

Champlain Valley Chapter Leadership Recall interview

Past

Are you a registered Professional Engineer ? Yes
If so in what states and discipline ? New York State - Mechanical

How long have you been a member of ASHRAE ? 10 years
Are you currently a member ? Yes

How long were you a member of ASHRAE before you got involved as an officer or BOG member? 2 years

Do you recall if there was any particular reason you decided to get involved? Co-worker talked me into becoming the newsletter editor and I felt obligated to contribute to a professional organization in my career field.

Was there some particular person that helped or encouraged you to get involved in ASHRAE? Steve Poole

What year were you president of the Champlain Valley Chapter? 2002-2003

Who was the DRC when you were President of the chapter? Roger Dieffenbach

What is your current position/title at work? Mechanical Project Engineer

Did you hold the same position when you were President of the Chapter? No, I was a mechanical designer

Have you ever been active in any other chapters aside from the Champlain Valley Chapter? NO If so what Chapters? How did they vary from the Champlain Valley Chapter?

Did the Chapter win any awards at the regional level when you were president? Yes
If so do you remember which ones? PAOE, Honor Roll (have to look at the awards banner to check on the rest)

Have you ever been active at the regional or society level? No If so what positions have you, or do you currently hold?

If you had to pick one thing that you did during your tenure as an ASHRAE Officer that benefited the chapter what would it be? Served as SA committee chair and newsletter editor at the same time as President to make sure that those areas weren't neglected.

When you were running the chapter, what would you say got the most members together and generated the most involvement? Social events and panel discussion format monthly meetings.

Was there a good mix of age groups that were active in the chapter when you were president? Relatively so, the VTC student chapter attended numerous meetings. ie. attending meetings and events?

What would you say was the percentage of attendees from the different disciplines at ASHRAE meetings when you were in office? 3% utility, 5% consultants, 40% vendors, 50% contractors, 2% management, 0%estimators.

Utilities/Consultants/Vendors/Contractors/Estimators/Management

Present

Do you know who the elected President is for 2006-2007? Chapter President – Jay Pilliod

Were you aware that the Champlain Valley Chapter achieved the Golden Gavel for 2004-2005 (Award for the highest number of PAOE points in Region 1), under the leadership of Tom Zoller P.E.? Yes – I attended the CRC.

If you were asked to help mentor a new member about the benefits of being a leader in a professional society, would you be interested? Yes, this is a great way to get new people involved without totally overwhelming them.

In 1 sentence, what would you tell someone to encourage them to be active in the chapter? (nice, was the 1 sentence limit for my benefit? ☺) The connections and friends you make will last the lifetime of your career and will be more beneficial to you than you can possibly imagine.

What is one thing that you would say you gained from being involved in running the chapter? A great network of friends and resources that I can count on for help both in my career and personal needs.

When was the last time that you were at a Chapter function or meeting? April Meeting Ie. Past Presidents meeting or any other?

What types of activities are likely to attract you to attend? Tours, Panel discussions, member presentations, social activities – in that order.

What would you say is the biggest draw for your attendance to meetings? Topics that are pertinent to projects that I'm currently working one. (Topic)

Future

If you were to give one tip to next years, or any future years leadership what would it be? Use the resource you have in past officers and other members. Delegate, delegate, delegate.

Are you currently on the Champlain Valley Chapter's mailing list ? or do you regularly visit the home-page at www.ashraevt.com? Yes to both.

What would you say was the optimal percentage of attendees from the different disciplines at ASHRAE meetings should be in a healthy ASHRAE chapter ?
15% Utilities/20% Consultants/15% Vendors/30% Contractors/10% Estimators/10% Management

What do you feel would be a good way to encourage Consulting Engineers to attend meetings ? Continuing Education Credits What do you think about Engineers that do not attend because they feel that the training being offered is "below" them, yet when approached they won't reply with what they feel would be valuable? That they don't know what their missing and if they think they are so knowledgeable then maybe they should participate as a presenter to bring the "level" of the presentation material up. Too bad they don't realize that we all have something to learn from each other. It never hurts to go back to basics once in a while.

When members are polled for ideas about potential topics at Dinner meetings the responses back are extremely minimal, what would you recommend as a way to encourage and receive feedback for new topics? At the time of introductions at the monthly meeting ask people to offer one topic they'd like to see presented. It puts them on the spot but at least we get an answer.

What areas of the industry do you think need ASHRAE's attention the most? Making sure that the "standards" issued for sustainable design really are appropriate and aren't just driven by political agenda and economics to the organization putting out the standard.

Is there anything that ASHRAE is doing now that concerns you? Lack of lobbying in Washington for HVAC&R issues. We need to have a larger lobbying arm similar to ASCE .

Have you been to any ASHRAE winter or summer meetings? Yes, Chicago winter meetings. If so what did you like or dislike about them? Enjoyed both the tech sessions and the expo. Would you encourage members to attend? Absolutely.

Is there anything that ASHRAE has been involved with that you believe directly influenced your day to day practice in the HVAC&R field? (political topics, standards, codes, training, etc.) Yes – Issuance of handbooks and standards 62 & 90.1