Joe Sanders (Region VIII DRC) and Dusty Stoabs (Historian) at the Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) in Tulsa*

John Dale, Refrigeration Chair, hosted a tour of Anthem Brewing on February 27, 2025, attended by 12 members, combining education with camaraderie.

Under new Research Promotion Chair Matt Akins, the chapter set a fundraising goal of \$31,000 and achieved “Full Circle” participation, with all officers contributing at least \$100. Donors were recognized at the January meeting, and the chapter continued its successful raffle of a \$450 gift card for members donating \$25 or more and attending at least six of eight meetings. The year’s winner was none other than Jess Fitzpatrick.

Though Jess moved away, her creative legacy endured. Her “HVAC Magicians” podcast—launched in April 2022—featured engaging interviews with ASHRAE members and industry professionals. As of April 2024, she had posted 21 episodes, leaving a lasting and innovative mark on how the chapter documents its history.

The Student Activities Committee, co-chaired by Michael Akins and Payton Parker, fostered impressive growth and outreach. Payton led K–12 initiatives, volunteering with “Read OKC” and reading “Lucy’s Engineering Adventure” to students. At the University level, the chapter added 15 new student members for a total of 34 and provided financial assistance for eight to attend the ASHRAE Winter Conference in Chicago.

Unfortunately, the Sustainability Committee was inactive this year. Traditionally, the chapter holds two or three single-day events such as Habitat for Humanity or Boathouse District volunteer days, but no chair was appointed following the departure of former chair Adam Fitzpatrick. However, Society continued offering the Decarb 101 training video series.

CTTC Chair Kale Harper secured all program speakers by November 2024, ensuring a well-planned year of presentations. Attendance increased modestly over the previous year, and a new QR code system was implemented to make PDH credit collection more efficient for attendees. A list of all chapter meetings, speakers and topics is provided on the following page. A notable one is

ASHRAE Society President Dennis Knight speaking at the December meeting.

**Chapter Meetings:**

10/9, OKC Convention Center, **Fred Berry with JCI**, Chiller Applications for Electrification

11/6, Chicken N Pickle, **Cory Futrell with FSB**, Central Plant Fundamentals

12/5, Chicken N Pickle, **ASHRAE President Dennis Knight**, Challenges in the Workforce

1/8, Chicken N Pickle, **Caleb Deck with FSB**, HVAC Impact on Building Sustainably

2/5, Chicken N Pickle, **Greg DuChane with Trane**, Air Handling Unit Applications

3/6, Chicken N Pickle, **Tracey Jumper with Microsoft**, Data Center Commissioning

4/2, Chicken N Pickle, ASHRAE/AFCOM Joint Panel Discussion

5/7, Fogo De Chao, **Brent Fullerton with Loren Cook**, Optimizing Fan Efficiency

Under Steven Klakulak, the Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) Committee enjoyed a strong year of engagement. Six new members joined, bringing YEA participation to 21% of the total chapter membership. The committee hosted three standout events—"Controls 101", a rock-climbing outing, and a paintball competition—all designed to blend professional development with fun. YEA members continued to demonstrate leadership with 13 serving in official roles including six as committee chairs.

Behind the scenes, the chapter addressed a long-standing issue with its Basecamp file management system. After learning that the free version no longer supported uploads beyond a certain limit, leaders coordinated a time-consuming but necessary migration to the Society-provided Basecamp project in December 2024, ensuring long-term file access and continuity.

At the Region VIII Chapters Regional Conference (CRC) in April 2025, hosted in Tulsa, attendees used the "ASHRAE 365" mobile app for the first time to view schedules and event details.

All the hard work by every committee certainly paid off. The CRC concluded with an unforgettable moment: when the Golden Gavel winner was announced, the we were stunned to hear our name called. After a brief pause of disbelief, cheers erupted as twelve members made their way to the stage, with President Michael Halcomb proudly holding the famed trophy. The chapter had edged out Monterrey—winner of the previous three years—by a narrow margin, marking a remarkable achievement for the team.

Reflecting on the chapter's success, Michael shared these words of wisdom for future leaders:

*"Empower your team—don't try to do everything yourself. Give people ownership and trust them to deliver. Keep the scoreboard visible—set clear goals and track progress so everyone knows how they're contributing to success. And make it fun—whether it's meetings, socials, or fundraisers, people stay engaged when they're learning and enjoying themselves."*



Central Oklahoma chapter members receiving the Golden Gavel award  
Tulsa CRC, April 2025

## Chapter Year 2024-25

### OFFICERS:

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

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

Board of Governors	Damon McClure
Board of Governors	John Dale
Board of Governors	Jon Wilmore
Board of Governors	Josh Arnett
Board of Governors	Payton Parker

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Communications	Josh Arnett
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Jamie Whittington
Government Affairs	Caleb Deck
Historian	Dusty Stoabs
Honors & Awards	John Harrod
Membership Promotion	Bill Kinser
Newsletter	Rebecca Cawyer
Refrigeration	John Dale
Research Promotion	Matt Akins
Scholarship	Robert Smith
Social Media	Heather Martin
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre
Student Activities	Michael Akins
Sustainability	
Technology Transfer	Kale Harper
Webmaster	Josh Arnett
YEA	Steven Klakulak

