



Arthur “Art” D. Hallstrom, P.E. BEMP, Fellow/Life Member - ASHRAE

Editor's Note: Art has been one of the driving forces in the formation of the new West Virginia Chapter of ASHRAE (Chartered in 2013). Art has served in many positions within ASHRAE, including DRC of Region VII and the President of the LaCrosse and Bluegrass Chapters. It was during the time of Art's DRC Leadership that the Mountaineer Chapter nearly dissolved, but was kept in operation as a Section under the Bluegrass Chapter until it was reformed with new boundaries.

QUESTION: 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—spouse, children.)

ANSWER: Born in 1946 at Evanston Hospital in Evanston Ill. Went thru High School in Evanston, then Univ of Ill, then DePaul, then US Army (2LT) in April 1971. Two years active duty, then Trane in LaCrosse Wis. Joined Digisonics in 87-90, then back to Trane until I retired in 2010. One younger sister and brother. Mom is 96 now and lives next door with sis. My wife, Janet and I just celebrated our 48 anniversaries yesterday. (June 7, 2017). We have three children. Eric in WDC, Kristen in Denver and Anders in Chicago. Three grandchildren.

QUESTION: What attracted you to engineering and the HVAC industry?

ANSWER: The opportunity presented by Trane Company. I really did not know anything about it until joining them.

QUESTION: What was your first job in the HVAC industry and where did it lead?

ANSWER: Trane Company. Very interesting series on positions leading to retirement 37 years later.

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

ANSWER: Back in 73 commercial hvac was all about comfort, IAQ, temp, humidity. Terminal reheat, MZ systems and induction were very popular. VAV was just catching on. In 73 first energy crisis happens. That started major changes we are still seeing today.

QUESTION: How and when did you get started in ASHRAE?

ANSWER: I think in 1976. My boss at the time required it. This boss went on to be an ASHRAE President – Neil Patterson.

QUESTION: What was your ASHRAE chapter, regional and Society experience?

ANSWER: Too long to list. President of 2 Chapters, DRC, ASHRASE Board, 16 years on ASHRFAE Council, Exceptional Service Award.

QUESTION: What were the major issues facing your ASHRAE Chapter during your presidency?

ANSWER: In all cases membership growth and retention. In a nutshell, making ASHRAE fun to participate in.

QUESTION: Did you have a presidential theme, and what was it?

ANSWER: I don't remember them.

QUESTION: What do you consider to be the major accomplishments during your term?

ANSWER: Introducing Digital Technology to the Society. Databases and communications.

QUESTION: Did any humorous events take place during your term?

ANSWER: I am sure there were some but offhand I don't remember any.

QUESTION: Are there any things that you wish you could have done differently?

ANSWER: Frankly, no.

QUESTION: What events have changed ASHRAE since your presidency?

ANSWER: ASHRAE rebranding from HVAC to the built indoor environment was the biggest (and best) change.

QUESTION: What events have changed the industry since your presidency?

ANSWER: Energy and interval ongoing commissioning is more important.

QUESTION: What has ASHRAE meant to you personally?

ANSWER: A major part of my life. Likely spent 6 years full time support it.

QUESTION: What advice would you give to a young person entering the HVAC field?

ANSWER: Get involved with ASHRAE early. It provides technical and leadership training. Later, gives an opportunity to give back as a mentor.

QUESTION: What other interests and/or hobbies do you have?

ANSWER: Flying, skiing, boating, caving, scuba diving, working on house renovations.

QUESTION: Any other comments you would like to make?

ANSWER: Great to be a part of ASHRAE newest Premier Chapter, WV ASHRAE.