



Wichita Chapter

PAST PRESIDENTS

LEADERSHIP RECALL



NAME & YEAR(S) AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASHRAE-WICHITA CHAPTER. MARK O'DONNELL, 1996-97

WOULD YOU GIVE A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF YOUR LIFE? (PLACE OF BIRTH, FAMILY SIZE, EARLY SCHOOLING, HIGHER EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND OUTSIDE OF THE HVAC INDUSTRY, CURRENT FAMILY—SPOUSE, CHILDREN.)

BORN IN ST. LOUIS, ATTENDED COLLEGE AT KSU, STARTED WITH AN HVAC SUPPLIER DIRECTLY FROM SCHOOL AND HAVE BEEN IN THE INDUSTRY EVER SINCE.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO ENGINEERING AND/OR THE HVAC INDUSTRY?

STARTED IN DRAFTING AND PROGRESSED TO ENGINEERING.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB IN THE HVAC INDUSTRY AND WHERE DID IT LEAD?

GENERAL HEATING AND COOLING WAS MY FIRST JOB FROM COLLEGE. HEAVEN ENGINEERING WAS PURCHASED BY GHC. WHEN GHC SOLD, THE PURCHASING COMPANY WAS NOT IN THE REP BUSINESS. A GROUP OF EMPLOYEES THEN PURCHASED HEAVEN ENGINEERING.

DESCRIBE THE INDUSTRY AT THAT TIME. WHAT WERE THE CHALLENGES THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES WERE FACING?

THE INDUSTRY HAS CHANGED BY A DEMAND FOR HIGHER EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS.

HOW AND WHEN DID YOU GET STARTED IN ASHRAE?

I JOINED ASHRAE IN 1985.

WHAT WAS YOUR ASHRAE CHAPTER AND/OR REGIONAL AND SOCIETY EXPERIENCE?

REFRIGERATION CHAIR AND PAST PRESIDENT.

WHAT WERE THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE INDUSTRY AT THAT TIME?

SAME AS TODAY. PROVIDING THE MOST EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT MEETING THE CUSTOMER'S BUDGET.

WHAT PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY STAND OUT AS INFLUENCES ON YOU?

THERE ARE TOO MANY TO MENTION AND I AM GRATEFUL TO ALL OF THEM.

WHAT EVENTS CHANGED THE INDUSTRY?

REMOVING CHLORINE BASED REFRIGERANTS, UTILIZATION OF VFDS, VARIABLE REFRIGERANT VOLUME.

WHAT HAS ASHRAE MEANT TO THE INDUSTRY'S GROWTH?

ASHRAE IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR INDUSTRY.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON ENTERING THE HVAC FIELD?

JOIN ASHRAE AND LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM EVERYONE YOU WORK WITH.

DID ANY HUMOROUS EVENTS TAKE PLACE DURING YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH ASHRAE?

ASHRAE GOLF TOURNAMENTS YEARS BACK WERE A BLAST.

WHAT OTHER INTERESTS AND/OR HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE?

REHABILITATION OF DESTRESSED PROPERTIES.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE?

VERY THANKFUL FOR ASHRAE.