

Champlain Valley Chapter Leadership Recall interview

Past

Are you a registered Professional Engineer ? [Yes](#)
If so in what states and discipline ? [Mechanical Engineering](#)

How long have you been a member of ASHRAE ? [12 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 ? [4 years](#)

Do you recall if there was any particular reason you decided to get involved? I was new to the area and thought it would be a good way to meet other engineers.
Was there some particular person that helped or encouraged you to get involved in ASHRAE? [My trigger was a co-worker names Robert who was on the BOG. He decided to move back to California, so I volunteered to finish out his term. I've been involved ever since.](#)

What year were you president of the Champlain Valley Chapter? [2004-2005](#)

Who was the DRC when you were President of the chapter? [Lynn Bellenger](#)

What is your current position/title at work? [Sales Engineer](#)

Did you hold the same position when you were President of the Chapter ? [Yes](#)

Have you ever been active in any other chapters aside from the Champlain Valley Chapter? If so what Chapters? How did they vary from the Champlain Valley Chapter? [I went to a few meetings or the Columbus, Ohio chapter, but was not active.](#)

Did the Chapter win any awards at the regional level when you were president? Yes
If so do you remember which ones? [Gold Ribbon for History for Amy Patenaude and me. Jay Pilliod won second place for Membership. We got PAOE with the Star award and Special Citation. Full Circle for RP. We also won the Golden Gavel Award for highest points total of any chapter in the region.](#)

Have you ever been active at the regional or society level? If so what positions have you, or do you currently hold? [I have not.](#)

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? [Making the decision to move the meetings from the Windjammer to the current location at the Inn at Essex. I think this was the main reason for the big increase in attendance that started in 2003 and continues through this year.](#)

When you were running the chapter, what would you say got the most members together and generated the most involvement? Monthly meetings? Trade Shows? Social Events? [Monthly meetings and tours.](#)

Was there a good mix of age groups that were active in the chapter when you were president? ie. attending meetings and events? [There was a pretty good mix, although we need more younger members.](#)

What would you say was the percentage of attendees from the different disciplines at ASHRAE meetings when you were in office?

Utilities/Consultants/Vendors/Contractors/Estimators/Management
[20/20/20/20/10/10](#)

Present

Do you know who the elected President is for 2006-2007? [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 have it hanging proudly in my conference room.](#)

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.](#)

In 1 sentence, what would you tell someone to encourage them to be active in the chapter? [Getting involved will ultimately help you in your career in ways you would never imagine.](#)

What is one thing that you would say you gained from being involved in running the chapter? [The realization that you get much more back from volunteering than you have to put in.](#)

When was the last time that you were at a Chapter function or meeting? [May 2006. I rarely miss a meeting.](#)

Ie. Past Presidents meeting or any other?

What types of activities are likely to attract you to attend? [Attending the BOG meeting pulls me into attending the main meeting regardless of the topic.](#)

What would you say is the biggest draw for your attendance to meetings? Location, Speaker/Topic, Networking, Socializing, or Professional development? [Socializing, good food, networking.](#)

Future

If you were to give one tip to next years, or any future years leadership what would it be ? Don't hesitate to try something new if it isn't working. Changing the meeting location nearly doubled the attendance and we have sustained it. If we didn't take that chance, the chapter would not be nearly as healthy as it is now. We have also taken some chances and had some failures, but we learned from those failures too.

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

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

What do you feel would be a good way to encourage Consulting Engineers to attend meetings ? 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 they won't reply with what they feel would be valuable ? The quality of the topic is the most important thing. If the presentations are something that a vendor would do as a lunch and learn, why would anyone pay for dinner to listen to it. The presentations should be unique and interesting to a wide audience. Maybe offer a free dinner to selected engineers to get them to take a step and see what the meetings are all about. Some in the industry still think that ASHRAE is an "old man's club", but they have not been to a meeting recently.

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 ? Maybe try and have individual tables take 5 minutes and brainstorm ideas during a meeting. Take the results and concentrate on any that overlap from table to table.

What areas of the industry do you think need ASHRAE's attention the most? Guidelines for high efficiency buildings. Especially smaller buildings.

Is there anything that ASHRAE is doing now that concerns you? The change to a central location for RP chair meeting is a concern due to the time and expense involved.

Have you been to any ASHRAE winter or summer meetings? If so what did you like or dislike about them? Would you encourage members to attend ? I've been to the winter meeting in Chicago twice. The tradeshow was a great experience.

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.) Certainly standards. I can't imagine our industry without ASHRAE.