

Chapter History for Society Year 2006-2007



The 2006-2007 Society year of ASHRAE began in the Austin Chapter (066) on August 17, 2006. This was the beginning of the term for President Cameron Labunski, P.E. Another very youthful President trying to fill the shoes of so many great Presidents that have gone before him. Cameron started the year in fine fashion by having a BOG meeting in June and July to assist in early organizational efforts. With the precedent set by the previous President Jeremy Smith who re-established lunch meetings during the winter months of November and December, President Labunski decided to have an August meeting. This was one of the earliest Chapter starts in recent memory as August had become a month where baseball park fun get-togethers had replaced the traditional meeting. Since it was so dad gum hot, the program was presented by the City of Austin's own Mr. Bill Hoffman on "Energy and Water Relationships, and Water Conservation". Mr. Hoffman, with the Austin Water Utility, gave us a presentation on the City's water conservation programs. He also gave us details on how to use the city's programs to save ourselves and our customers' money. He presented how some of major Austin based companies have implemented conservation measures and reduced their overall water consumption. He also showed us how energy and water issues are related and educated us on water consumption and how when you save water you also save energy.

During the Chapter Year 2006-2007, the following members were elected and worked diligently throughout the year:

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|-----------------------|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| President | Cameron Labunski, P.E. (CRC Delegate) | BOG#1 | Jeremy Smith, P.E. (Research) |
| Pres. Elect | Thursten Simonsen, P.E. (Newsletter/CRC Alt) | BOG#2 | Glenn See (Refrigeration / CTT) |
| Vice President | Gordon Hall (Programs) | BOG#3 | Mike Davidson (PAOE / Membership) |
| Treasurer | Charles Whitten, P.E. | BOG#4 | Randy Schrecengost, P.E. (Historian) |
| Secretary | Andy Collier (Golf) | BOG#5 | Wes Van Rite (Student Activities) |

Austin's ASHRAE BOGs oversee as many more activities as the Chapter requires. They also serve as Chapter Representatives and act as the main contacts for general information and for the Committee involvement. Other local members provide support in willing ways when called upon to do so. The Chapter's active member roster is being filled more and more with former Officers or BOGs members. Some new and upcoming members of the Chapter are being groomed to "take-over", but an effort to recruit more young professionals is sorely needed. This other support for the Chapter was provided by these members:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Reception/Phone Comm | Margaret Bigger | Honors&Awards / Nominating | Randy Schrecengost P.E. |
| Student Activities | Wes Van Rite | Student Activities | Dustin Wiebel |
| Web Master | Don Lipinski, EIT | PP Council / Auditing | Jim Ruth, P.E. |
| Membership | John Dolliver | Roster | Jeremy Smith, P.E. |
| Refrigeration / CTT | Glenn See | Seminars | Randy Schrecengost P.E. |

At Right: The 2006-2007 Officer Induction ceremony included from left to right: President Elect Thursten Simonsen, P.E., Margaret Bigger, BOG Wes Van Rite, President Cameron Labunski, P.E., BOG Jeremy Smith, P.E., BOG Randy Schrecengost, P.E., Treasurer Charles Whitten, P.E., and Vice President Gordon Hall.



AUGUST

On the traditional third Thursday of this month (August 17th), the Austin Chapter of ASHRAE began its Fifty-First (51st) year! Blessed be the Chapter so as to continue for another 50+ years! We had the meeting at what is becoming our very favorite place – The County Line on the Hill BBQ. The meals are still \$20.00. The Chapter meeting started with the same format that has been successful for 50 years: a BOG meeting at 4:30 p.m. which always transitions into the Social Hour from 5:30-6:00 p.m. When a Technical Session is available, this occurs between 6:00-6:30 p.m. then our Dinner goes from about 6:30-7:00 p.m. At the beginning of dinner, the President usually begins the business portion of the meeting with a round of self introductions. However, Cameron – being new – forgot this until the end of the meeting. Oh well, first month jitters are expected. Finally the Program usually finishes the night from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and the Chapter

adjourns. As always, many members hang around a little longer for more socializing, cussing and discussing politics, projects, contractors, architects, other engineers, or life.

President Labunski officially called the meeting to order and indicated the theme for the meeting was **Membership Promotion Night**. Cameron summarized to those present some of the exciting activities planned for the upcoming year. As in previous years, some notable planned activities include guest appearance from our Region VIII DRC Art Giesler on December 18th which will be a lunch meeting. Cameron thanked everyone for being at the first meeting of the year, and asked everyone to please RSVP as we had a much bigger crowd than that assumed. We had to scramble around and get another few tables set for the additional members and guests.

After the meeting got started, PP Jeremy Smith thanked many different individuals for helping him last year and presented a few awards from last year's CRC in Cancun. The Chapter made the Society Honor Roll and Star Award for PAOE (Society's President's Award of Excellence), and had Full Circle Officer and BOG Research donations. New President Labunski also won the Newsletter of the Year award, and thanked the Historian for all his help in writing articles (yours truly). The Chapter ended the year 9th out of 15 Region VIII Chapters with 2,752 PAOE points.

Our meeting program was presented by Mr. Bill Hoffman with the Austin Water Utility. Mr. Hoffman give our Chapter a review of the City of Austin's water conservation programs. He reviewed details on how we can use City of Austin programs to save our consulting customer's money. His presentation showed examples of how major Austin companies have implemented conservation measures and reduced their overall water consumption. Mr. Hoffman also discussed energy and water relationships to better educate all of us on water consumption in our environment and how by saving water, we also save energy.

The Chapter plans to have a few lunch meetings in November and December; and, a tour of the City of Austin's Mueller Development Combined Heating/Cooling Plant (CHP) in October for Student Night. The Chapter begins the year with a balance in the treasury of \$7,240. Our attendance for this month (August, 2006) consisted of: 29 Members, 4 Life Members, 1 Student, and 19 Guests for a total of 54. Since we did not have a June or July Newsletter, the attendance for last May's meeting consisted of: 47 Members, 2 Life Members, 0 Students, and 0 Guests for a total of 49.

SEPTEMBER

Our meeting for September was held on the 21st and at the County Line on the Hill. Our meal costs continue to be maintained at \$20 for all you can eat! Unfortunately our President was unable to attend the meeting, and it gave the President-Elect Thursten Simonsen and the Vice-President Gordon Hall an opportunity to seize the reigns of power - if you will. However, after a short period of time they realized that being in charge wasn't such a great deal! **(Right: Drew Chapman presents on BSL3 Labs)**



Our meeting program was presented by Mr. Drew Chapman of Siemens Building Technologies on Control Sysetms of Bio Safety Level 3 Laboratory Controls (BSL3). With many manufacturers embarking on new technologies in specialized environments, the construction industry (and all of us Engineers) must keep up with the everchanging technologies. Mr. Chapman presented a technical session regarding a range of control systems for Bio Safety Level-3 Laboratories. Bio Safety Level-3 agents include indigenou or exotic agents with potential for aerosol transmission and other diseases that may have serious or lethal consequences.

The Chapter also announced the October Student Night and tour of the Austin Energy Mueller Development Combined Heating and Power Plant. The key to attending the tour was to sign a require waiver for advanced clearance. The waiver will take approximately three (3) weeks for the security checks to be completed. Attendance consisted of: 31 Members, 5 Life Members, 0 Students, and 6 Guests for a total of 37 and a drop from the August meeting. **(Right: Matt Gross – Texas Air Products, and John Currie – Kanetzky Consulting Engineering enjoy some of the great County Line BBQ).**



OCTOBER

Our meeting for October was a change from our normal operations. We had our dinner at the Texas Land and Cattle (6007 N. IH35, at corner of 290 & I35) on October 19th at 5:30 p.m. We had the technical presentation from Austin Energy on the new Mueller Development, Austin Energy Combined Heating and Cooling Plant (CHP) at the Dell Children's Hospital development and then followed with a tour of the plant. Mr. Cliff Braddock delivered the 30-minute presentation, and ate dinner. Then everyone left to go to the plant at 6:45 p.m. with a planned finish of around 7:30 p.m. Due to new Homeland Security measures, all meeting attendees who attended had to have filled out a waiver prior to attending the Tour.

The Treasurer, Mr. Charles Whitten announced that the Chapter continued to maintain a healthy balance in the bank. Attendance consisted of: 40 Members, 3 Life Members, 10 Students, and 0 Guests for a total of 50. A very great time was had by all!

NOVEMBER

For many years, the Austin Chapter of ASHRAE did not have a meeting in November or December due to the Holidays. The Chapter tried to combine the two months into one meeting and called it **Past Presidents and Spouses Night**. Over the last decade, it was apparent that this effort was falling short on the number of necessary attendees to make the meeting worthwhile. For the past three years the Chapter President and Board have been holding LUNCH meetings. This serves the purpose to have a member meeting for technology transfer, and see some of the members who do not typically make the evening meetings. This month's meeting was still held at eh County Line on the Hill, but it was on a Wednesday, November 15th. **(Right: No one can convince Bill Klock to eat more than four plates of BBQ!).**



Mr. Gus Faris, Director of Engineering for Nailor Industries provided a presentation on ECM Motor Basics, and the Use of ECM Motors in Series Terminal Units and Fan-Coil Units. The meeting began at 11:30 AM and finished by 1:00 PM. The food was excellent and the cost was still only \$20.

The Chapter continued to promote Research. The Treasurer reported the Chapter balance was \$8,685 due to our checking and investment accounts. Our November attendance consisted of: 42 Members, 2 Life Members, 0 Students, and 2 Guests for a total of 44. This was a very good turnout for lunch and encouraged the BOG to continue to include lunch meetings.

DECEMBER

As in November, the Austin Chapter continued the new tradition of having a lunch meeting to continue the success of the Chapter as we got ready for Christmas and the New Year. Once again the planned lunch meeting was at the County Line on the Hill and on a Wednesday, December 13th. The meeting was billed as "What ASHRAE Research Means To You", and was presented by Dr. Jeffrey Siegel with The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Jeffrey A. Siegel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He and his research team have ongoing research on HVAC filtration, portable air cleaners, protecting industrial and residential buildings from extraordinary events, particle resuspension, particle transport and deposition in HVAC systems, and indoor air quality on school busses. Dr. Siegel discussed ASHRAE Research, and his role and the general benefits to the typical ASHRAE member. The meeting began at 11:30 AM and was finished by 1:00 PM.

During this meeting President Labunski announced for the members to mark their calendars for the January 18th meeting, which would be back in the evenings at the County Line. This meeting would feature our Region VIII DRC, Art Giesler who had postponed his attendance from the December meeting, along with Society President Terry Townsend. Thursten Simonsen, President Elect, reiterated that if anyone had something they wanted to put in the Newsletter the deadline was always the first of every month. VP Gordon Hall indicated the Programs continued to find speakers and locations for the year with the next two months filled. There was still a need for a speaker for March, which could be a Membership Promotion night. VP Hall stressed that he is always looking for a few good volunteers to help with the programs. **(Right: Past President Mark Merriman is making up for all the BBQ he couldn't eat while trying to run the meetings in the past!)**



Our Treasurer reported the Chapter's current financial status of \$6500 in the bank and the budget on schedule. Additionally, our Taxes were complete, and our finances were now completely electronic. Secretary Andy Collier mentioned that the providing CEU certificates for meeting and seminar attendees was ongoing and proceeding well. He continues to take and print the Meeting Minutes for inclusion in the Newsletter. Jeremy Smith, BOG 1 and Research Promotion Chair, indicated the status of the Chapter donation goal of \$31,000 was at about 5% with \$1,500 collected so far. The Full Circle (all officers and BOG with \$100 minimum donation) was also complete. Other announcements from Mike Davidson, BOG 2, regarded PAOE updates. Mike highly encouraged all Board and Committee members to go online and update their respective categories. Membership Chair John Dolliver indicated he would like to hold a new member promotion at one of the meetings in either February or March. A raffle and drink tickets were being considered to help raise funds. Randy Schrecengost, BOG 3, indicated that not much was happening with Honors and Awards, but that Reception Chair Margaret Bigger was doing an excellent job. Randy mentioned that a plan was being formulated regarding a Roster publication for the first time in two years, but that it was not complete. At least one Seminar was planned for the remainder of the 2006-2007 Society year, but that it would not happen until April or May. There is one ASHRAE Satellite Broadcast scheduled for April 18th, 2007. As far as Historian activities, there were several articles planned for publication in the near future and there would not be any problems reaching PAR (much to Mike's relief!). Lastly, Wes Van Rite, BOG 5, reported on Student activities. He indicated that we were on target to present Scholarships for Austin Community College (ACC) and Central Texas College (CTC). Our December attendance consisted of: 28 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 5 Guests for a total of only 33. Although attendance was lower than expected, the lunch was still termed a success.

JANUARY

January found our Chapter once again blessed with a potential visit from another ASHRAE Society President – Mr. Terry E. Townsend, P.E. However, a severe Texas ice storm prevented both Terry and our Region VIII DRC Art Geisler from making it into town. Their visit was eventually rescheduled later in the year.



The Chapter meeting was back at our favorite place, the County Line on the Hill Restaurant on Bee Cave Road. The meeting began at the regular time of 6:00 p.m. following the scheduled BOG meeting. The meeting was related to Engineering Ethics and attendance was high as most professional engineers still needed their 1 hour of credit toward their licensing requirements. The speaker was James Wesley Smith, P.E. The Board employed Mr. Smith on February 24, 2004 as an Engineering Specialist, and he provides engineering expertise to the Board investigators as well as participates in outreach programs to educate the public and licensed engineers on engineering matters pertaining to the Engineering Practice Act. Mr. Smith is also engaged in the research and development of policy advisories for the Board. Prior to employment at the Board, he was an air permit engineer with the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for ten years. Mr. Smith has over twelve years experience in state government with emphasis in customer service and rule interpretation.

During the normal business, the Chapter promoted the annual CRC (Chapter Regional Conference) to be held in Oklahoma City for all 15 chapters in ASHRAE Region VIII during April 12 – 14th; the AHR Expo to be held in Dallas on January 27 - 31st in conjunction with the ASHRAE winter meeting to be at the Adam's Mark Hotel; and, the Annual Austin ASHRAE Golf Tournament was to be held at Circle C in April. President Elect Thursten Simonsen, stated his mandatory attendance to the President training in Dallas will be on Feb 9th -10th. He discussed some Candidates for distinguished lectures for our Programs use. Vice President Gordon Hall indicated there was still a need for a speaker for March, but that the April and May meetings were now filled also with April being a meeting on Humidifier Basics with Mike Dovich of Dri-Steam, and Jerry Sipes with Price Industries for May. The Chapter's January budget announcement was \$8,591. Our attendance consisted of: 46 Members, 5 Life Members, 0 Students, and 1 Guests for a total of 52.

FEBRUARY

The February meeting was on the typical 3rd Thursday, February 15, at the County Line once again, with all the regularly scheduled activities: Social: 5:30-6:00 p.m., Tech. Session. 6:00-6:30 p.m., Dinner: 6:30-7:00 p.m., Program: 7:00-8:00 p.m., and the cost was still only \$20/person. The February technical program was a presentation by Mr. Mitch Martin with Oracle on High Density Heat Containment Systems, based on the Oracle Data Center in Austin. With the high tech environment starting to shift in Austin, this is something all ASHRAE engineers must be aware of and Mr. Martin shared some of his experiences and suggestions on design.

The Chapter continued to heavily promote our Research efforts, the upcoming CRC (Chapter Regional Conference) to be held in Oklahoma City, our very own golf tournament (where a large amount of our research money is raised, and **Engineers Week**. The Chapter (through BOG member Randy Schrecengost) was also planning an April or May Applications Design seminar with the exact date and topic to be determined very soon.

The Chapter Treasurer, Charles Whitten, announced the Chapter had \$7,346 in our account balance. Our attendance consisted of: 37 Members, 5 Life Members, 0 Students, and 5 Guests for a total of 57.

MARCH

The March meeting found the Chapter again at the County Line on the Hill, and this time ASHRAE Society President – Mr. Terry E. Townsend, P.E., ASHRAE Fellow, was able to attend. Mr. Townsend is president of Townsend Engineering Inc., Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Panama City, Florida. As ASHRAE's current president, Mr. Townsend directs the Society's Board of Directors and oversees the Executive Committee. During his term, Mr. Townsend is focusing on "The ASHRAE Promise: A Sustainable Future, highlighting ASHRAE's efforts in sustainability in the building environment".



Due to the exciting opportunity to hear ASHRAE's Society President speak on ASHRAE's efforts towards a sustainable future with a goal of "net zero" buildings by the year 2020. This meeting was promoted to other Professional Organizations such as AEE, AIA, AGC, ASPE USGBC, etc., as a unique opportunity to engage with a variety of Professionals in our industry, and with a key leader in our fight for our current and future environment. Because of anticipated attendance, the meeting was moved to a Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00 PM and at a new location, the Crowne Plaza (previously named Red Lion Hotel) at 6121 N I H 35 Austin, TX. The meal price had to be increased to offset the extra expenses to \$25.00 (at the door). An additional technical presentation was given by Roger Schmidt of Nomaco K-Flex - Youngsville, NC on below ambient insulation systems.

The Finance report indicated the Chapter's bank balance was \$7,427. March's attendance consisted of: 22 Members, 2 Life Members, 0 Students, and 18 Guests for a total of 42. This was a pretty good turnout, as it is traditionally hard to get members out during Spring Break in Austin.

APRIL

The third Thursday of April (the 19th) found the Chapter at the County Line for more BBQ and drama. Our original speaker and program was cancelled at the last minute and a mad scramble was completed. A Panel Discussion regarding "Implementing Viable Sustainability Practices in Design and Construction was put together and was very successful. Several announcements were made regarding the short remainder of the year, and the Nominating Committee placed the candidates for next year's slate of officers before the members.

BOG member Randy Schrecengost reminded everyone of the May 29 Applications Design seminar on Cooling Tower Design Basics, and encouraged attendance. The CRC was now complete and one final push for the Annual Golf Tournament on April 27th at Circle C Golf Club was made. The Treasury balance report indicated \$9,388 in the bank. April's meeting attendance is unknown at this writing.

MAY

Due to technical difficulties and late resolution of such, there was no May Newsletter printed. The meeting was promoted and information disseminated via email. The meeting was held at the County Line and as always ends the current Chapter's year. The meeting was a fun gathering where we enjoyed the years successes and lamented the disappointments. President Cameron Labunski thanked all the Officers, BOG and committee members, and all the other volunteers for a "great job". He congratulated the newly elected Officers, BOG and Chairman for moving forward to assist Thursten next year. The Chapter installed the new leadership, and began the program for the evening.

The program this month was presented by Mr. Jerry Sipes, Vice President of Engineering for Price Industries and a Professional Engineer with more than seventeen years of experience in the HVAC field. He is the Chairman of ASHRAE Standard 130 "Methods of Testing for Rating Ducted Air Terminal Units"; the Past Chairman of ASHRAE Technical Committee 2.1 "Physiology and Human Environment", and currently serves as a voting member of ASHRAE Technical Committee 5.3 "Room Air Distribution", as Chairman of the Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI) Air Control and Distribution Devices (ACDD) Engineering Committee; and, as Vice-Chair of the ACDD Section Committee. In 2001, he received the Ralph G. Nevins Physiology and Human Environment Award, which is awarded to a researcher for "significant accomplishment in the study of physiology and human response to the environment". His principle technical areas of interest are heat transfer, fluid flow, human thermal comfort, HVAC and acoustics. The presentation covered the areas of: Design for Personal Comfort with Radiant Cooling, Displacement and Underfloor Air Distribution, and discussed why both displacement and underfloor air distribution increases the personal comfort when compared to the traditional overhead air distribution design approach. . May's meeting attendance is unknown at this writing

Special thanks goes to members Andy Collier of York and the Chapter's Seminars Chairman, Mr. Randy Schrecengost, for organizing a May 29th Applications Design seminar on Cooling Tower System Design Basics. The seminar was presented by Mr. Bob Threatt, Regional Market Manager, and Mr. Toby Daley, Director of Technical Services, both of Composite Cooling Solutions, LP. The seminar was held during the afternoon with 28 attendees and \$1450 raised for ASHRAE research. Topics covered were: Factors affecting Thermal Performance in Cooling Towers , Cooling Tower Sound, Fill and Drift Eliminators in Cooling Towers, and Water Distribution Systems in Counter-flow Cooling Towers.

JUNE - JULY

The Austin Chapter typically does not meet during the months of June and July, but will hold BOG meetings if and when called upon by the new President.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Schrecengost, P.E.
Historian