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THE AUSTIN REGISTER

ASHRAE Austin Chapter

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YEA HALLOWEEN HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, October 27, 2026
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Gibson Street Bar
1109 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX

Sponsored by Johnson Controls

REGISTER NOW

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 2026
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

EEA Consulting Engineers
7300 Ranch Rd 2222 Bldg 2 #100, Austin, TX

Making Sustainability Affordable

$35 Member Ticket / $40 at the door
$40 Non-Member Ticket / $45 at the door

REGISTER NOW



The Winter ASHRAE Conference is upon us!

Registration has opened for the Winter conference. A little under 100 days left to go, early registration gets you cheaper rates through October 28th. Need to talk to your supervisor to go? Plenty of time to start planning and get you to Chicago!

ASHREA's history can be found on its "2027 ASHRAE Winter Conference" page HERE.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Austin ASHRAE!

I hope everyone is doing well. There are really big events coming up and wanted to make sure everyone was aware.

First, non-ASHRAE, but impactful, voting. Early voting begins soon and election day in Texas is November 3rd. Make sure to make a plan to vote and to plan appropriately if you want your voice heard and accounted for.

Towards the end of the month, we also have our October YEA event. Head on over to their page for more information.

Next, we have our annual Fall ASHRAE tournament coming up. More information in our Research Promotions section, but wanted to give the tournament a plug. We took your feedback from last year and are continuously working on making the event better and more accessible to all. Reduced packages and more sponsorship opportunities to get your company out there to the Austin area. Shout out to Robert Pettitt and Andy Collier for spearheading the event this year.

Lastly, we are still looking for a group of volunteers to help with the Austin Chapter Regional Conference in 2028. The Chapter regional conference (CRC) hosts all the other region 8 chapters. It's a large event with people coming in from all over Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mexico. Map of the region below for reference. Please note, the region is within the purple boundary and is only the purple markers for chapters. Austin is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help plan and coordinate the event with region leadership. If you are organized and/or love planning, this is the position for you. Please let me know if you are interested.



Thanks for reading!

Ricardo Soto - Ricardo.soto@stantec.com

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PROGRAMS CTTC / VICE PRESIDENT

Hello Austin ASHRAE!

Please join us for our monthly chapter meeting.
Attention members! Invite your non-member friends and colleagues to the October Chapter Meeting!
This is a great opportunity to introduce people to ASHRAE!

Schedule:

11:30 AM - Check-in, Arrive, and Mingle
11:45 AM - ASHRAE Intros / Meeting Announcements
12:00 PM - Main Presentation: Making Sustainability Affordable

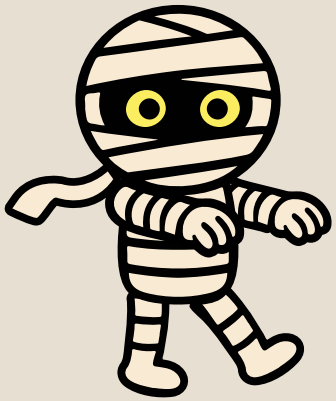
Location:

EEA Consulting Engineers
7300 Ranch Rd 2222 Bldg 2 #100
Asutin, TX 78730



Tickets

$35.00 Member Ticket / $40.00 (at the door)
$40.00 Non-Member Ticket / $45.00 (at the door)



REGISTER NOW

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YOUNG ENGINEERS IN ASHRAE

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Thanks to everyone who came out to our YEA Event at Round Rock Express! And a big thank you to Heat Transfer Solutions for sponsoring the event! The Round Rock Express took home the W against the Tacoma Rainiers with a final score of 9-3!

We're getting into the spooky spirit this month with a Halloween-themed Happy Hour at Gibson Street Bar on October 27th! A big thank you to JCI for sponsoring this month's event and helping make it possible!

Costumes aren't required, but they're highly encouraged! **We'll be awarding a prize for Best Costume, so get creative and come ready to show off your Halloween spirit!!!**

If you plan on attending, please pre-register using the StarChapter link on the left-hand side of this announcement, or the link below:
ASHRAE Austin - Meeting registration page 2

Location: Gibson Street Bar
Address: 1109 S Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704
Date & Time: 10/27 from 5:00-7:00 PM

Looking forward to seeing y'all there!

We'd also love to welcome new faces to our YEA Committee! If you're interested in getting involved, collaborating on events, or just want to learn more, don't hesitate to reach out to any of us below:

Kathleen Leyendecker – Kathleen.leyendecker@hts.com
Trey Campsmith – Trey.campsmith@hts.com

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONT.

Statewide Election Information
Early voting runs from Oct. 19 through Oct. 30. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.
Statewide elections will include US Senate, governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, among many other local, county, and city related races.

Texas Governor Pauses Data Center Permitting
Early voting runs from Oct. 19 through Oct. 30. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3.
On September 21, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott directed the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to halt all permitting approvals for data center projects until ongoing resource audits are completed. This order pauses all air, water, and environmental permitting issuances for data centers in the state until audits by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas the Texas Water Development Board are completed in December. The audits will ensure that data center projects cover their electrical infrastructure costs and do not create higher rates for local residents. Governor Abbott has also signaled that he will use the coming legislative session to eliminate financial incentives for data center projects in Texas.

Federal Developments
House Passes Ratepayer Protection Act
On September 16, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 9340, the Ratepayer Protection Act, by a vote of 417–3. The legislation would require states to consider implementing a federal standard for large-load customers, including data centers and other facilities drawing more than 100 megawatts of power. The standards would include requiring large power customers to cover 100% of the costs associated with new generation and transmission infrastructure needed to serve their electricity demand. The legislation now moves to the Senate, where it is unclear whether the chamber will have sufficient time to consider and pass the bill before recess.

House Passes Load Forecasting Enhancement Act
On September 15, 2026, the Load Forecasting Enhancement Act, H.R. 9322, passed the House on a bipartisan basis. The bill, cosponsored by Congressman Balderson (R-OH) and Congressman Menendez (D-NJ), requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish regional boards to work with state public utility commissions to recommend best practices for electric load forecasting and requires states to consider adopting those recommendations. The bill also amends the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) to make federal assistance for state energy conservation plans contingent upon the plans including procedures for improving electrical load forecasting. The bill is now with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for consideration.

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BOG RECORDS

ASHRAE Austin Chapter

2026 October BOG Meeting Minutes

Oct 06, 2026

1. **Kick-Off**
   a. Meeting started at 4:05 pm.
   b. Attendees: Ricardo, Andy, Branden, Maile, Wyatt, George, Melanie, Trey, Sydney, Walker, Kathleen, Rob, Miguel
   c. Have you contacted your RVC this month?
2. **Goals for the Year**
   a. DRC MBO's (TBD)
      i. Increasing our local government involvement. We've had technical session before with the city, think it might be time to loop them back in.
         1. Potentially a meeting where we have someone from the city of Austin come talk to us about updates
         2. Find Contact info – Mark
         3. Keith Mars – DSD, Lorenzo sending email to Keith. CC Tracee, Walker and Ricardo
      ii. Increasing high school and university involvement and showcase Muggy. I had a chance to preview Muggy and honestly, I think it will help if we can get kids thinking about it before college.
         1. Does everyone know about Muggy?
      iii. Increase our existing building knowledge.
         1. Honestly, Catherine's topic may work into this.
   b. Additional Goals for Austin Chapter
      i. Bring in new officers, chairs, BOG, and committee members
         1. Areas of Need:
            a. Priority – CRC chair
            b. History, GAC, MP
3. **General Items**
   a. Chapter operations

SEPTEMBER	Act on Agenda items for Fall CRC Meeting.
OCTOBER	

MORE INFO