

History

Happy Holidays Everyone! Here at ASHRAE, we always like to touch base with our past presidents and see what it was that drew them to ASHRAE and getting involved in the first place. I recently was able to interview James Hanna, who had the challenge of being president during the first year of the pandemic.

James Hanna

Account Manager, Trane Technologies



1. What attracted you to engineering and the HVAC industry? **The design aspect. Every building is different. Each project is unique and challenging. This industry is also ever changing. The ability to constantly learn throughout one's career.**
2. What was your first job in the HVAC industry and where did it lead? **First job was with Kool Kwik. They had the warranty repair and service contract for AC Wall and Window units sold by PC Richards.**
3. Describe the industry at that time. **Residential. Customer Facing. Not much has changed. The general public are polite when comfortable and irritable when uncomfortable.**
4. How and when did you get started in ASHRAE? **2010. At that time, my immediate boss ask me if I wanted a free dinner once a month. I was all in after that.**
5. What was your ASHRAE chapter, regional and Society experience? **After joining ASHRAE is 2010, I quickly joined the BOG and volunteered as the receptionist at our local chapter meetings. From there, I followed the traditional BOG path.**
6. What were the major issues facing ASHRAE during your presidency? **The largest issue during my Presidency was navigating COVID regulations.**
7. What do you consider to be the major accomplishments during your term? **My proudest accomplishment was, with the assistance of our BOG, instituting a hybrid meeting approach. This allowed all members to actively participate, either in-person or remote.**
8. Are there any things that you wish you could have done differently? **Due to COVID, there were restrictions on outside events and gatherings. This limitation was the only thing I wish that could have been different.**
9. What events have changed the industry since your presidency? **COVID. Indoor Air Quality Measures. Remote Learning.**
10. What advice would you give to a young person entering the HVAC field? **Get Involved!! ASHRAE provides you the tools to be successful. Both professionally and developmentally.**
11. What other interests and/or hobbies do you have? **Avid skier. Recently, volunteer coach for my kid's little league games.**

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