

## **Todd A. Zachwieja, P.E. – Historical Interview 2016**

Editor's Note: Todd was a member and in a leadership role for the Mountaineer Chapter, formed from the Bluegrass Chapter. The Mountaineer Chapter existed for about 20 years before becoming a Section to the Bluegrass Chapter in 2005. Todd has been actively involved in the start-up and continuation of the new West Virginia Chapter.

QUESTION: Todd, how and when did you first become involved in ASHRAE (describe who introduced you to ASHRAE, when you joined, and where those early chapter meetings took place)?

ANSWER: I joined ASHRAE around 1985, over thirty years ago! I really didn't get involved with ASHRAE operations until my Dad (Ted Zachwieja) and I talked about starting an ASHRAE Chapter in WV around 1989-90 (not sure of the exact date). We decided to start the Chapter and my Dad (Ted) was the Charter President of the Mountaineer Chapter for its first three years while I served as the Energy and Technical Affairs Chair from its inception and for many years.

QUESTION: How and when did you become involved as an officer/board member?

ANSWER: When interest started raising for restarting an ASHRAE Chapter, I thought it would be ironic that I could be the Chapter President like my father for the new WV ASHRAE Chapter. I met Art Hallstrom and we worked together as a "section" for the first year (2012-2013) before we finally made the jump to become a Chapter (2013) with me serving as the first president.

QUESTION: What local chapter positions have you held (when did you hold these positions)?

ANSWER: I served as the Energy and Technical Affairs Chair from inception of the Mountaineer Chapter and for many years after that. President of the Mountaineer Section from 2012-2013 and President of the new West Virginia Chapter from 2013-2014. I continue serving on the Board of Governors with WV ASHRAE since finishing my role as the Charter President, and serve as the Honors and Awards Chair. I take part in networking at the society level by attending the winter and summer conferences.

QUESTION: What were the highlights of your service to the ASHRAE chapter, particularly of your presidency?

ANSWER: I presented DDC controls at the WV Tech Senior Design class many years ago during my time in the mountaineer Chapter and sparked interest in the students. I enjoyed making a positive impact on others though sharing under ASHRAE. I am also proud of the technical programs brought to WV that I believe has helped raise the bar on those in the industry. It took a tremendous amount of time and effort for that first year as president of the new WV Chapter, but I had some good people joining me to help make it a success. I likely spent over 300 hours on ASHRAE Chapter activities my first year but gained a tremendous amount of knowledge honing my technical skills, meeting some bright people and learning what ASHRAE Society and

ASHRAE Region VII activities were all about. As the first president, I had to learn all positions of each chair while everyone learned their part. I am proud that the WV Chapter started Student branches at WVU and now Marshall University. I am grateful for others helping the WV Chapter with their time and resources to get students involved.