

The Squirrel Cage

Alamo ASHRAE Chapter Monthly Newsletter
'25-'26 YEAR | ISSUE 5

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SEBASTIAN SALAZAR

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Next Meetings

January 15, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Pyramid Building

January 20, 2026
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Andretti's

A Message from the President

Happy New Year, Alamo ASHRAE! of Alamo ASHRAE!

We're wasting absolutely no time in 2026 – this year is coming in hot (but, of course, properly conditioned). January is stacked with two chapter meetings, because apparently one just isn't enough for us.

First up is our January 15th lunch meeting, where we'll dive into lessons learned from fume hoods and lab projects – a topic that affects everything from safety to system design to why some labs mysteriously never feel quite right. Come for the technical knowledge, stay for the food... and maybe the stories of "how we fixed it the second time."

Then on January 20th, we shift into high gear with a special evening meeting that's a big one for our chapter. We are honored to welcome Director and Regional Chair Joe Sanders, along with our 2025–2026 ASHRAE President, Bill McQuade. This meeting will center on this year's ASHRAE Society theme, "Healthy Buildings: Designing for Life," which is a perfect way to kick off the year. After all, what's more important than designing buildings that keep people safe, comfortable, and breathing easy?

It's a great reminder that what we do really matters – whether we're balancing airflow in a lab, commissioning a system, or just trying to keep a meeting room from feeling like a meat locker.

A huge thank-you to our January meeting sponsors, Engineered Air Balance and Trane, for helping make all of this possible. We appreciate your support more than a perfectly tuned VAV box.

We can't wait to see you at both meetings as we start the year strong, energized, and ready to make 2026 another great year for Alamo ASHRAE.

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

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Trane Technologies

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Texas AirSystems

TREASURER

Sean Smith
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Skye MEP Engineers
Jake Gilligan
Kimley-Horn
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Matthew Bynum
HEB

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IC Thomasson

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MS2 Consulting Engineers
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Rheem Commercial Water
Greg DuChane
Trane Technologies

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Southland Industries

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Greg DuChane
Trane Technologies

WEBMASTER

Celeste Olvera
Skye MEP Engineering

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Texas AirSystems
Braden Speer
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ALAMO ASHRAE YEARLY SPONSORS



TEXAS AIR PRODUCTS
— Delivering Solutions —



Thank you to our Sponsors!!!

January Meeting

JANUARY 15, 2026

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

THE PYRAMID
601 NORTHWEST LOOP 410
SAN ANTONIO TX 78216

Lessons Learned: Fume Hoods/Labs

In this month's meeting, we will introduce an overview of lab systems and components. Understanding the basis of design and design intent. Interpretation of the control sequences and controls implementation into lab systems.

TAB plan for lab systems and needs from partnering trades. Common issues encountered throughout the TAB and commissioning process



Durwood Lassiter

EAB PROJECT MANAGER

FREE MEETING REGISTRATION

- Must be a current ASHRAE member
- Work at an engineering firm
- Complete website registration before Jan 15th

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

MEETING SPONSORED BY:

**EAB ENGINEERED
AIR BALANCE**
YOU CAN *Feel the Difference*

January Meeting #2

JANUARY 20, 2026

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ANDRETTIS

**5527 N LOOP 1604 W, SAN
ANTONIO, TX 78249**

Energy Savings Through Performance-Based Ventilation & Air Purification

This session explores how ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2022's Indoor Air Quality Procedure (IAQP) can reduce building energy use while improving indoor air quality. By using central air purification and high-efficiency filtration, buildings can safely reduce outdoor air requirements based on measured indoor contaminant levels. Attendees will learn how this approach supports smaller HVAC systems, lower fan and conditioning energy, reduced carbon emissions, and longer equipment life. The presentation also includes a practical walkthrough of IAQP verification and real-world calculations showing energy, capital, and operational savings across multiple building types.



Meredith Teague

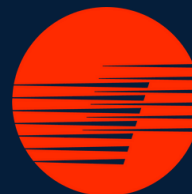
AIRBOX CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER

FREE MEETING REGISTRATION

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

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

MEETING SPONSORED BY:



TRANE®

DID YOU KNOW?

JANUARY BONUS MEETING

My fellow San Antonians, please join us in extending a warm welcome to our special guests this January 20th at Andretti's for the bonus meeting this month. If you didn't make it to the last meeting at Andretti's, back in October, make sure you take the right exit. There is quite a bit of construction in the area and the flyover to northbound I-10 is not yet open. Don't ask how I know, but you will get diverted south past UTSA Boulevard if you miss the frontage road exit and take the flyover, which is less than ideal in peak rush hour.

Meredith Teague, C.O.O. of Airbox, will be the speaker discussing the ASHRAE 62.1 Indoor Air Quality Procedure (IAQP), which directly aligns with this year's ASHRAE theme. Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is a very large subset of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), but doesn't address the other contributing factors such as lighting, acoustics, and thermal comfort. Don't get confused by the acronyms, but do be sure to stop by to enjoy the smoked BBQ buffet and learn more about reduced outdoor air requirements from indoor contaminant monitoring.



Also in attendance will be current ASHRAE President [Bill McQuade](#), so be sure to introduce yourself and you can tell friends and family that you met the president! The final special guest will be Joe Sanders, Director and Regional Chair of ASHRAE Region 8 from the Central Oklahoma Chapter. Please show him true Texan hospitality, until after the meeting when we hit the racetrack and continue Texas' Red River Rivalry winning streak.



Meredith Teague
"La Oradora"



Bill McQuade
"El Presidente"



Joe Sanders
"El Director"

Suggestions for publication? Please send emails to both:

SebastianS@mechreps.com & 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



ENTRY FORM

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

EMAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:

SEAN SMITH at SEAN.SMITH@ONCO-TX.COM
210-584-1824

TEAM ENTRIES DUE BY MARCH 26

CHAPTER REPORTS



“As of January 12th, the Alamo Chapter bank accounts are balanced and healthy.

Treasurer Sean Smith of Oslin Nation

✨ Happy New Year, Alamo ASHRAE Friends! ✨

As we welcome 2026, we're excited for a productive and engaging second half of the Alamo ASHRAE year! We truly look forward to spending more time with all of you in the months ahead!

🏌️ Annual Golf Tournament – April 9th at Canyon Springs Golf Club
Registration is officially open, and spots tend to fill quickly — be sure to secure your place on the course soon! If you're interested in sponsoring the event, feel free to reach out. I'd be happy to help you find the sponsorship level that best aligns with your goals.

💛 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



Research Promotion Chair,
Casey Bordelon of Southland Industries
Casey.Bordelon@SouthlandInd.com

Wishing everyone a fantastic start to January!

CHAPTER REPORTS

Over the past month, I have remained engaged with our student chapter leadership to support ongoing and upcoming activities. I checked in with the student chapter president to discuss current needs and priorities and provided guidance and assistance with ASHRAE scholarship applications.

In addition, I coordinated with my Student Activities Co-Chair to begin developing a game plan for the upcoming spring semester. This included preliminary discussions on student engagement efforts, potential events, and strategies to strengthen participation and continuity within the student chapter.

If you or your firm have internship or entry-level opportunities available, please consider reaching out. Sharing these opportunities is a meaningful way to support our students and help them take the next step into the HVAC&R industry.



Student Activities Chair,
Michelle Ferencak



Gatlin Grosch of T.A.S. Braden Speer of J.C.I.

Young Engineers in ASHRAE (YEA) Chairs

“Stay tuned for upcoming 2026 YEA Events.”

“Fool me once, shame on - shame on you.
Fool me - you can’t get fooled again! It’s the
New Year, and I am collecting any and all
outstanding chapter dues!”



Membership & Promotion Chair,
Jeff Bergner of Oslin Nation

HISTORICAL ARTICLE



FROM STONE WALLS TO SMART SYSTEMS: THE LEGACY OF THE SPANISH MISSIONS OF SAN ANTONIO AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON MODERN HVAC

The Spanish Missions of San Antonio, established in the early 18th century, are among the most significant historical and architectural landmarks in Texas. Founded between 1718 and 1731, the five missions; San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo), San José, San Juan, Concepción, and Espada, served as religious, cultural, and economic centers designed to sustain communities in a demanding environment. Beyond their spiritual role, the missions represent early examples of climate-responsive building design, a legacy that continues to influence modern building science and HVAC principles.

The missionaries and Indigenous peoples who constructed the missions faced South Texas' extreme climate, marked by intense heat, strong sun, and limited resources. To adapt, they relied on passive environmental control strategies. Thick limestone walls, often several feet wide, provided thermal mass that absorbed heat during the day and released it slowly at night, helping regulate indoor temperatures. This fundamental principle remains central to energy-efficient HVAC design today.

Building orientation and layout further enhanced comfort. Structures were arranged around courtyards that encouraged airflow and created shaded spaces. Arcades and covered walkways reduced direct solar exposure while allowing breezes to circulate. High ceilings and deeply recessed windows promoted natural ventilation and minimized heat gain. These features demonstrate an early understanding of airflow, shading, and heat transfer, core concepts in modern HVAC engineering.

Water management systems also played a role in environmental comfort. The acequias, or irrigation canals, supported agriculture and cooled the surrounding air through evaporation. This process functioned much like early evaporative cooling, a concept still applied in certain HVAC systems, particularly in warm climates.

The missions reflect a blending of Spanish construction methods and Indigenous environmental knowledge, resulting in designs tailored to local conditions. This adaptive approach parallels modern HVAC practice, where systems are customized to climate, building function, and occupant needs. As the HVAC industry increasingly emphasizes sustainability and energy efficiency, the passive strategies embodied in the San Antonio missions remain highly relevant. Their enduring structures remind us that effective climate control begins with intelligent design; long before mechanical systems are added.

Suggestions for publication? Please send emails to both:

SebastianS@mechreps.com & James.Gilligan@Kimley-Horn.com

BLAST FROM THE PAST

FT. JANUARY '95



The Squirrel Cage

THE ALAMO CHAPTER #65

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEATING, REFRIGERATING & AIR CONDITIONING ENGINEERS

VOLUME XXXV - NO. 7

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JANUARY 1995

PRESIDENT / EDITOR'S MESSAGE by Bill Rodriguez

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

I wish I could report that having December "OFF" as newspaper editor had helped me get caught-up, but it hasn't, at least not around ASHRAEVILLE (my office). I did get my living room renovation finished at the house, managed to keep SANTA CLAUS out of Bankruptcy, ate like a horse, and managed to loose 2 pounds. I think those are pretty good results for a week off during the "Holiday" season.

The CHRISTMAS PARTY on 6 December was a Great Success! The roast beef and chicken were delicious. Local celebrity, HENRY GUERRA charmed the revelers with his accounts of our local history and views of life in the days prior to Air Conditioning. It all would not have happened without the efforts of KURT MOSEL, MIKE LAYMAN, R.J. COTTER, and the Attendance Committee. MUCHAS GRACIAS AMIGOS!

This month's meeting will Honor the Past Presidents of the ALAMO CHAPTER. That's right, PAST PRESIDENTS NIGHT! (in just 6 more months, I'll qualify to hoard a carafe of complimentary wine too).

ROGER FORD will be the Master of Ceremonies and ASHRAE REGION 8 DIRECTOR JACK ROBERTS will be with us to enjoy the show (as well as check-up on the Chapters' HEARTBEAT). SO BE SURE TO LET THE ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE PERSON KNOW YOU ARE COMING ON THE 17TH.

January is also the "Kickoff" for our RESEARCH PROMOTION drive. This year's goal is \$15,000, (which if you put a pencil to it is (\$ 15000/232)) = \$64.66 per chapter member. As of 12/1/94 \$505 has already been received from the Alamo Chapter Membership at

Society, and 3000 or so we haven't turned in yet from the product show. GARY MILLER and L.W. TSCHOEPE will be tempting you with Chances to the SPURS/BUCKS Basketball Suite. So, buy up as many tickets as you feel necessary to sway the Odds in your favor. If you aren't a regular meeting attendee and would like to try your LUCK at this, call GARY @366-8775 or L.W. @826-2333 or contact any of the Board Members.

See 'ya at the Holiday Inn on the 17th.

BILL

JANUARY MEETING

DATE: January 17, 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
6:30 p.m. - Dinner

PROGRAM: Past President's Night
SPEAKER: Roger Ford and
Jack Roberts - Region 8 Director

"The mind is like a TV set-when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound".

-Communication Briefings

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

[Senior Electrical Engineer](#)

[Senior Mechanical Engineer](#)

[Senior Plumbing Engineer](#)

[Proposal Specialist](#)



Click the links for the full job descriptions and application.



Click the links for the full job descriptions and application.



[Existing Building Commissioning
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\(Mechanical or Electrical\)](#)



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