

# The Squirrel Cage

Alamo ASHRAE Chapter Monthly Newsletter

'25-'26 YEAR | ISSUE 6

EDITED BY:  
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SEBASTIAN SALAZAR

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## Next Meeting

February 19, 2026

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema

Park North

## A Message from the President

Hello Alamo ASHRAE, of Alamo ASHRAE!

February is here, and love is in the air... for HVAC basics.

This month, we're going back to fundamentals with Nathan Kegel presenting "HVAC Load Calculations: What We Get Wrong and Why." Bold title? Yes. Necessary? Absolutely. Because when the loads are off, everything downstream gets... creative. This will be a practical, honest look at where we trip up and how to get it right – whether you're fresh out of school or have been "doing it this way for 20 years."

A big thank-you to IES for sponsoring this month's meeting and supporting strong technical programming for our chapter.

We're also excited to welcome a great group of UTSA mechanical engineering students who will be joining us. If you see a student at your table, introduce yourself. Tell them what you do, how you got here, and maybe one thing you wish you'd known earlier. Let's show them that ASHRAE isn't just about standards – it's about community and careers.

On the social side, our YEA event at Chicken N Pickle is February 26. Networking, pickleball, and zero load calculations required. Come out and enjoy some friendly competition.

And don't forget – preparations for our April Golf Tournament are in full swing! This is one of our largest and most anticipated events of the year. If you've been meaning to put a team together, this is your sign. If your company has been looking for visibility, this is your moment to sponsor. The spots will go quickly, and trust me – you don't want to be the team that waited too long and ended up just hearing about how much fun everyone else had.

Let's keep the momentum rolling.

See you at the meeting – and on the pickleball court!

Ruby Vargas

'25-'26 Alamo ASHRAE President

# ALAMO ASHRAE '25-'26 OFFICERS

Meet this year's Alamo ASHRAE Officers!!



**Ruby Vargas**  
*President*  
Trane Technologies



**Alex Mathis**  
*President Elect*  
Texas AirSystems



**Sean Smith**  
*Treasurer*  
Oslin Nation



**Randall Bloomquist**  
*Secretary*  
Mechanical Reps, Inc.

# ALAMO ASHRAE '25-'26 DIRECTORY

## Officers

### PRESIDENT

**Ruby Vargas**  
*Trane Technologies*

### PRESIDENT ELECT

**Alex Mathis**  
*Texas AirSystems*

### TREASURER

**Sean Smith**  
*Oslin Nation*

### SECRETARY

**Randall Bloomquist**  
*Mechanical Reps, Inc.*

## Board of Governors

**Michelle Ferencak**  
*EEA Consulting Engineers*

**Chris Delgado**  
*Southland Industries*

**Clint Ullman**  
*SpawGlass*

**John Ferencak**  
*IC Thomasson*

**Mark Guidi**  
*Texas AirSystems*

**Brad Bright**  
*Trane Technologies*

**Patrick Mabry**  
*Highland Commissioning*

**Rick McHugh**  
*EEA Consulting Engineers*

## Committees

### ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

**Casey Bordelon**  
*Southland Industries*  
**Celeste Olvera**  
*Skye MEP Engineering*

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

**Chris Berard**  
*Rheem Commercial Water*  
**Erick Vazquez**  
*Skye MEP Engineering*  
**Sadam Abdel**  
*EEA Consulting Engineers*

### COMMUNICATIONS

**COMMITTEE**  
**Chris Berard**  
*Rheem Commercial Water*  
**Erick Vazquez**  
*Skye MEP Engineers*  
**Jake Gilligan**  
*Kimley-Horn*  
**Robert Perez**  
*Automated Logic, Inc.*  
**Sebastian Salazar**  
*Mechanical Reps, Inc.*

### CTTC COMMITTEE

**Jon Ross Ruggles**  
*SpawGlass*  
**Erick Vazquez**  
*Skye MEP Engineering*  
**Matthew Bynum**  
*HEB*

### DIVERSITY IN ASHRAE

**Brookell Schott**  
*Cleary Zimmerman Engineers*

### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

**John Ferencak**  
*IC Thomasson*

### HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

**Josh Hausen**  
*MS2 Consulting Engineers*  
**Chris Berard**  
*Rheem Commercial Water*  
**Greg DuChane**  
*Trane Technologies*

### HONORS & AWARDS

**Josh Gavos**  
*Texas AirSystems*

### MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION COMMITTEE

**Jeff Bergner**  
*Oslin Nation*  
**Robert Perez**  
*Automated Logic, Inc.*

### REFRIGERATION CHAIR

**Victor Bowie**  
*Texas AirSystems*

### RESEARCH PROMOTION

**Casey Bordelon**  
*Southland Industries*

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

**Michelle Ferencak**  
*EEA Consulting Engineers*  
**Hector Trevino**  
*Oslin Nation*

### SUSTAINABILITY CHAIR Chair

**Greg DuChane**  
*Trane Technologies*

### WEBMASTER

**Celeste Olvera**  
*Skye MEP Engineering*

### YEA COMMITTEE

**Gatlin Grosch**  
*Texas AirSystems*  
**Braden Speer**  
*Johnson Controls*  
**Hector Trevino**  
*Oslin Nation*

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Ruby Vargas**  
*Trane Technologies*  
**Alex Mathis**  
*Texas AirSystems*  
**Sean Smith**  
*Oslin Nation*  
**Randall Bloomquist**  
*Mechanical Reps, Inc.*  
**Casey Bordelon**  
*Southland Industries*  
**Clint Ullman**  
*Spawglass*  
**Erick Vazquez**  
*Skye MEP Engineering*  
**Jeff Bergner**  
*Oslin Nation*  
**John Ferencak**  
*IC Thomasson*  
**Michelle Ferencak**  
*EEA Consulting Engineers*  
**Patrick Mabry**  
*Highland Commissioning*

# ALAMO ASHRAE YEARLY SPONSORS



**TEXAS AIR PRODUCTS**  
— Delivering Solutions —



*Thank you to our Sponsors!!!*

# February Meeting

FEBRUARY 19, 2026

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE**  
**618 NORTHWEST LOOP 410**  
**SAN ANTONIO TX 78216**

## ASHRAE Heat Balancing Methods

Load calculations and HVAC system sizing are critical to building design, directly affecting equipment costs, energy use, refrigerant quantities, and the engineer's liability. Accurate load determination is essential for project success. Calculation methods have evolved from simplified approaches — developed due to limited computing power — to the more accurate Heat Balance Method published by ASHRAE over 20 years ago and supported by empirical validation. This session examines how the Heat Balance Method differs from traditional methods, the influence of energy codes on sizing assumptions, and the effects of over- and undersized systems on energy, comfort, and environmental performance, using the new ASHRAE HQ building as a case study.

### FREE MEETING REGISTRATION

- Must be a current ASHRAE member
- Work at an engineering firm
- Complete website registration before Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

[CLICK HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION  
& REGISTRATION](#)



**Nathan Kegel**

*VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT, IES*

**MEETING SPONSORED BY:**



# 2026 EVENT CALENDAR

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: UPCOMING EVENTS



Golfers awaiting the shotgun start at last year's Annual Golf Tournament.

### **Annual Golf Tournament**

April 9, 2026

Canyon Springs Golf Club

### **Spurs Game & Frost Bank**

Center Tour

March 19, 2026

Frost Bank Center



Getting a group picture in before the game last year. Lots of fun!

Stay tuned for more events to follow.

# DID YOU KNOW?

ASHRAE has yearly Chapter Regional Conferences! Each year one of the chapters from the region is responsible for hosting the the event. This year, the Little Rock, Arkansas chapter will be hosting. A number of our volunteers and committee chairs will be attending this year. Will we see you there?

Don't Miss the 2026 ASHRAE Region VIII CRC — Register Today!

Registration is officially open for the 2026 ASHRAE Region VIII Chapter Regional Conference, and we're excited to welcome members from across the region to Little Rock this April. This year's CRC will feature valuable technical sessions, business meetings, networking opportunities, and memorable social events designed to connect and inspire our ASHRAE community. Follow the QR code to register today:



Spots are filling quickly — secure your registration today and make plans to join us in Little Rock!

Suggestions for publication? Please send emails to both:

[SebastianS@mechreps.com](mailto:SebastianS@mechreps.com) & [James.Gilligan@Kimley-Horn.com](mailto:James.Gilligan@Kimley-Horn.com)



# ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Benefiting ASHRAE Research & Scholarships

## 09 APRIL 2026

**CANYON SPRINGS GOLF CLUB**

24405 Wilderness Oak  
San Antonio, TX 78258



# DETAILS

## Venue

### CANYON SPRINGS GOLF CLUB

24405 Wilderness Oak  
San Antonio, TX 78258

## Pricing

EARLY BIRD PRICING  
*Registered by EOD March 20*  
\$225 per Player

REGULAR PRICING  
*Registered after EOD March 20*  
\$250 per Player

## Event Schedule

9:00 AM Registration Opens  
10:00 AM Boxed Lunch Served  
10:45 AM Cart up & Ready to Roll  
**11:00 AM Shotgun Start**  
After Play Dinner, Awards, & Raffles

## Format

4 Person Scramble  
Max Par

## Contests

1<sup>st</sup> Place Team  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team  
Longest Drive (M & W)  
Closest to the Hole (M & W)  
Last Place Team

## Extras

**RAFFLE TICKETS**  
1 for \$5  
5 for \$20  
30 for \$100

**MULLIGANS**  
1 for \$20

**BUNDLE & SAVE**  
\$150

*Includes:*  
20 Raffle Tickets  
4 Mulligans  
4 Extra Drink Tickets



# REGISTRATION

## ALAMO ASHRAE GOLF TOURNAMENT 2026

TEAM NAME (OPTIONAL):  
Best Team Name will be recognized during awards!!

| PLAYER NAME | COMPANY | PHONE # | EMAIL |
|-------------|---------|---------|-------|
|-------------|---------|---------|-------|

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

\*The player listed in Line #1 will be contacted for payments & any other miscellaneous questions

PAYMENT METHOD:

PAY AT TOURNAMENT

PAY BY CREDIT CARD

Payment link will be emailed to you; 3% CC fee applies

PAY BY CHECK

Mail checks to:

Alamo ASHRAE C/O Sean Smith

127 W. Nakoma Dr

San Antonio, TX 78216

BULK SPONSOR

EMAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:

CASEY BORDELON at  
CASEY.BORDELON@SOUTHLANDIND.COM  
726-251-4681



TEAM ENTRIES DUE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> (NOT A JOKE!)

# SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES



# SPONSORSHIPS

## Flagship

**\$2,500**

- Entry for 4 golfers into the tournament
- Option to setup a table along the Pavilion Walkway
- Company logo on all signage & advertisements for the tournament

## Jack & Coke

**\$3,000**

- Exclusive access to setup a table at the most desirable spot on the course! (the turn at the Cliff Haus)
- You will have TWO opportunities to interact with all golfers

## Dinner

**\$2,000**

- Entry for 4 golfers into the tournament
- Company logo displayed on all tables during dinner
- Sponsor shoutout during dinner

## Beverage

**\$2,000**

- Entry for 2 golfers into the tournament
- Company logo on all drink tickets given to each golfer (you are NOT required to purchase beverages for players)
- Company logo on Drink Carts

## Lunch

**\$1,750**

- Entry for 2 golfers into the tournament
- Option to setup a table at the Lunch Station
- Company logo on each lunch box given to golfers

## Golf Ball

**\$2,000**

- Entry for 2 golfers into the tournament
- Company logo on all golf balls provided to all players at Check-In

## Rideshare

**\$1,000**

- Entry for 1 golfer into the tournament
- This sponsorship helps get people a safe & free ride home after the tournament.
- Company logo displayed on signage encouraging people to use RideShare to get home if they need.

## Air Cannon

**\$1,500**

- Company logo displayed on signage at Hole 4 with the Air Cannon Launcher (Launcher operated by Go Big Golf)
- Option to set up a table on Hole 4 with Go Big Golf

*All Sponsorships will be advertised on the Sponsorship Banner, LinkedIn, & company logos will be advertised in the Squirrel Cage Newsletter*



# SPONSORSHIPS

## Photography

**\$2,000**

- Company logo incorporated in all team pictures given away to each player at the end of the tournament

## Swag Bag

**\$1,500**

- Company logo displayed on Swag Bags given to each golfer at check-in
- Swag Bag includes snacks, golf balls, & water
- Option to add swag into the bags

## Hydration Station

**\$850**

- Company Logo displayed on signage at Hole of your choice
- Encouraged to set up a table at a hole of your choice
- Beer will be provided for you to give away to golfers

## Range

**\$600**

- Company logo displayed on a sign at the hole of your choice (first come, first served)
- Option to set up a table at the hole to meet & greet all players
- Option to buy drinks through Canyon Springs Golf Club (coordinated by you)

## Raffle

**\$500**

- Company logo displayed on the Raffle Table
- Company recognition during the Raffle Drawings
- Physical or monetary donations accepted

*All Sponsorships will be advertised on the Sponsorship Banner, LinkedIn, & company logos will be advertised in the Squirrel Cage Newsletter*



# SPONSORSHIP FORM

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD:

PAY AT TOURNAMENT

PAY BY CREDIT CARD

Payment link will be emailed to you; 3% CC fee applies

PAY BY CHECK

Mail checks to:

Alamo ASHRAE C/O Sean Smith

127 W. Nakoma Dr

San Antonio, TX 78216

BULK SPONSOR

EMAIL SPONSOR FORMS TO:

CASEY BORDELON at

CASEY.BORDELON@SOUTHLANDIND.COM

726-251-4681



SPONSORSHIPS DUE BY MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup>

# JANUARY 15TH MEETING RECAP



The meeting last month had great attendance. Not an empty chair in the room! Don't worry we have changed venues this month so there will be plenty of seats.



Durwood gave a great presentation about lab system design and components. It included controls, TAB planning, needs from other trades, and common issues we could encounter. They may look like minions, but those are actually BSL-4 level hazmat suits.



Ruby Vargas poses with Durwood Lassiter after the meeting.



***Thank you to our Presenters & Sponsors!!!***

# JANUARY MTG. #1 ATTENDANCE



## Lessons Learned: Fume Hoods/Labs

Durwood Lassiter - EAB Project Manager

The Pyramid Building

January 15th, 2026

|                       |                   |                    |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Abraham Almaraz       | Emma Moser        | Moshe Krumholz     |
| Alexandria Galaviz    | Eric Rangel       | Orlando Escobar    |
| Alfredo Losoya        | Erick Vazquez     | Ruby Vargas        |
| Ali Hami              | Ethan Rodea       | Sam Garcia         |
| Ana Munoz             | Frank Garza       | Scott Andrew Kaley |
| Antonio Aguinaldo     | Greg Duchane      | Sean Smith         |
| Braden Speer          | Hector Trevino    | Siham Hawit        |
| Brandon Moreno        | Jacob Prado       | Stanley Haines     |
| Casey Bordelon        | James Gilligan    | Steven Devorak     |
| Celeste Olvera        | Jerry Rodriguez   | Victoria Lopez     |
| Christopher R Delgado | John Ferencak     | Viviana Zermemo    |
| Clifford S Tilbury    | Jonathan Luna     |                    |
| Clint Ulman           | Jorge Gomez       |                    |
| Craig Mcdowell        | Jose Gonzales     |                    |
| Daniel Gutierrez      | Joseph Rose       |                    |
| Daron Johnson         | Marc Widmer       |                    |
| Durwood Lassiter      | Michelle Ferencak |                    |

*Thank you to our Attendees!!!*

# JANUARY 20TH MEETING RECAP



For the January Bonus Meeting, we had the pleasure of hosting ASHRAE President Bill McQuade, Region 8 Director Joe Sanders, and a great presentation by Meredith Teague. This photo features IMEG, Trane, and MRI sharing a table during Joe's speech.



Everybody seems to be smiling after a no-holds barred race against the sitting President. No lame ducks here, but as Ricky Bobby would say, "If you ain't first you're last! Shake and Bake."



Always remember to put safety first, even after hours. Don't these ASHRAE members look street-chic in their racing helmets.

*Thank you to our Presenters & Sponsors!!!*

# JANUARY MTG. #2 ATTENDANCE



## Energy Savings Through Performance-Based Ventilation & Air Purification

Meredith Teague - Airbox chief operating officer

Andretti's Indoor Karting & Games

January 20th, 2026

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Adrian Martinez  | James Perron       |
| Alejandro Herra  | Jeff Bergner       |
| Alex Mathis      | Joe Sanders        |
| Alfredo Losoya   | John J Ferencak    |
| Bibiana Zermeno  | Joseph Rose        |
| Bill McQuade     | Josh Gavos         |
| Billy Jachetta   | Kai Lopez          |
| Brad Bright      | Manny Alvarez      |
| Braden Speer     | Meredith Teague    |
| Casey Bordelon   | Michelle Ferencak  |
| Celeste Olvera   | Phil Gamble        |
| Chanda Das Gupta | Randall Bloomquist |
| Chris Delgado    | Robert M Perez     |
| Clint A Ullman   | Ron Shepherd       |
| Corey Burkhalter | Ruby Vargas        |
| Cruz Reyna       | Sebastian Salazar  |
| Erick Vazquez    | Stanley Haines     |
| Ethan Rodea      | Steven Dvorak      |
| Gatlin Grosch    | Uschas Chowdhury   |
|                  | Victoria Lopez     |

*Thank you to our Attendees!!!*

# CHAPTER REPORTS



Treasurer Sean Smith of Oslin Nation

The Alamo ASHRAE accounts are balanced and healthy.

**Reminder:** With the rapidly approaching golf tournament, credit card payments are the easiest and most efficient way to pay. Once you sign up, you will be sent an invoice in an email from Alamo ASHRAE/Clover and it will take you to the Clover credit card processing page to complete the transaction. If you need to pay by check, please allow extra time for delivery and any potential issues that seem to occur with mail sometimes.

Hey ASHRAE Friends!

Our golf tournament is quickly approaching, and we'd love to see you out on the course! 🏌️ If you'd like to play in the tournament, be sure to sign up soon as spots fill up fast!

**Interested in being a sponsor?** We'd be thrilled to have your support!! Take a look at the sponsorship form and feel free to reach out with any questions.

Alamo ASHRAE Golf Tournament

April 9, 2026

Shotgun Start at 11:00 am

Canyon Springs Golf Club

Again, a huge thank you to our Yearly Bulk Sponsors for their continued support. Your generosity has helped make this year exceptional.

- ♥️ Texas Air Products
- ♥️ Oslin Nation
- ♥️ Southland Industries
- ♥️ Texas AirSystems
- ♥️ Trane
- ♥️ HTS
- ♥️ SpawGlass

Can't wait to see you on the course!



Research Promotion Chair,  
Casey Bordelon of Southland Industries  
[Casey.Bordelon@SouthlandInd.com](mailto:Casey.Bordelon@SouthlandInd.com)

# CHAPTER REPORTS

This month, we focused on strengthening our connection with students by coordinating with a UTSA professor to help promote and encourage student attendance at our upcoming ASHRAE meeting. We're excited about this partnership and the opportunity to introduce more students to ASHRAE, connect them with industry professionals, and increase awareness of the resources and networking opportunities available through our chapter.

We are also excited to welcome several new student members to our chapter:

- Ana Munoz
- Graysen H. Womack
- Itzel Tiscareno
- Edward Garcia
- Zachary Alvarado-Rios
- Alex Anchondo
- Caleb Tamayo
- Brandon Manz
- Harry Trevino



Student Activities Chair,  
Michelle Ferencak

We look forward to engaging with our new members and continuing to grow student involvement within our chapter.



Gatlin Grosch & Braden Speer of T.A.S.

Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) Chairs

A vertical event poster for the ALAMO YEA Young Engineers Association. The top section features the event title "ALAMO YEA" in large white letters, with "ASHRAE" in a blue box and "Young Engineers Association" below it. The background shows a city skyline with the Tower of the Americas. Below this, it says "PICKLEBALL &amp; NETWORKING AT Chicken N Pickle SAN ANTONIO, TX". The middle section shows a yellow pickleball and two blue paddles on a wooden surface, next to a small photo of people playing pickleball on an outdoor court. The bottom section of the poster lists the date "Thursday, February 26th, 2026" and the schedule: "4:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Socializing" and "5:00 PM - 7:00 PM: Pickleball &amp; Networking". At the very bottom, there is a photo of an outdoor patio with string lights and the text "Join us for an evening of FUN &amp; NETWORKING! Building Community for Young Engineers!"

# CHAPTER REPORTS

**Congratulations ALAMO CHAPTER we hit our yearly membership growth goal! Below is our chapters goals for membership growth for the 2025-2026 year.**

- 239** Start total: Total that your chapter started the year with. (Total includes paid and unpaid members, and does not include students.)
- 5** Growth Goal: Goal for number of new members, which is 2% (as set by your MP Regional Vice Chair).
- 244** End goal: Total growth goal to reach by year's end.
- 245** Current Enrollment

Thank you to this months renewals and new members

## **New Members:**

- Ashok Thyagarajan with Southwest Research Institute
- Dr. Eugene Hoffman with Southwest Research Institute
- Jonathan David Luna with EMA Engineering
- Renewal Members
- Richard Strachan with Joe Fly Co.
- Clinton Fininstead with FBD Partnership



Membership & Promotion Chair,  
Jeff Bergner of Oslin Nation

## **Renewal Reminder**

If your membership is up for renewal, please remember to complete the process by going to [renew.ashrae.org](https://renew.ashrae.org). Keeping your membership current ensures you continue to enjoy all the benefits ASHRAE has to offer, including access to industry resources, networking opportunities, and professional development events.

## **Get Involved**

There are many opportunities to get involved with the ASHRAE community and expand your network with us. If you're interested in contributing your time and skills, please contact me. We greatly appreciate all of our volunteers and their time and dedication.

## **Contact Us**

For any questions concerning membership, account access, or involvement, reach out to us at (210) 765-3991 or [jbergner@onco-tx.com](mailto:jbergner@onco-tx.com).

We appreciate all of the involvement & support required to make the Alamo ASHRAE Chapter a success!

# HISTORICAL ARTICLE

## THE EVOLUTION OF HVAC IN SAN ANTONIO: A STORY OF INNOVATION, GROWTH, & RESILIENCE



Few cities illustrate the importance of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning as vividly as San Antonio. Known for its long, scorching summers and historically unpredictable winters, the region has relied on continuous innovation in climate control more than most. The history of HVAC in San Antonio is not just a technical story—it’s a story of community resilience, business creativity, and the ongoing pursuit of comfort in one of America’s warmest metropolitan areas.

San Antonio’s HVAC journey began in the early 20th century, when businesses and theaters were among the first to experiment with mechanical cooling. Before modern air conditioning, residents managed the heat through shade structures, thick-walled adobe buildings, and natural ventilation. But by the 1920s and 1930s, as early forms of refrigeration and evaporative cooling emerged, local businesses recognized that climate-controlled spaces could draw crowds and improve productivity. Iconic downtown theaters began promoting “refrigerated air” as a luxury, setting the stage for widespread adoption.

Following World War II, the population of San Antonio surged, and with it came unprecedented residential construction. Advances in compressor technology and the growing availability of electrical service made central air conditioning more attainable for homeowners. By the 1960s, residential HVAC was not just a convenience—it was rapidly becoming a standard feature in new homes, helping fuel San Antonio’s suburban expansion and economic growth.

As the city continued to grow, so did its reliance on efficient HVAC systems. The 1980s and 1990s brought new building codes emphasizing energy efficiency, reflecting both environmental concerns and the realities of Texas heat. During these decades, commercial and industrial buildings also embraced more advanced systems, including early digital control technologies that set the foundation for today’s building automation solutions.



# HISTORICAL ARTICLE

## THE EVOLUTION OF HVAC IN SAN ANTONIO: A STORY OF INNOVATION, GROWTH, & RESILIENCE



In recent years, San Antonio has become a regional leader in sustainable HVAC innovation. With rising temperatures and greater focus on grid reliability, the city has increasingly adopted high-efficiency heat pumps, variable-speed systems, smart thermostats, and advanced building controls. Community initiatives and rebate programs have encouraged homeowners and businesses to upgrade aging equipment, reducing energy consumption while improving comfort. At the same time, the need for resilient systems became especially clear after statewide weather events such as the 2021 winter storm, which highlighted the importance of reliable heating solutions in a region primarily designed for cooling.

Today, San Antonio’s HVAC story continues to evolve, driven by a combination of technology, climate challenges, and community needs. As global innovators—including companies like Trane Technologies—push forward with next-generation heat pumps, environmentally friendly refrigerants, and digital-first system monitoring, the city remains an important proving ground for sustainable climate solutions.

The history of HVAC in San Antonio is ultimately a story of progress—how a city shaped by heat has embraced innovation at every turn. As the region moves toward a more energy-efficient, low-carbon future, the next chapter of this history will no doubt continue to reflect the ingenuity and resilience that have defined the city for more than a century.

Suggestions for publication? Please send emails to both:



[SebastianS@mechreps.com](mailto:SebastianS@mechreps.com) & [James.Gilligan@Kimley-Horn.com](mailto:James.Gilligan@Kimley-Horn.com)

# BLAST FROM THE PAST

FT. FEBRUARY '95



## The Squirrel Cage

THE ALAMO CHAPTER #65

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING & AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS

VOLUME XXXV - NO. 8

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FEBRUARY 1995

### PRESIDENT / EDITOR'S MESSAGE by Bill Rodriguez

Hi,

Welcome to this month's Squirrel Cage. This is kind of a "ketch-up" edition in that there is some stuff that should have been printed in December (when we only sent out Christmas Party invites) that isn't officially on record, YET! Those of you at the January meeting who weren't being entertained by the WINE GUZZLING going on at the Past Presidents table may recall that no motion was requested to approve the previous month's MINUTES (as published in the Squirrel Cage) because at that time there weren't any.

There was also another challenge in getting out last month's newsletter (which I believe most of you received the day of, or day after the meeting). It seems that a certain Government Agency could not find their record of when we renewed the Chapters' bulk mailing permit. So after fencing with the Bureaucratic Windmill out on Perrin - Beitel, and losing a day to M.L.K. Day the Squirrel Cage was on its way through the most adverse weather conditions we have seen in these parts in a long time. Isn't 75 and 80 degree weather in January adverse? I think it is adverse to having anything on your mind except being outdoors and soaking up a few rays.

I have received several communiques telling about things that occurred at the Society Winter Meeting Jan. 28 - Feb. 1 in Chicago. Among them were: The approval of \$1,302,955 in ASHRAE RESEARCH Projects (\$127,327 went to the Texas Engr. Experimental Station for "The Applicability, Design Aspects, and Long-Term Effects of Enhanced Heat Transfer of Alternate Refrigerants/Refrigerant Mixtures for HVAC Applications"), (\$128,200 was approved for the NATIONAL CLIMATIC DATA CENTER to provide "Weather Data Sets for ASHRAE Research", Fellas are ya'll listening? Something is WRONG when a government agency is

charging the TAXPAYERS that much money for data that should be PUBLIC DOMAIN!). The eight Winners of the ASHRAE Technology award were announced. Their projects will avoid in excess of \$1.2 million in utility costs annually. And several Updated ASHRAE standards were Approved, most notably #62 and #100.

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### FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: February 22, 1995  
PLACE: Holiday Inn Northwest Loop  
3233 N.W. Loop 410  
(at IH - 10)  
COSTS: Students \$ 6.50  
All Others \$13.00  
TIME: 5:30 p.m. - Social & Tech Session  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner

PROGRAM: Discussion of ASHRAE Standard 15  
(Safety Code for Mechanical Refrigeration)

TECH SESSION: Implementation of Standard 15

SPEAKER: Bob Gleeson - Enviro-Mech Services, Inc.

"No matter what happens, there's always somebody who knew it would."

-Lonny Starr

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