

LEADERSHIP RECALL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Past President, Baltimore Chapter 2010-2011

1. Would you give a brief biographical sketch of your life? (Place and date of birth, family size, early schooling, higher education, employment background outside of the HVAC industry, current family)

Born in Hinsdale, Illinois and lived in the suburbs of Chicago with one other sibling. After attending St. Charles High School I went on to obtain my Bachelors in Civil Engineering at the University of Missouri-Columbia. While attending the University of Missouri I spent two summers working for the Missouri Department of Transportation, three years as a Student Assistant to a Construction Manager for the University and two years as the head of the American Society of Civil Engineer (ASCE) Student Steel Bridge Competition. These experiences would pave the way for my entrance into the industry, my move to Maryland and the growth of my current family of four.

2. What attracted you to engineering and the HVAC industry?

As a sophomore in High School we had to do a paper on what we wanted to do for a career and even then I knew engineering was going to be my path. At the time I was fascinated with bridges and wanted design the next golden gate bridge so I thought I wanted to be a transportation engineer. This thought was quickly corrected upon entering the Civil Engineering. My aspirations begin with wanting to be a structural engineer however as I approached graduation I kept an open mind to the many opportunities available for an engineer. Many employers from inside and outside of Missouri were interviewing at the University. After interviewing with quite a few company's and disciplines of the construction industry it came down to the a very energetic recruiter which happened to be looking for Sales Representative for HVAC equipment and some advice from the Dean of Civil Engineering.

3. What was your first job in the HVAC industry and where did it lead?

My first job in the HVAC Industry was working for the Trane Company which led to me becoming involved in ASHRAE and eventually becoming president of the Baltimore Chapter.

4. Describe the industry at the time. What were the challenges that you and your colleagues were facing?

At the time the economy was on the upswing so the greatest challenge was just getting the work done.

5. How and when did you get started in ASHRAE?

My start in ASHRAE came shortly after my start in the HVAC Industry. Sometime in the first year (2001) I inherited the attendance and reception chair position for the Baltimore Chapter, which continued for the next 5 years and was followed by my appointment to the Board of Governors.

6. What was your ASHRAE chapter, regional and Society experience?

In my time with ASHRAE I have held positions at the Chapter Level including Attendance & Reception Chair, Junior Governor, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect/Program Programs, President and Past President.

7. What were the major issues facing ASHRAE during your presidency?

I do not recall any major issues. I had a great team.

8. What were your presidential theme/goals?

My goal as president was to deliver the best possible experience to the members while maintaining the foundation of the Baltimore Chapter and ASHRAE Society.

9. What significant motions/actions did you execute during your term?

On the road to becoming chapter president, unless there are extenuating circumstances, you spend a year in each position on the board of governors. This gives you an opportunity to understand the function of each position before becoming president. Throughout my time on the Board of Governors for the Baltimore Chapter we all looked for ways to improve chapter operations as we progressed to the next position. I do not recall any significant motions or actions executed during my term however the general desire for continuous improvement by those leading the chapter was evident then, is evident now and I believe will be evident into the foreseeable future.

10. What do you consider to be the major accomplishments during your term?

During my term the board of governors and chairpersons led the chapter to the top of our region (ASHRAE Region III) and was awarded the Region III Ace Award. This award goes to the chapter which has been determined to be the most well rounded chapter for the region by the ASHRAE Regional Officers and a variety of predetermined metrics.

11. Did any humorous events take place during your term?

This may not be humorous but it was definitely the most memorable event during my presidency. During a general membership meeting one of our speakers was asked to refer to the technology being discussed rather than the product which he represented. After repeated opportunities to express his information from a technology standpoint the presentation was ended prior to its completion in order to maintain the integrity of the ASHRAE anti-commercialism policy.

12. Are there any things that you wish you could have done differently?

I am sure there are things which could have been done differently however I do not recall anything specific at this time.

13. What events have changed ASHRAE since your presidency or since you started in ASHRAE?

The increased awareness of the environment and the green movement have resulted in changes to existing standards and development of new standard.

14. What events have changed the industry since your presidency or since you started in ASHRAE?

The economy and a greater level of awareness for the environment have definitely changed the industry. The downturn in the economy resulted in many changes to the landscape of the construction industry and the subsequent recovery has led to opportunities in emerging markets. In addition, the combination of the economic recovery and the heightened level of environmental awareness by the industry and the general public has led to many advances in technology.

15. What has ASHRAE meant to you personally?

ASHRAE has given me the opportunity to meet many amazing people, which I probably would not have had I not have met otherwise, and to develop skills which have proven to be very valuable on both a personal and professional level.

16. What advice would you give to a young person entering the HVAC field?

Find an industry organization such as ASHRAE and embrace the opportunity to be involved. The experience will be invaluable.

17. What other interests and/or hobbies do you have?

I enjoyable spending time with my family and being outdoors.

18. Are there any other comments that you would like to make?

ASHRAE has been a huge part of my career.