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ASHRAE 2016-2017 Past President's Interview



**Michael Gerazounis, P.E., LEED AP
2000-01 Past Chapter President**

What do you like to do in your free time? ***Golf, golf and more golf, and at night trying to catch up to the latest episodes of "The Walking Dead."***

Where have you worked in the past? ***Since I graduated from college in 1985 I only worked at one other engineering firm before starting my own, and that was Lizardos Engineering PC. I was lucky because I felt it was almost like a continuation of school because I had many great mentors that who taught me so much. While in school I worked several jobs including; in restaurants, for a moving company and messenger services.***

When and why did you decide to pursue a career in HVAC&R? ***Thankfully almost right from the beginning when I started doing "real" engineering I think I had found my "calling."***

When did you join ASHRAE? **1988**

What was the year you held the president position in ASHRAE LI? ***I jokingly call myself The Millennial President taking office in the year 2000.***

When/Why did you decide to join the board? ***In 1989 one of the Associates at Lizardos, Don Stahl, thought it would be a good idea for my career to be active so suggested I get into the queue for the Board of Governors which ultimately led to the presidency.***

What do you feel was the greatest contribution you made in ASHRAE? ***During my time on the board I was able to; raise money for development, increase student awareness of the HVAC industry, maintain and increase Chapter membership and as I proceeded up the chain had the Committee chairs develop means and methods and procedures to be handed down to their successors to jump start the following years agenda.***

How has ASHRAE played a significant role in your career? ***Being part of ASHRAE not only increased my knowledge of my trade but it also introduced me to many individuals who I still hold dear in my life and also helped hone my leadership skills which aid in the operation of my business and relationship with my clients.***

What recommendation would you make towards students showing interest in HVAC&R? ***Get out of your comfort zone. Be active, learn and volunteer to help. It's a great industry filled with some great people.***