

A History of ASHRAE's Region XII

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THE EARLY CHAPTERS OF REGION IV

Region XII of ASHRAE was formed on January 11, 1979 from the dissolution of Region IV into two smaller regions. In the beginning, Region XII consisted of seven existing chapters that had been a part of the old Region IV and one newly formed chapter. The older existing chapters were the Jacksonville Chapter, Florida West Coast Chapter, Miami Chapter, Central Florida Chapter, Gold Coast Chapter, Puerto Rico Chapter and Southwest Georgia Chapter. The Gulfstream Chapter was formed concurrently with the creation of Region XII.

The Jacksonville Chapter had been formed on June 23, 1957 as a member of ASHAE and is now recognized by ASHRAE as the oldest chapter in the region. Burt Saymon was the first ASHAE President and John Spence was President of both the ASHAE and ASHRAE Chapters the following year.

Although not an original part of ASHAE, the Miami and Tampa Sections were formed as a part of ASRE in November of 1955. The December, 1955 Edition of ASRE News indicates that the initial organization meeting of the Miami Section was held on November 15, 1955. Jake Hendricks served as President for the first two years of the ASRE Chapter and Steve Sheldon later served as President of both the ASRE and ASHRAE Chapters in 1958/59.

The organization meeting for the Tampa Section was held on the next day, November 16, 1955. The Florida West Coast chapter history indicates that the original ASRE Section was chartered as one of the first Florida Sections in February 1956, as an extension of the Atlanta Chapter. Although undocumented, it is likely that the original Miami Section of ASRE was formed in the same way. Sam Graziano served as President for the first year of the ASRE Chapter and later returned to serve as President of both the ASRE and ASHRAE Chapters in 1958/59.

After the merger of ASHAE and ASRE on January 29, 1959, existing members of the Jacksonville Chapter of ASHAE were moved into the newly named Florida West Coast Chapter of ASHRAE. This is documented within the History of the Florida West Coast Chapter. Although written evidence has not yet been found, it is likely that some Jacksonville ASHAE members were also transferred to the new Miami Chapter of ASHRAE. When ASHRAE reissued Charters to the Florida West Coast and Miami Chapters, it listed their charter dates as February, 1956 and November 28, 1955 respectively. These dates likely coincide with their original ASRE Charters.

The Orlando Chapter was founded in 1962 (Charter dated June 21, 1962) as a spin-off of the Florida West Coast Chapter. James Oberlin served as the

first Chapter President. After the start of the Central Florida Chapter, the rapid growth of the fledgling Region XII Chapters now began to slow.

The Gold Coast Chapter was next formed on October 31, 1967 as the second chapter in southeast Florida. Much like the formation of the Central Florida Chapter, the Gold Coast Chapter assimilated members from the Miami Chapter. Don Dorini served as the first Chapter President.

The exact date for the formation of the Puerto Rico Chapter is 4/17/1970. It's participation was first referenced in the 1975 Region IV CRC Minutes and the chapter was a Charter Member of the fledgling Region XII. Earlier minutes have not yet been discovered and Society, Region and Chapter History Archives are not yet available.

The seventh original Region IV Chapter that was destined to become a part of Region XII was the Southwest Georgia Chapter. It's Charter Date was listed by ASHRAE as September 30, 1976. Available evidence has Southwest Georgia participating for the first time in the 1976 Region IV CRC. This chapter also had the distinction of hosting the first Region XII CRC in 1979 in Albany, GA. Pam Immekus, 2009-2010 Chair of the ASHRAE Historical Committee, has indicated that this chapter had returned to Region IV as a part of the Atlanta Chapter when she joined ASHRAE in 1983. The last indication of participation in Region XII was contained in the October 21, 1981 CRC Minutes for the 1981-1982 Fiscal Year.

CREATION OF REGION XII

Discussion of Regional Reorganization was described as "Old Business" in the 1977 Region IV CRC Minutes. Many alternatives were apparently put forward including one option that included all of Georgia, Florida and Puerto Rico. The final configuration was approved at the 1978 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM. Much more correspondence took place in the second half of 1978 in an attempt to properly configure the new Region's leadership.

Multiple chapter histories indicate that January, 1979 marked the creation of Region XII. A letter from the Region IV DRC, Benny T. Bootle, to the developing Gulfstream Chapter dated November 7, 1978 indicated that Region XII was to be formed concurrently with the creation of the new Gulfstream Chapter. That chapter was formed on January 11, 1979. Region IV DRC Bootle was present at Charter Night. Dick MacDonald served as the first Chapter President. It is somewhat ironic that the Gulfstream Chapter was spawned at the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque in 1978 and ceased to exist as a chapter just prior to the 2010 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque.

Letters have also been found from Raymond E. Davis and Wes Floreth of the Central Florida Chapter. They were dated January 7 and 8, 1979 respectively. The purpose of these letters was to welcome Region XII Chapter Presidents into the Region, to create a regional fund and establish lines of communication.

The Jacksonville Chapter History confirms that “during the 10th Region IV dinner meeting at the "Old Original Bookbinders" in Philadelphia, PA, on January 29, 1979, Region IV members said good-bye to parts of their membership, including the Jacksonville Chapter, which were moving to the newly formed Region XII.” These good-byes were short-lived as Regions IV and XII met again in Chicago in 1980 and have continued to meet jointly at Regional Dinners and at an occasional Joint-CRC (such as the August, 2009 CRC in St. Petersburg Beach, FL).

William (Bill) Dillard, of the Central Florida Chapter, remembers traveling to a CRC in Anchorage, Alaska with Wes Floreth during spring, 1980 to prepare for the October, 1980 Region XII CRC in Orlando that Bill would chair. Bill remembers flying over the smoldering Mt. St. Helens about two weeks prior to it's catastrophic eruption. Since that time, Bill also has chaired the 2005 and 2010 Winter Meetings in Orlando, FL. Bill was also a first-person witness to the 1978 CRC in Raleigh, NC, which seemed like a joint CRC to him, and the 1979 inaugural Region XII CRC in Albany, GA.

When the Florida West Coast, Miami, Central Florida and Gold Coast chapters were formed, they diluted the membership of adjacent chapters. The same process occurred again as the Gulfstream Chapter was formed. John Gladstone, who wrote the original Miami Chapter History, was amazed that participation had decreased from the heyday of the original ASRE Section. Much of that dilution was likely due to the loss of southeast Florida members to the nearby Gold Coast and Gulfstream Chapters. Another portion might have been lost due to refrigeration specialists leaving to join competing organizations after the ASHAE/ASRE merger.

A petition for the formation of the Gulfstream Chapter was found in the minutes of the Second Business Session of the October 14, 1977 Region IV CRC in Jacksonville, FL. The petition was submitted by Richard (Dick) McDonald, who later served as the first President of the fledgling chapter. It was formally approved at the CRC. The original counties noted in the chapter petition were Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie.

COMPLETION OF THE TRADITIONAL CHAPTERS

The Spacecoast Chapter was the next Region XII Chapter to be formed on March 19, 1981. The counties forming this chapter were carved from the Central Florida Chapter. Harry C. Fischer served as the original Chapter

President and was also one of thirty-seven original Charter Members. Initial mention of the possible formation of this chapter was by J. Wes Floreth, Region XII DRC, from the October 16, 1980 Minutes of the CRC. The initial Organization Meeting for the new chapter was scheduled to be held on October 21, 1980.

The rapid expansion of the older Region XII Chapters continued with the formation of the Southwest Florida Chapter on March 16, 1983. Edward O'Neal, PE, served as President of this chapter for both it's first and second years.

ADDITION OF INTERNATIONAL CHAPTERS

After nineteen years of consolidation of the nine original Region XII Chapters, the region began to grow again in 2002. As a result of strong ASHRAE leadership concentrated in the Florida West Coast Chapter, Tampa's role as an International Port and Airport and the high Latino population, existing business relationships were easy to expand into the growing of ASHRAE in South America. The Florida West Coast Chapter first sponsored Brasil as a Section. On March 22, 2002, Brasil became the tenth chapter in Region XII. Celso Simoes Alexandre served as the first President of this chapter.

Although the two major population centers that are home to the majority of ASHRAE members are quite distant (it is 270 miles between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro), the chapter seems to be functioning well. Oswaldo de Siquiera Bueno, the 2004-05 Chapter President, is a History buff. He won the 2008 Lou Flagg Award for his treatise on the Municipal Theater in Rio de Janeiro – air-conditioned and opened in 1907.

Brasil was followed in short order by Argentina on June 9, 2005. Again, this was a Florida West Coast sponsored Section (February 9, 2005) that rapidly became a Chapter. Roberto Aguilo was their first President in both 2005-06 and 2006-07. Argentina's engineering community is highly concentrated in Buenos Aries and has not had the difficulties of distance as faced by Brasil. Argentina hosted the first CRC held outside of North America in Buenos Aires in August, 2008. Brasil plans to follow suit in Rio de Janeiro in 2011.

LOSS OF A CHAPTER

The Gulfstream Chapter began to struggle with a declining membership and apathy in both the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 fiscal years. Even as early as 2007-2008, Rex Noble had to step up to lead the chapter when no one else would. As a result of the above events, Gulfstream lost it's status as

an ASHRAE Chapter on January 25, 2010 and became a Section of the Gold Coast Chapter at the same time.

THE BIRTH OF THE SECTIONS

The formation of the Gulfstream Chapter noted above is an unusual event. Typically, the Sections in Region XII have been birthed as a discrete part of an existing Chapter, versus the regression of a long-standing Chapter back to a Section of an adjacent chapter.

The first section formed in Region XII was the Gainesville, Florida Section. Although located only seventy miles from the seat of it's Jacksonville Chapter, Gainesville is home to many consulting engineering firms, an engineering academic center, contractors, manufacturers and vendors. This Section was formed in early Fall, 1992. It ceased to function after several years of operation and the Jacksonville Chapter now attempts to hold at least two meetings per year in Gainesville to support both the membership and Student Chapter there at the University of Florida.

The Tallahassee Section had similar roots as the Gainesville Chapter. It is much more distant from Jacksonville than Gainesville at about 170 miles. In addition to housing engineering firms, an engineering academic center, contractors, manufacturers and vendors, it is also the political center of the state of Florida. This section was formed in 2004.

New sections of the Florida West Coast Chapter included Costa Rica in 2005 under the direction of its President Jairon Herrera, and Lima Peru in 2006 under its President Luis Yamada.

The Florida West Coast Chapter formed the Sarasota Bradenton Section in 2007. Ross Montgomery was the first President of that Section.

A new Section of the Central Florida chapter included the Colombia Section in 2008, under the direction of its President Fabio Clavijo.

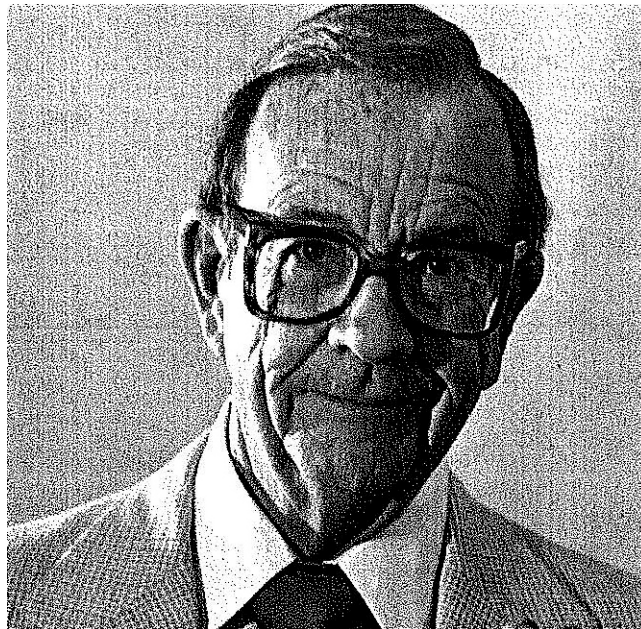
Sections of Region XII followed with the Ecuador Section in 2009 under President Eduardo Donoso, and the Panama Section, also in 2009, under its President Reynel Castillo Saturno.

The current number of Sections in Region XII is nine. Four are within the boundaries of the State of Florida and five are located in Central and South America. A new Uruguay Section is scheduled for approval at The Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, NM in June, 2010.

OUTLINE OF DRC TENURE AND CRC LOCATIONS

Region XII has been fortunate to have been led by a strong group of Director and Regional Chairs (DRC's) over the last thirty-one years. They are:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>DRC</u>	<u>CRC Location</u>
1979 – 1980	J. Wesley Floreth	Albany, GA
1980 – 1981	J. Wesley Floreth	Orlando, Florida
1981 - 1982	J. Wesley Floreth	Clearwater Beach, FL
1982 - 1983	J. Wesley Floreth	Miami, FL



Wes Floreth (1979-1983)

1983 - 1984
1984 - 1985
1985 - 1986

James H. Carroll, Jr., PE
James H. Carroll, Jr., PE
James H. Carroll, Jr., PE

San Juan, PR
West Palm Beach, FL
Fort Lauderdale, FL

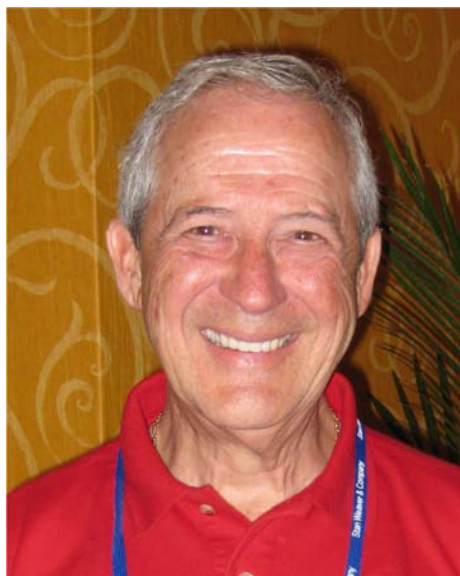


Jim Carroll, Jr. (1983-1986)

1986 - 1987
1987 - 1988
1988 - 1989

Alberto J. Sanchez, PE
Alberto J. Sanchez, PE
Alberto J. Sanchez, PE

Amelia Island, FL
Cocoa Beach, FL
Ft. Myers, FL



Al Sanchez (1986-1989)

1989 - 1990
1990 - 1991
1991 - 1992

Ronald J. Kessner, PE
Ronald J. Kessner, PE
Ronald J. Kessner, PE

Orlando, FL
St. Petersburg Beach, FL
Miami, FL



Ron Kessner (1989-1992)

1992 - 1993
1993 - 1994
1994 - 1995

Thomas H. Williams
Thomas H. Williams
Thomas H. Williams

Palm Beach Gardens, FL
San Juan, PR
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL



Tom Williams (1992-1995)

1995 – 1996
1996 – 1997
1997 – 1998

Raymond E. Patenaude, PE
Raymond E. Patenaude, PE
Raymond E. Patenaude, PE

Fort Lauderdale, FL
Fort Myers, FL
Cocoa Beach, FL



Ray Patenaude (1995-1998)

1998 – 1999
1999 – 2000
2000 – 2001

Rex E. Noble, Jr., PE
Rex E. Noble, Jr., PE
Rex E. Noble, Jr., PE

Orlando, FL
Tampa, FL
Charleston, SC



Rex Noble (1998-2001)

2001 – 2002
2002 – 2003
2003 – 2004

Suzanne LeViseur, PE
Suzanne LeViseur, PE
Suzanne LeViseur, PE

Miami, FL
Stuart, FL
San Juan, PR



Suzanne LeViseur (2001-2004)

2004 – 2005
2005 – 2006
2006 – 2007

Robert B. Risley
Robert B. Risley
Robert B. Risley

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Fort Myers, FL



Rob Risley (2004-2007)

2007 – 2008
2008 – 2009
2009 – 2010

Ross D. Montgomery, PE
Ross D. Montgomery, PE
Ross D. Montgomery, PE

Cape Canaveral, FL
Buenos Aires, Argentina
St. Petersburg Beach, FL



Ross Montgomery (2007-2010)