



Golden Gavel Resurgence

The *prestigious Golden Gavel* award is an annual award given to the best overall ASHRAE chapter in the region based on an exhaustive set of criteria including membership, donations, programs, activities, communications, and more. It is both a chapter award, consisting of an actual golden gavel trophy awarded to the winning chapter, and an individual award, consisting of a special gold lapel pin with diamond given to the chapter president. The chapter only keeps the golden gavel in their possession for a year before handing it over to the next winner, but the lapel pin is the chapter president's to keep forever.

From its inception up to and including 1993, the Central Oklahoma Chapter won this award, on average, every 2 years with the longest stretch without winning of only 6 years! We dominated the field. However, after president B.H.Prasad and the chapter won the award in 1993, we went on a 22 year stretch of, well, let's just say we weren't the best chapter in the region those years. It's a hard award to win. And I was our chapter president for one of those years during the drought, so I know what defeat feels like, and I personally realize now, looking back, really how much of an effort it actually takes to win. However, on Saturday, April 25, 2015, in Fort Worth, Texas, in front of ASHRAE members who traveled in from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and even Mexico, Mr. Joe Sanders, our chapter President during the 2014-15 society year, was presented with the prestigious Golden Gavel trophy and pin and the drought was over! But, many were wondering at that time if our chapter had turned the corner and would be able to return to our old consistent winning ways, or was this just a onetime flash in the pan? Well, the great news is that now we can proudly and confidently say that the Central Oklahoma Chapter should, without a doubt, once again, always be considered by all the other chapters to be an annual force to be reckoned with! Starting in 2015 and to the present day, we've now won the award 3 times in 6 years putting us right back on track with winning, on average, every 2 years! Pretty impressive considering there are 15 chapters in the region! To see our list of winning chapter years and presidents, visit our website's Past Presidents page at <https://ashraecok.org/pastpres.php>

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