

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

SOU' WESTER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

COK CHAPTER MEETING

October 7, 2027
Life Cycle Cost Analysis & NIST Handbook 135
@Hefner Grill | OKC 11:30am to 1:00pm
[Click here to register.](#)

BOG MEETING

October 22, 2027
@Hefner Grill | OKC
11:30am to 1:00pm

STAY CONNECTED



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kale Harper



Stepping into the role of Chapter President this year is a privilege I don't take lightly. Our Central Oklahoma Chapter has been carried for decades by people who show up, and I want to open this article the way I plan to run the year, which is with gratitude first.

Our September 14th Golf Tournament was a success by every measure that matters. The turnout was strong, the course played well, and the energy from sponsors, players, and volunteers made the day feel like the kind of event our chapter has always been known for. Fundraisers like this one keep our student activities funded, our scholarships alive, and our technical programming accessible.

Looking ahead, we have a year built around bringing people together beyond the monthly technical meeting. We are planning a Winter Family Night Out, designed to open the chapter up to the people who make our members' work possible at home. We are also planning a Spouses' Night Out, a more intimate evening focused on the partners who often hear about ASHRAE without ever seeing what the chapter is actually about. Dates and venues will follow as soon as the committees have them locked in.

I also want to extend an open invitation to our Board of Governors meetings. If you have never attended one, this is the year to change that. The BOG is where the direction of the chapter actually gets set, and we want more voices in the room. Our YEA subcommittee will be sponsoring a happy hour after every BOG meeting this year. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a young engineer, a seasoned member, or somewhere in between. Come see how the chapter runs, then stick around and get to know the people running it.

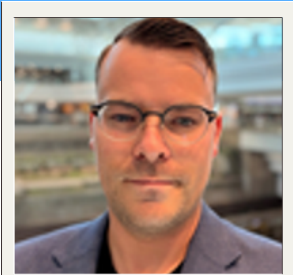
This chapter runs on volunteer time. The past presidents who mentored the rest of us, the board members who show up early and stay late, the committee chairs who quietly keep the programs alive, and the members who write checks and give up weekends. You are the reason our chapter is one of the strongest ones in Region 8.

Respectfully,
Kale Harper
President, ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter



Young Engineers Association (YEA)

Joshua Wiens



YEA Kickoff: A Strong Start to the Year

Welcome back, and happy new year to the ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Young Engineers in ASHRAE! We're excited to share some highlights from the first two months of chapter activity and give you a preview of what's ahead.

Happy Hour Every Month

We kicked things off with our first two monthly happy hours, and they're set to become a fixture of the YEA calendar. Going forward, these will generally follow immediately after our Board of Governors (BOG) meetings (every 3rd Thursday of the month). I encourage all of our members, YEA or otherwise, to join on us for a fun and low-pressure way to connect with your fellow member of the Central Oklahoma ASHRAE community. Catch up on chapter business, and build relationships outside the meeting room. If you haven't made it out yet, mark your calendar for the next BOG meeting and stick around afterward. No RSVP required – just show up!



A Visit from SMACNA Leadership (Pictured on the Left)

We were also fortunate to host Eli Howard, COO of SMACNA, for a chapter visit. Eli brought a valuable industry perspective on where sheet metal and HVAC contracting is headed, and the conversation offered our members a great opportunity to hear directly from national association leadership about trends affecting our field. Thanks to Eli and SMACNA for taking the time to connect with our chapter.



Looking Ahead

With a strong start to the year already behind us, we're looking forward to keeping the momentum going with more happy hours, technical content, and networking opportunities in the months ahead. Stay tuned for details on upcoming events, and as always, reach out if you'd like to get more involved with YEA or any other ASHRAE chapter business.



All photos from the SMACNA Event with
Eli Howard

SAVE THE DATE!

YEA Happy Hour

October 22, 2026

4PM



Student Activities

Korey Wheeler



This year, Student Activities has been focused on establishing new student branches, strengthening relationships with existing branches, encouraging student participation in the ASHRAE Winter Conference, and expanding our K-12 outreach efforts.

New Student Branches

One of our goals is to connect with every accredited engineering university within our local chapter area to help establish new ASHRAE student branches, or at minimum, introduce students and faculty to ASHRAE and the benefits of student involvement.

The students at Oklahoma Christian University (Mechanical Engineering, ABET accredited) are actively working to establish a new student branch. We are also currently in discussions with:

Oklahoma Baptist University (Mechanical Engineering, pursuing ABET accreditation)
Southwestern Oklahoma State University (Engineering Technology, ABET accredited)

University of Central Oklahoma (Mechanical Engineering, ABET accredited)
We are excited about the opportunities these partnerships present for growing ASHRAE's student presence throughout the local universities.

Existing Student Branches

Our student branches at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma have elected new officers and are off to a great start for the academic year. We are currently coordinating visits with both chapters so I can introduce myself as the new Student Activities Chair and learn how we can best support their goals and initiatives moving forward.

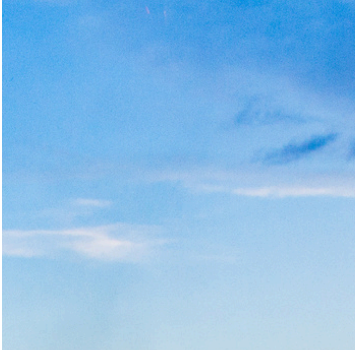
Winter Conference Travel Grants

We have been encouraging students to attend this year's ASHRAE Winter Conference, and several students are currently preparing and submitting travel grant applications. Interest has been strong, and we are excited to see students taking advantage of this opportunity for professional development and networking.



Student Activities Continued

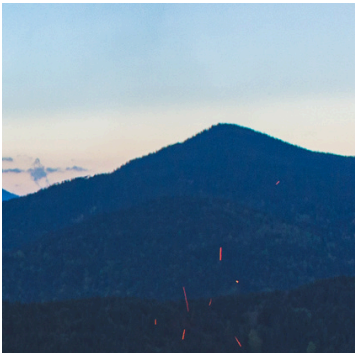
Korey Wheeler



If you plan to attend the conference and are interested in helping coordinate student activities, please let me know. Additionally, if you or your company would like to provide sponsorship funds to help offset student travel costs, your support would be greatly appreciated.

K-12 Outreach

Several schools have expressed interest in having ASHRAE members participate in upcoming STEM events, and we are currently finalizing schedules for those activities.



One exciting new resource we plan to incorporate is the ASHRAE Video Game, an interactive experience that allows students to investigate and learn about MEP systems within a built environment. Think of it as a “Nancy Drew-style” engineering adventure that introduces building systems through hands-on problem solving.

We will also be partnering with OK GEAR UP, a federally funded program that serves approximately 16,000 middle and high school students across Oklahoma each year. The program helps students explore post-secondary education and career pathways. As part of their campus visit initiatives, we are working to create opportunities for students interested in engineering to participate in ASHRAE student activities and central plant tours during their campus visits.



Looking Ahead

While there are still many dates and details to finalize, we have an exciting year ahead. Please keep an eye out for upcoming announcements and volunteer opportunities. We would love to see strong member participation and support for all of our student-focused initiatives.



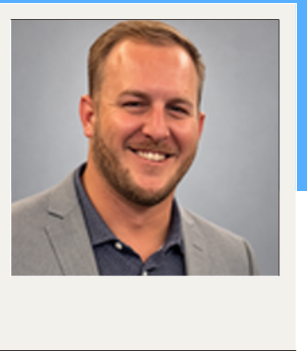
VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED!

- **Volunteers to help coordinate student activities**
- **Companies to sponsor students to help offset student travel**

If interested contact Korey Wheeler: khwheeler@kopeakengineering.com

RESEARCH AND PROMOTIONS

Matt Akins



Hello ASHRAE Central OK!

We finished the 2025-26 year with \$27,000 donated to Research Promotion! So many thanks to all donors and everyone who contributed or participated in an event that supported Research Promotion.

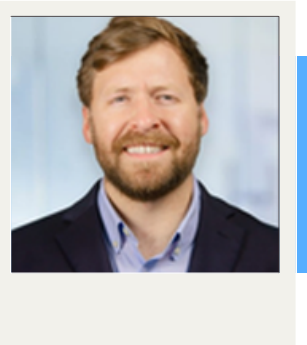
2026-27 is on and you'll hear more from me soon!

We encourage our ASHRAE members to donate a gift to our chapter's RP fund. If you would like to make a donation you can visit the ASHRAE website or click [HERE](#).

Matthew Akins
matt@rbakins.com

Membership Promotion

Will Thompson



Hello All,

Myself and Ian Fritts will be leading the ASHRAE Membership Promotion charge for the 2026-

2027 ASHRAE year. We will be hosting a couple membership promotion events this year, so please be on the lookout for when and where those will be.

The bigger and better the turnout, the more likely we will sign on more new members.

Also, if you know of anyone that wants to get signed up as a member, or involved in ASHRAE, please reach out to Ian or I at our email addresses below:

wthompson@mechsales.com ifritts@mechsales.com

Looking forward to a great year!

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Caleb Deck



I'm Caleb Deck the Governmental Affairs Chair for our ASHRAE chapter this coming year. I somewhat stumbled into the HVAC industry around 10 years ago while looking

for an opportunity to solve problems and help people while using my mechanical engineering skills. An OKC resident for most of my life, I was looking for an opportunity to stay close and started working in the design field in 2016.

After working a few years and gaining licensure, I started to look for a new avenue to channel my skills. I ended up moving to the UK with my wife and then two-year-old for a year during the pandemic to pursue a Masters in Engineering for Sustainable Development. We returned to OKC four years ago and I put those skill into action into designing and coordinating the sustainability efforts along with a focus on energy modeling and efficient mechanical design.

My experience with that Masters and sustainability in general also drove me towards an interest in local and state government, building and energy codes, and the impact our regulations can have on our design standards and industry. This is my 5th year on the GAC side of ASHRAE and I'm looking forward to another year of educating and coordinating with our elected officials in 2026 and 2027.

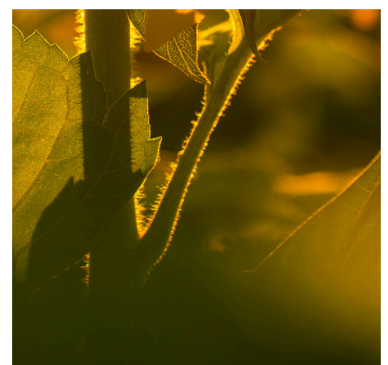
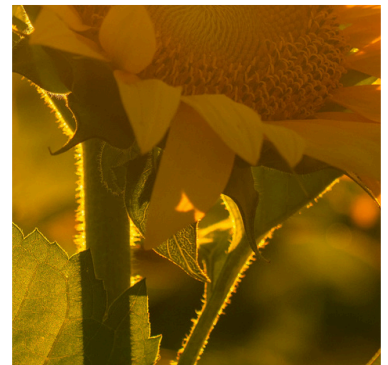
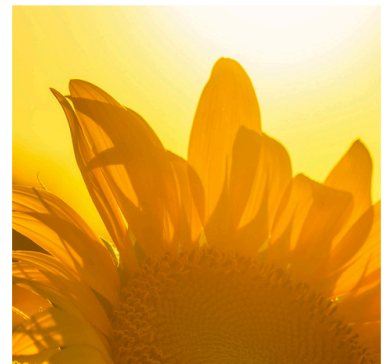
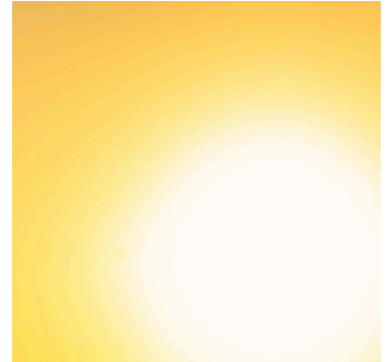
Our main GAC event each year is the Day on the Hill, where ASHRAE members can visit the Oklahoma Capitol and talk with their representatives about law and regulations in consideration that have to do with HVAC industry, while offering ourselves as resources for HVAC concerns. We coordinate this event with the NEOK chapter and are tentatively planning this event for the week of Mar 3rd, 2027 – so mark your calendars now! If you have any interest in joining the committee, contacting your representative, or engaging with the local or state government feel free to reach out to me at caleb.deck@haskell.com!

SAVE THE DATE!

Day on the Hill

Week of March 3, 2027

Contact Caleb on ways to get involved!





SPECIAL EVENTS

Michele Lefebvre

ASHRAE had another successful golf tournament this year at KickingBird. Thank you to all the sponsors, volunteers, and participants for golf tournament this year, it was a great success! A special thank you to Titus and Ruskin for volunteering to be the tournament sponsor this year.

Winners:

First place: Justin Love, Keaton Mullenix, Shane Wells, and Jake Holbrook

Second place: Ryan Sutton, Megan Blonien, Eric Hames, and Ross Myles

Third place: Brandon Hall, Jeremy Lamb, Randy Harris, and Robbie Castillo

Longest drive: Megan Blonien

Closest to the pin: Patrick Gray

We would like to thank all our sponsors; without you we can't host fun events like this!

Tournament Sponsors:

Ruskin, Titus, IEC, ClimateCraft, ClimaCool, ClimateMaster, Saker Mechanical, RB Akins Company, Harrison Energy Partners, DS Herron, EEI, ES2, Haskell Benham, Reece, Trane, Wilspec, Matherly Mechanical, Electrasales, Harrison-Orr, Monoxivent, Moxify, Wilo

Vendor Tents:

Federal Thermal, DS Herron, Wilspec, Addison, Multiaqua, Quantech, Samsung, WaterFurnace

Thank you for allowing us to serve you again this 2026-2027 year. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at mlefebvre@rbakins.com or Ashley Hayden at ahayden@rbakins.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pickleball Tournament

November 6, 2026

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Cornhole Tournament

March 26, 2027

Clay Shoot

May 14, 2027



First place: Justin Love, Keaton Mullenix, Shane Wells, and Jake Holbrook,
Second place: Ryan Sutton, Megan Blonien, Eric Hames, and Ross Myles,
Third place: Brandon Hall, Jeremy Lamb, Randy Harris, and Robbie Castillo,
Longest drive: Megan Blonien, Closest to the pin: Patrick Gray

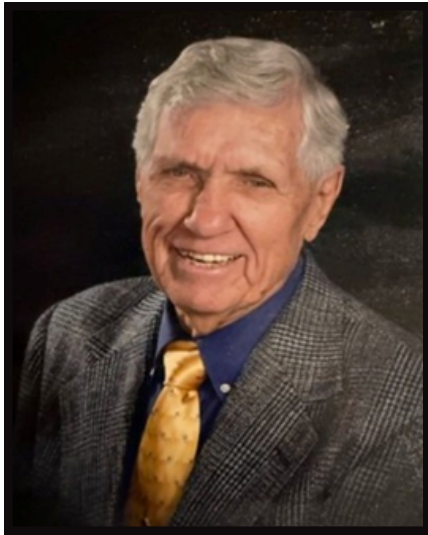
The Life of William “Bill” Albert Streets

Dusty Stoabs



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dusty Stoabs has written a beautiful account of Bill's (1928–2026) remarkable life. While we don't have the space to publish the article in its entirety in this newsletter, I highly encourage you to click [HERE](#) to read Bill's Story. He overcame poverty, personal setbacks, and early mistakes to build a successful career in the plumbing industry, co-founded Streets Plumbing Co., raised a family, and left a legacy that spans generations of tradespeople, entrepreneurs, and community members.



William “Bill” Albert Streets

EARLY YEARS AND UNIMAGINABLE HARDSHIP

William Albert Streets was born on December 25, 1928, in Oklahoma City. He was the son of Thomas Streets, who hailed from Illinois, and Selma Ray Streets, originally from Alabama. William's early childhood was comfortable; the family lived in a nice brick home with a tile bathroom located on Northeast 23rd Street, roughly a mile east of the state Capitol.

This stability shattered in November 1937 when Bill was eight years old. His mother passed away from pneumonia while confined to an oxygen tent. His father, a car salesman and a heavy drinker, suffered a breakdown following her death, leaving the children to fend for themselves for nearly three months. Recognizing the dire situation, his father and grandfather packed the children's belongings into a trunk and sent them by train to New Boston, Illinois, where they were taken in by aunts and uncles.

They remained in Illinois until October 1938, when Thomas Streets returned to retrieve them. After a brief month living in a downtown Oklahoma City hotel, Thomas placed the

children in St. Joseph's Orphanage in Bethany, Oklahoma, in early 1939. Bill's older brother, three and a half years his senior, left the orphanage after a year to work on a farm in Okarche. Bill lived at the orphanage for four years before his father, still working as a car salesman, brought him out to live together in a rooming house.

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE AND FINDING TROUBLE

Bill's long career in the plumbing and mechanical trades began by sheer coincidence.

While fixing a sink faucet for his landlady, Thomas Streets went to a local business, Acme Plumbing, to purchase parts. There, Thomas learned the company was looking for a young man to clean the shop and deliver materials. Although Bill was only about fourteen years old and underage for driving, Acme Plumbing hired him. Bill worked at the shop in the mornings before attending Central High School, holding the job for about a year and a half.

Unfortunately, Thomas's drinking worsened, prompting Bill to move out and rent a room of his own. Lacking guidance, Bill fell in with the wrong crowd and found himself in trouble with the law. He was sent away to serve a three-year sentence. Adding to this turbulent period, just one week into his sentence, Bill received word that his father had passed away. Unable to attend the funeral, Bill served his time and eventually returned to Oklahoma City.

Upon his return, the older gentleman who owned Acme Plumbing rehired him as a laborer digging ditches. During this time, Bill lived in a room and boarding house alongside his older brother

Visit our website to read the rest of Bill's story. Click the link [HERE](#).

Board of Governors Meeting

September 2026



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES

9/17/2026
3:00PM

Call to Order

Presiding Officer: Kale Harper

Time: 3:05pm

Location: Hefner Grill, OKC

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Position	Name	Present
President	Kale Harper	☒
President-Elect	Michael Akins	☐
Vice President	Will Thompson	☒
Secretary	Joshua Wiens	☒
Treasurer	Stephanie Thomas	☒
Past President		☐
Governor	Michael Halcomb	☐
Governor	Joe Sanders	☒
Governor	Dusty Stoabs	☒

Voting members present in person: Quorum: Yes

Motions 1 through 3 are voted on only if there is an objection.

MOTION 1: To adopt the agenda.

- Moved: Joshua Wiens
- Second: Dusty Stoabs

MOTION 2: To approve the BOG meeting minutes for meeting dated 8/20/2026.

- Moved: Stephanie Thomas
- Second: Dusty Stoabs

Reports of Officers and Board of Governors

Officer	Report
President	Sexual harassment video reminder. All complete. Golf tournament resulted in largest turnout ever at Kickingbird
President-Elect	Absent
Vice President	No report
Secretary	No report
Treasurer	Golf brought in over 20k, budgeted for 19. Waiting on 3 invoices
Governors	No report

MOTION 3: To accept the treasurer's report (presented / amended).

- Moved: Kale Harper
- Second: Will Thompson

Reports of Standing Committees (2-minute report)

Committee	Chair	Report:
CTTC	Jon Wilmore	October set up - Jarod Wilson presenting on LCCA and NIST 135
Communications	Heather Martin	Absent
GGAC	Caleb Deck	Absent
Historian	Dusty Stoabs	No report - MBO submitted
Membership Promotion	Will Thompson / Ian Fritts	Met with RVC to go over MBO/goals. Attending centralized meeting 9/18. Working with local firms to get newer engineers more involved.
Research Promotion	Matthew Akins	Absent
Student Activities, Scholarship	Korey Wheeler	Absent
YEA	Joshua Wiens	First happy hour complete on 8/20. SMACNA COO presented to YEA on 9/10
Honors and Awards	Scott Sanders	No report
Newsletter	Rebecca Cawyer	Proxy: Kale Harper Send newsletters by Wednesday 9/23
Refrigeration	Gavin Swenson	No report
Special Events	Michele Lefebvre, Ashley Hayden, Ty Klakulak	Considering moving the golf tournament in the future due to heat. Pickleball coming on November 6. Planning to start in approximately 1 week.
DEI	Vacant	Proxy: Kale Harper We are soliciting a new chair for the chapter. MBO sent. The presidential newsletter is to be reviewed to determine the precise requirements of the PAOE which may nullify the need for us to fill this position
Sustainability	Vacant	Discussion: the general desire is to continue to promote sustainability focused events even if a committee chair is not ever appointed.

Unfinished Business and General Orders

#	Date Originated	Action Today
1	8/20/2026	YEA membership chapter meeting discount Motion to suspend YEA discount Move: Joe Sanders Second: Will Thompson Passed unanimously
2	8/20/2026	Approval of Meeting Minutes from 6/18/2026 The agreed upon path forward is to produce a meeting minutes to the best of our ability. To be submitted with this meeting minutes for review.

New Business

#	Proposer	Description
1	Kale Harper	Discussion: Proposal to update bylaws to be proposed at 2027 CRC Kale: The intention is to update our bylaws with relevant updates from the newest version of the MCO. The idea is generally supported and the BOG is open to reviewing a subsequent motion to
2	Kale Harper	Discussion: Golf Tournament feedback Refer to attached treasurer's report for financial details regarding the golf tournament.

Adjournment

- ☐ MOTION: To adjourn.
 - Moved: Kale Harper
 - Second: Will Thompson

Adjourned Time: 3:55pm

Attendance: 11



Board of Governors & Chapter Chairs

Sept. 2026 - June 2027

Board of Directors

ASHRAE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CHAPTER | 2026-2027 SOCIETY YEAR



Chapter leadership, professional development, and community outreach.

OFFICERS



PRESIDENT

Kale Harper, P.E.

Company: IES
Phone: (405) 919-1929
Email: kaleharper@icloud.com



PRESIDENT ELECT

Michael Akins

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 761-7733
Email: makins@rbakins.com



VICE PRESIDENT

Will Thompson, P.E.

Company: Mechanical Sales Midwest
Phone: (405) 441-2019
Email: wthompson@mechsales.com



TREASURER

Stephanie Thomas, P.E.

Company: Moxify Engineering LLC
Phone: (405) 254-5038
Email: sthomas@moxifyllc.com



SECRETARY

Joshua Wiens, P.E.

Company: Mechanical Sales Midwest
Phone: (405) 420-3698
Email: jwiens-pe@outlook.com

BOARD OF GOVERNORS



BOARD MEMBER

Joe Sanders

Company: Trane
Phone: Not Listed
Email: joe.sanders@TRANE.com



BOARD MEMBER

Michael Halcomb

Company: ES2
Phone: (405) 600-8818
Email: mhalcomb@es2built.com



BOARD MEMBER

Dusty Stoabs, P.E.

Company: Streets LLC
Phone: (405) 338-2271
Email: dstoabs@streetsLLC.com

Board of Governors & Chapter Chairs

Sept. 2026 - June 2027

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



CTTC

Jon Wilmore

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 947-6502
Email: jwilmore@rbakins.com



YEA

Joshua Wiens, P.E.

Company: Mechanical Sales Midwest
Phone: (405) 420-3698
Email: jwiens-pe@outlook.com



COMMUNICATIONS

Heather Martin

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 947-6502
Email: hmartin@rbakins.com



RESEARCH PROMOTION

Matt Akins

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 227-6621
Email: mattakins@rbakins.com



REFRIGERATION

Gavin Swenson, P.E.

Company: KCL Engineering
Phone: (405) 795-7051
Email: gswenson@kclengineering.com



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Caleb Deck, P.E.

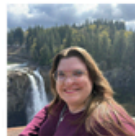
Company: Benham, Haskell
Phone: (405) 840-2931
Email: caleb.deck@gmail.com



HISTORIAN

Dusty Stoabs, P.E.

Company: Streets LLC
Phone: (405) 338-2271
Email: dstoabs@streetsLLC.com



NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Cawyer

Company: AAON
Phone: (580) 512-1112
Email: rebecca.cawyer@aaon.com



HONORS AND AWARDS

Scott Sanders, P.E.

Company: Alvine Engineering
Phone: (405) 936-3480
Email: ssanders@alvine.com



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Korey Wheeler, P.E.

Company: Kopeak Engineering
Phone: (405) 208-2695
Email: kwheeler@kopeakengineering.com



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Brian Worthen, P.E.

Company: Alvine Engineering
Phone: Not Listed
Email: bworthen@alvine.com



SPECIAL EVENTS

Michele Lefebvre

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 802-4347
Email: mlefebvre@rbakins.com



SPECIAL EVENTS

Ashley Hayden

Company: RB Akins
Phone: (405) 947-6502
Email: ahayden@rbakins.com



SPECIAL EVENTS

Ty Klakulak

Company: Engineered Equipment
Phone: (405) 534-1882
Email: tklakulak@eei-ok.com



MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Will Thompson, P.E.

Company: Mechanical Sales Midwest
Phone: (405) 441-2019
Email: wthompson@mechsales.com



MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Ian Fritts

Company: Mechanical Sales Midwest
Phone: Not Listed
Email: ifritts@mechsales.com

COK Chapter Calendar

Sept. 2026 - June 2027



OCTOBER 7

CHAPTER MEETING



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

OCTOBER 22

BOG MEETING

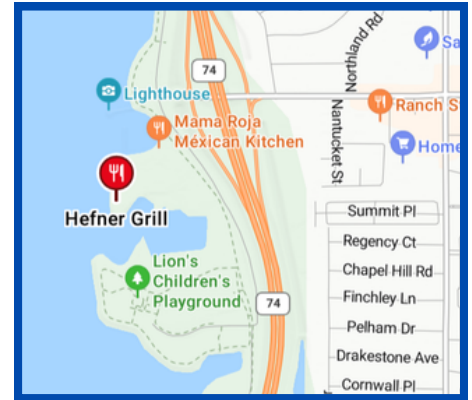


3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

NEW MEETING LOCATION!



9201 LAKE HEFNER PKWY

NOVEMBER 4

CHAPTER MEETING



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

NOVEMBER 12

BOG MEETING



3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

DECEMBER 2

CHAPTER MEETING



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

DECEMBER 10

BOG MEETING



3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

DECEMBER

WINTER FAMILY NIGHT



TBD

JANUARY 6

CHAPTER MEETING



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

JANUARY 21

BOG MEETING



3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL



FEBRUARY 3

CHAPTER MEETING



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

FEBRUARY 18

BOG MEETING



3:00 PM - 4:00 PM



HEFNER GRILL

FEBRUARY

SPOUSES' NIGHT OUT



TBD