

October 2026

The Squirrel Cage

Alamo ASHRAE Chapter Monthly Newsletter

'26-'27 YEAR | ISSUE 1

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Next Meeting

[October 15, 2026](#)
[12:00 PM - 1:00 PM](#)
[Pyramid Building](#)

A Message from the President of Alamo ASHRAE!

Hello Alamo ASHRAE Members,

Fall is here and hopefully some cooler weather will follow! Our September meeting featured a great presentation from Catherine Tinkler on Facility Plans. If you found it interesting, you may also like to check out our Society President's new video game that she has rolled out this year, titled "HVAC Hero" which can be found on the ASHRAE website.

October will feature a meeting sponsored by a local rep, Stanley Haines with Ramsey & Company. The presentation is titled "Understanding ASHRAE 15 & 34: What Every Engineer Needs to Know About Refrigerant Safety" by Scott Franklin with MSA.

Also this month, we will host our annual Skeet Shoot at San Antonio Trap & Skeet on October 29th. I hope to see you there! Come ready to shoot and have a good time. We expect to have great attendance this year so it should be one for the books.

Keep an eye out for our November meeting announcement coming soon! Lastly, another month and another shameless plug; if you are excited about what we are doing and want to get involved, please reach out to your favorite ASHRAE volunteer and ask how you can help.

Best Regards,
Alex Mathis
Alamo ASHRAE President 26-27

ALAMO ASHRAE '26-'27 OFFICERS

Meet this year's Alamo ASHRAE Officers!!



Alex Mathis
President
Texas AirSystems



Randall Bloomquist
President Elect
Mechanical Reps, Inc.



Sean Smith
Treasurer
Oslin Nation



Erick Vazquez
Secretary
Southland Industries

ALAMO ASHRAE '26-'27 DIRECTORY

Officers

PRESIDENT

Alex Mathis
Texas Air Systems

PRESIDENT ELECT

Randall Bloomquist
Mechanical Reps, Inc.

TREASURER

Sean Smith
Oslin Nation

SECRETARY

Erick Vasquez
Southland Industries

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
Texas Air Systems

Jeff Bergner
Oslin Nation

Casey Bordelon
Southland Industries

Rick McHugh
EEA Consulting Engineers

Committees

ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

Casey Bordelon
Southland Industries
Celeste Olvera
Skye MEP Engineering

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Jake Gilligan
Kimley Horn
Patrick Mabry
Highland Commissioning
Sadam Abdel
EEA Consulting Engineers

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE
Erick Vazquez
Southland Industries
Brandon Manz
Kimley-Horn
Robert Perez
Automated Logic, Inc.
Sebastian Salazar
Mechanical Reps, Inc.

Stephen Dvorak
Southland Industries

CTTC COMMITTEE

Jon Ross Ruggles
SpawGlass
Miha Bernat
Texas Air Systems
Matthew Bynum
HEB

DIVERSITY IN ASHRAE

Victoria Lopez
Southland Industries

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

John Ferencak
IC Thomasson

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Josh Hausen
MS2 Consulting Engineers
Jake Gilligan
Kimley Horn
Greg DuChane
Trane Technologies

HONORS & AWARDS

Josh Gavos
Texas Air Systems

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Hector Trevino
Oslin Nation

REFRIGERATION CHAIR

Victor Bowie
Texas AirSystems

RESEARCH PROMOTION

Ruby Vargas
McMillan James

STUDENT ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Michelle Ferencak
EEA Consulting Engineers
Hector Trevino
Oslin Nation

SUSTAINABILITY CHAIR

Greg DuChane
Trane Technologies

WEBMASTER

Anja Orlovic
Southland Industries

YEA COMMITTEE

Gatlin Grosch
Texas Air Systems
Braden Speer
Texas Air Systems
Reid Ruggles
Texas Air Systems

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

October Meeting

OCTOBER 15, 2026
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

THE PYRAMID
SAN ANTONIO TX 78216

(PLEASE CHECK IN AT 11:30 AM FOR REGISTRATION. PRESENTATION BEGINS
PROMPTLY AT 12:00 PM.)

Understanding ASHRAE 15 & 34: What Every Engineer Needs to Know About Refrigerant Safety

As refrigerants shift toward lower-GWP A2L and A3 blends, the safety and detection requirements around them are changing fast — and getting them wrong means compliance headaches or worse, fines. This session breaks down exactly what ASHRAE 15 and 34 require for machinery room safety, alarm setpoints, and OEL/RCL thresholds, plus how EPA's AIM Act and California's CARB regulations are reshaping design requirements nationwide. You'll walk away with a practical grasp of refrigerant detection technologies — diffusion vs. sample draw, sensor placement, and real-world applications across HVAC-R systems — so you can design and specify with confidence, not guesswork..

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

[FREEMEETING REGISTRATION](#)

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



Scott Franklin

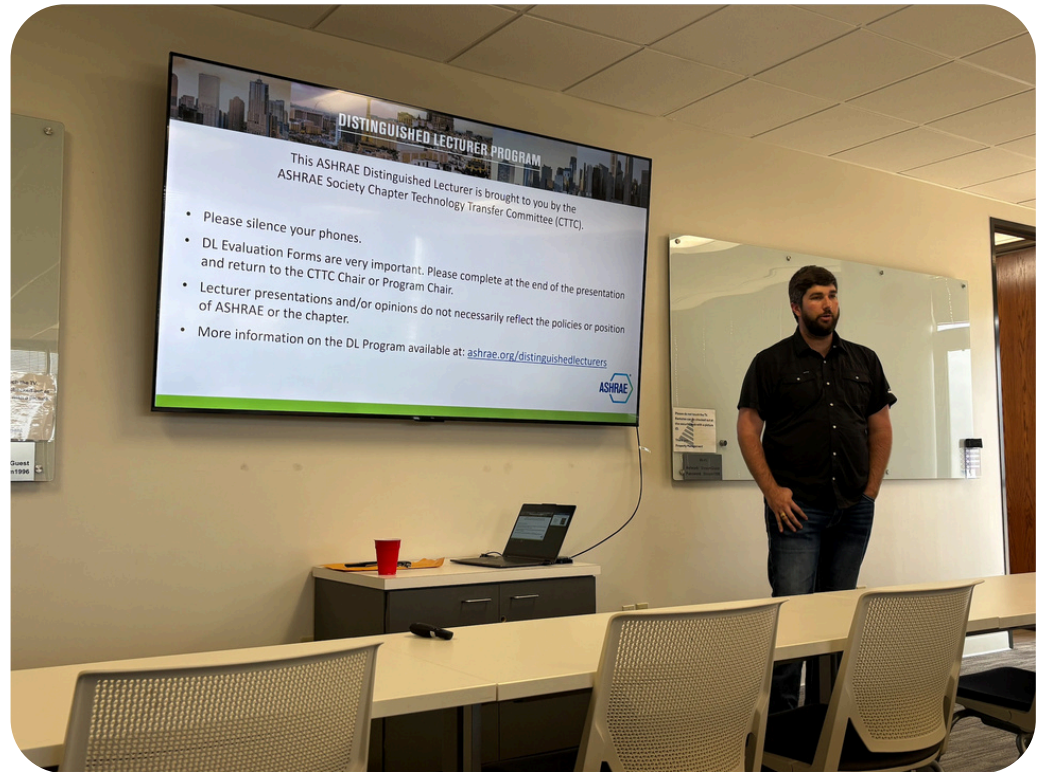
EXECUTIVE FILED SALES
MANAGER, PACWEST US HVACR
FIXED GAS

Sponsored by:



SEPTEMBER 17TH MEETING RECAP

Our September meeting covered how assessments are used to create facility plans. Here is our fearless leader quieting the crowd and introducing our distinguished lecturer.



Thank you to Catherine Tinkler for a fantastic presentation and for taking pictures with fans afterwards!

Thank you to our Presenters & Sponsors!!!

SEPT MTG ATTENDANCE



ASHRAE September Monthly Meeting 2026

The Pyramid
September, 2026

Alex Anchondo
Alex Mathis
Alexandria Galaniz
Alfredo Lasoya
Antonio Aguinaldo
Christopher Garcia
Colton Mueller
Corey Burkhalter
Ethan Rodea
James Perron

Jerry Garcia
Jon Ross Ruggles
Kaleb Bodden
Loraine Adams
Myles Semas
Robert Perez
Ryan Thornberg
Sean Smith
Sebastian Salazar

Thank you to our Attendees!!!

CHAPTER REPORTS

TREASURER & ATTENDANCE



Treasurer Sean Smith of Oslin Nation

As we approach the annual skeet shoot, I just wanted to share what we did last year and what our goals are for this year. As a non-profit organization, we always strive to have relatively equal income and expenses. We also need to raise money for Research Promotion , Scholarships, and the upcoming CRC that will be hosted here in San Antonio. With that being said, the Skeet Shoot helps us with these goals and here is what we did last year and are hoping for this year:

2025 Skeet Shoot: Income of \$31,674 and expenses of \$19,857. Our budget for 2026 is \$35,000 in income and we are going to try to keep our expenses to no more than \$20,000 like last year. We have more shooters than last year and have some great raffle prizes, so I expect we will meet these goals. Looking forward to seeing everybody out there on Oct 29th.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out, sean.smith@onco-tx.com.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our September meeting at the Pryamid Building! We had a fantastic turnout for "From Index to Initiative: Using Assessments to Create Actionable Facility Plans," where Catherine Tinkler provided valuable guidance on turning assessment insights into actionable facility strategies.

It was an informative session filled with practical takeaways and great conversation.



Attendance Chair,
Casey Bordelon of Southland Industries
Casey.Bordelon@SouthlandInd.com

CHAPTER REPORTS

YEA

This year the YEA committee wants to create networking opportunities, technical tours, mentorship activities, and social events.

We are interested in setting up technical tours in our area. I believe the one southland put on last year was beneficial and more like this may be beneficial to our younger engineers.

Last week was one of our ASHRAE Alamo Chapter YEA Happy Hour on Thursday, October 8th at Little Woodrow's Stone Oak. Thank you to everyone who showed up.

Whether you are already involved with ASHRAE or just looking to meet more people in the industry, we would love to have you join us at our next event.



YEA Chair,

Braden Speers of Texas Air Systems

Braden.Speer@texasairsystems.com

CHAPTER REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTION

Thank you to all who have contributed to Alamo ASHRAE Chapter, we appreciate your membership and involvement. Let's start out the year with strong!

245 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).

250 End goal: Total growth goal to reach by year's end.

251 Current Enrollment

Thank you to this month's renewals and new members!

New Members

- Cory Mazzurana with Southland
- Mukul Anand with Oracle
- Gatlin Grosch with Texas Air Systems
- Matt Ellis with Accurex



Membership & Promotion Chair,
Hector Trevino of Oslin Nation

Did you Know?

New Full & associate members get automatic benefits including:

- One free conference registration to a Winter or Annual Conference
- 12-month subscription to ASHRAE Handbook Online which provides access to all four of the most recent Handbook
- Selection from one of ASHRAE's literature
- Optional Printed Handbook at a discounted rate

To join, please follow the Hyperlink below! You can also reach out to me & I can assist with sign up process.

[Join ASHRAE](#)

Contact Us:

For any questions concerning membership, account access, or involvement, reach out to us at (210) 289-5926 or hector.trevino@onco-tx.com. We appreciate all the involvement & support required to make the Alamo ASHRAE Chapter a success!

HISTORICAL ARTICLE

LIQUID DESICCANT DOAS: FROM INDUSTRIAL WORKHORSE TO PACKAGED VENTILATION



Consulting engineers have long separated outdoor air conditioning from space conditioning. Dedicated outdoor air systems (DOAS) make that split explicit: condition ventilation air to a controlled dew point, then let terminal equipment handle the space sensible load. Liquid desiccant technology is one of the oldest, yet newest, ways to do the latent portion of that job.

Industrial plants have used liquid desiccants for more than seventy years. Classic conditioners circulated a strong lithium chloride (or similar) brine over packing or spray media. Cool, concentrated solution absorbed moisture from process air; a separate regenerator drove water back out with heat. Those units delivered tight humidity control in food processing, healthcare, labs, natatoriums and other humidity critical applications. They also demanded high liquid flow rates, careful mist elimination, and plant utilities (chilled water or cooling water for the air conditioner; steam or hot water for regeneration). Carryover and maintenance concerns limited wider commercial HVAC use.

San Antonio sits in ASHRAE Climate Zone 2A, where outdoor air latent load often governs ventilation design. Peak dew point design days, not peak dry bulb, typically drive DOAS sizing for hospitals, kitchens, and other high outdoor air spaces across South Texas. Research in the 2000s–2010s changed the form factor. Low flow, internally cooled and heated contactors (wicking fins, membrane exchangers, and related heat-and-mass designs) cut desiccant circulation rates by an order of magnitude, sharply reducing droplet carryover and pumping power. DOE/NREL field work showed liquid desiccant air conditioning could serve grocery and other commercial buildings as outdoor air conditioners.

Modern packaged liquid-desiccant DOAS units fold the desiccant loop into a DX heat-pump architecture. Outdoor air is typically split into process and regeneration streams. A coil first cools process air; the liquid desiccant finishes dehumidification toward a 35–55 °F supply dew-point band without forcing the coil to chase that dew point alone. This effectively cuts the psychrometric “corner”, allowing a higher evaporating temperature. Condenser heat regenerates the dilute solution, so many packaged products need no separate boiler, cooling tower, or chilled water plant. Laboratory testing and multi-climate field tests report Integrated Seasonal Moisture Removal Efficiency (ISMRE2 per AHRI Standard 920) well above the ASHRAE Standard 90.1 air-cooled DX-DOAS floor of 3.8 lb./kWh, with energy savings on the order of up to half versus code minimum DX DOAS which is subject to climate, supply air dew point, and control strategy.

The DOAS selection process still starts with outdoor airflow, peak outdoor latent load, and required supply air dew point. That evolution from utility-intensive industrial systems to self-contained packaged units is what makes the technology newly relevant to mainstream commercial HVAC design. A key difference is to rate moisture removal with ISMRE2, not IEER and coordinate zone equipment for sensible dominant coils since the liquid desiccant DOAS handles the outdoor latent load. In a San Antonio humid climate, liquid desiccant technology may be a credible DOAS option wherever outdoor latent load and low supply air dew point drive the energy bill.