ASHRAE Arkansas Chapter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- NEXT MEETING
- PRESIDENT REPORT
- DID YOU KNOW?
- MEMBER OF THE MONTH
- YEA/MP
- RESEARCH PROMOTION
- WOMEN IN ASHRAE
- STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- HISTORY
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
- OFFICERS
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- MINUTES

REGISTER HERE



NEXT MEETING

October 6th , 2026
10:00 - 11:00 AM

CALS Main Library
Room 529
100 South Rock St, Little Rock, AR, 72201

A Commissioning Conversation with Kenny Hiegel



Kenny Hiegel is the Director of Commissioning for ENFRA's Little Rock office, bringing 16 years of experience in higher education, healthcare, and complex facilities nationwide. He specializes in new construction, renovations, and infrastructure upgrades, with deep expertise in mechanical systems, controls programming, and functional testing. Kenny has worked on the design and pressure control of more than 220 operating rooms across 25+ healthcare facilities, giving him unique insight into the challenges and solutions for critical environments. He is passionate about ensuring projects run smoothly through strong communication and collaboration, helping clients achieve operational and energy efficiency goals. Kenny holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Dayton, is OSHA 30 certified, and is an active member of BCxA. In 2022, he was honored with BCxA's "20 Under 40" industry leader award.

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- COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- MINUTES

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am excited and honored to serve as the Arkansas ASHRAE President this year. I am very thankful to last year's Board for their continued dedication and for putting our chapter in the best possible position to be an organization that our members are proud to be part of. I would especially like to thank Brynn Lea, our 2025–2026 President, for leading our chapter with heart and determination.

I am humbled to have the opportunity to work alongside an incredible group of volunteers who consistently show up, work hard, and bring new ideas to the table. Their dedication and willingness to get more people involved are a huge part of what makes our chapter successful.

This year, our goal is to grow both membership and member involvement by providing new opportunities, hosting new events, and encouraging new ideas. I encourage each of you to be part of that effort. Invite someone new to an event, offer a coworker a ride to a meeting, or find an opportunity to get involved as a group. **Small efforts from each of us can make a significant impact on our chapter.**

With our dedicated Board, volunteers, and members working together, I am excited to see what our chapter can accomplish this year. Through the diverse talents, experiences, and passions of our members, I am confident that we will not only continue to be a successful ASHRAE chapter but also leave a lasting mark on the community here in Arkansas.

I look forward to serving alongside all of you and making this a great year for Arkansas ASHRAE.

Jonathan Wallace
President, Arkansas Chapter

ASHRAE Arkansas Chapter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

DID YOU KNOW?

ASHRAE developed the game HVAC HERO as part of the new society theme “Changing the Game: Retrofitting for Resilience”

ASHRAE HVAC HERO



HVAC Hero tests your HVAC problem solving skills to see how many kWh you can save as you navigate the building with your friend, Muggy! You can download the PC/Mac versions of the game from the ASHRAE Website https://www.ashrae.org/professional-development/hvachero

Sneak Peek of HVAC Hero





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- COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- MINUTES

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

KEITH CLEMENT

Government Affairs Chair



Keith Clement is serving Arkansas ASHRAE in his second year as Government Affairs Chair. His dedication and commitment to the chapter earned him the Rising Star Award last year, recognizing his outstanding contributions during his first year of service. With eight years of industry experience, Keith returned to Arkansas in 2025 to join Powers of Arkansas and continues to make a positive impact on both the chapter and the industry.

Email Member of the Month nominations to olivia.hope@powers-hvac.com

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- YEA/MP
- RESEARCH PROMOTION
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- STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- HISTORY
- GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
- OFFICERS
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- MINUTES

YEA/MP

ASHRAE ARKANSAS

YEA/MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

SWING SOCIAL

INDOOR GOLF | TRAINING | PROVISIONS

LOCATION: 11121 N RODNEY PARHAM RD
DATE: THURSDAY, OCT 22
TIME: 4-6PM

Private room with 4 bays.
Golf clubs, appetizers, and drinks provided.

RSVP to Nick Moore (501) 551-5660

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- RESEARCH PROMOTION
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RESEARCH PROMOTION

UPCOMING:

TRAP SHOOTING TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 19TH - SIGN UPS TO COME SOON

THE ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH FOUNDATION SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX



WOMEN IN ASHRAE

This month, **Women in ASHRAE** joined **Women in AEC** for Wine Wednesday bringing together women in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction roles from across Central Arkansas. The event was hosted at Insight Engineering where a sommelier led the group through fun wine pairings.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

This month **Max Kronenberger** (Student Activities Chair) and **Joel Funkhouser** (BOG) visited UALR to present on ASHRAE to an engineering class.





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ARKANSAS ASHRAE: BEST IN THE WORLD (1972)

By Russell Black, Arkansas ASHRAE Historian

In 1972, Arkansas ASHRAE reached the pinnacle of success in ASHRAE as the premier ASHRAE chapter in the world. Using the recently instituted PAOE system to monitor and measure an ASHRAE chapter's performance, Arkansas Chapter was rated the "Best in the World" ASHRAE chapter.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Presidential Award of Excellence (PAOE) system was instituted in 1970 by then-Society President Frank Bridgers. Bridgers was inspired to implement the PAOE system by Region VIII's Golden Gavel Award concept created by Jack Thompson, Arkansas ASHRAE's 5th President and later a stalwart Dallas Chapter leader who eventually had the Region VIII leadership award named after him. The purpose of the PAOE idea is a society-wide point system created to track, mobilize, and reward chapter achievements based on annual presidential goals.

The proud Presidents of this achievement were immediate Past President John Pate (1971-1972) and then-current President Ray Arledge (1972-73). In addition, John Pate had the distinction to receive, on behalf of the chapter, the chapter's first Golden Gavel Award.

Sharing in the leadership capacity in securing this prestigious award were Ed Riddick, Jr. as Vice President, Dewey Dossett as Secretary, and Rowe Hill as delegate and Past President, 1970-71.

Also of note, Arkansas ASHRAE received this preeminent award in its 20th anniversary year. Being considered the best chapter in all ASHRAE is a fabulous accomplishment, and one that I consider arguably the greatest achievement in Arkansas ASHRAE history.

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- RESEARCH PROMOTION
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Government Affairs Update



Arkansas Code Watch: Arkansas's statewide commercial energy code remains based on the 2009 IECC / ASHRAE 90.1-2007, creating a growing gap as newer standards address updated HVAC efficiency, controls, commissioning, and building performance requirements.

Chapter Update: Planning is underway for another Arkansas ASHRAE Day on the Hill during the 2027 legislative session. The focus will remain on building relationships with policymakers, learning about issues where ASHRAE expertise may be useful, and positioning our members as a technical resource.

National Update: Data center growth continues to drive federal policy discussions around energy infrastructure. In September, the U.S. House passed legislation addressing how very large electric loads may affect utility infrastructure costs and improving regional electric load forecasting, both issues increasingly relevant as data center development expands.

Have a government affairs-related topic, local policy update, or meeting with a government official to share? Send it to GovAffairs@ashrae.org for consideration in a future ASHRAE Government Affairs Update.

ASHRAE Arkansas Chapter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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- YEA/MP
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2026-2027 OFFICERS

Here is a look at this year's officers.

President: Jonathan Wallace

Vice President: Fallon Lee

Treasurer: Owen Stuckey

Secretary: Nathan Helms

Board of Governors: Joel Funkhouser, Steve McConnell, Chance Hollingsworth

Research Promotion: Brynn Lea

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership Promotion: Nick Moore

Student Activities: Max Kronenberger

Technology Transfer: Fallon Lee

Historian: Russell Black

Refrigeration: Jake Skinner

Reception: India Beavers

Newsletter Editor & Communications: Olivia Hope

YEA: Davis Zimmerman

Special Events: Josh Robinson

Honors and Awards: Justin Blair

Government Affairs: Keith Clement

Women in ASHRAE: Kim Koch

ASHRAE Arkansas Chapter

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- RESEARCH PROMOTION
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MINUTES: Meeting - Sept 1st, 2026

Chapter Announcements

- Brynn recognized for excellent service as last year's chapter president.
- ASHRAE president released a new HVAC themed video game. Available on the ASHRAE website under Professional Development → HVAC Hero. Members encouraged to try it.
- Trap Shoot event scheduled for February 19; sign ups coming soon.
- Speaker noted plans for fun, varied programming this year.

Guest Speaker

- Kim Koch, founder of Insight Engineering and long-time industry leader, presented on Leading Multi Generational Teams.

Presentation Highlights

- Five generations are active in today's workplace: Traditionalists (Silent Generation), Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z.
- Each generation has different influences, communication styles, motivators, and feedback preferences.
- Key generational themes:
  - Boomers prefer in-person communication and formal feedback.
  - Gen X values efficiency and independence.
  - Millennials seek purpose, collaboration, and ongoing coaching.
  - Gen Z wants flexibility, authenticity, and quick communication.

Universal Policies That Help Everyone

- Clear expectations and accountability.
- Flexible schedules and hybrid options.
- Caregiver leave for both child and elder care.
- Transparent promotion criteria.
- Cross-generational mentorship.

Best Practices

- Focus on outcomes over hours.
- Document communication preferences among team members.
- Practice empathy—non-generational factors like stress, health, and family situations also affect behavior.

Q&A Themes

- Avoid meeting times that unintentionally exclude staff with commutes or childcare.
- Encourage younger staff to make phone calls through explicit instruction.
- Texting is often an effective way to reach younger employees.
- Relationship-building remains essential for professional growth.

Closing

- Next meeting: October 6, at a new location (details forthcoming).

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- OFFICERS
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MINUTES: BOG Meeting (1/2)

President (Jonathan):

• Officers with RVCs should connect on goals and monthly plans; prioritize communication over points.

• YEA and Membership Promotion events need confirmed dates/venues (Chip, Putt, Chill as options).

• Review PAOE points to guide annual planning.

President-elect (Fallon):

• Annual priority: expand collaboration with industry groups.

• Upcoming programs:

– ENFRA: Commissioning Lessons Learned

– November: Controls topic; DL needed

– March: NAWIC speaker for National Women's Month

• ASHRAE overlaps strongly with construction—leverage for partnership.

• Next BOG meeting may be a morning session at CALS.

Treasurer (Owen):

• Finalizing budget; golf consolidating to one major April tournament.

• Budget to be submitted next meeting.

• Needs Regions account access; taxes due November.

• Nathan assisting with Treasurer tasks.

Historian (Russell):

• Chapter anniversary: January 27, 2027.

• Proposed celebration: invite past presidents/life members (free), display charter, 10 minute history presentation.

• Potential guests: Society President, DRC, RVCs.

• Ideal timing: weekday, 3–6 PM; may combine with Past Presidents event.

• Key achievements noted: Best Chapter (1972), two Society Presidents from Arkansas, nine Golden Gavels.

Membership Promotion (Nick):

• Following up on several delinquent members (two at 5 months).

• Event ideas: Chip/Putt/Chill, Swing Social, Rock Town tour.

• Joint YEA/MP crawfish boil planned (Denton assisting).

• Encourage joint events for double points; DEI integration recommended.

Research Promotion (Brynn):

• RP goal: $15k.

• Trap Shoot set for Feb 19, 2027; sponsorship outreach underway.

• Full Circle: BOG members to donate $100.

• Awards presented to Russell Black, Keith Clement, Steve McConnell.

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- RESEARCH PROMOTION
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- OFFICERS
- COMMITTEE CHAIRS
- MINUTES

MINUTES: BOG Meeting (2/2)

Communications (Olivia):
• Member of the Month: Keith Clement; more nominations needed.
• Newsletter to include minutes, officer reports, and engagement analytics.
• Chair descriptions encouraged for clarity.
• Social media login access pending resolution.
• Newsletter deadline: Sept 21, 2026.

Student Activities (Max):
• Goal: UALR and A State attend at least one meeting; A State may need financial help.
• Planning Winter Conference travel with matching funds.
• Chapter scholarship ($1,500) awarded in spring; BOG to review applications; scholarship committee suggested.
• Seeking new advisor for SAU Tech (contact India B.).
• Crime Lab tour open to members; include 2–3 students (PPE required).
• Students welcome at YEA events (2–5 likely to attend).

YEA (Davis):
• Budget needed to set event frequency.
• Ticketed crawfish boil planned with similar sponsorship model to last year.
• Date must be set early for ordering/attendance planning.
• Last year's boil was at Northshore after the golf tournament.

Refrigeration (Jake):
• Coordinating refrigeration-focused topic with Fallon.
• Considering pairing refrigeration content with brewery tours.

Government Affairs (Keith):
• E Week proclamation: Feb 23–27.
• Day on the Hill details forthcoming.

DEI (Kim):
• Presenting DEI topic at today's meeting.
• Exploring Habitat Women Build involvement and an ASHRAE book club.
• Monthly Women in AEC events (wine tasting suggested).

Sustainability Chair (vacant):
• Brandon Cole may be interested.

Closing:
• Board recognized for strong start.
• Motion to adjourn passed.