

History

I decided to do another interview for this month's Sounder and I interviewed Mr. Steve Friedman PE, HFDP, LEED AP of AKF Engineers.



What made you become an engineer?

I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after high school, so I went to see my high school guidance counselor, who was also family friend. He said "Steve, do you know what you want you to do in life after high school?" I wasn't sure so he said "OK..let's look at your academics, hmmm..you're not so interested in English, social studies or history, but you're very strong in math, chemistry and physics. You're going to be an engineer, consider becoming a mechanical or nuclear engineer". In order to study nuclear engineering, I would have had to study through the armed forces, which I did not want to pursue.

Where did you go to school and when did you graduate?

I attended SUNY Farmingdale in 1984, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1988.

When and where was your first engineering job?

I was a project engineer for a mechanical contractor, Penguin Air Conditioning Corp. in Brooklyn, NY.

What was the most memorable project you worked on?

The most memorable and exciting project was the design and renovation of Radio City Music Hall in New York City in 1996-97. I was the project captain and lead mechanical engineer. It encompassed space program changes and infrastructure upgrades of the mechanical and electrical systems which were all very old. One of the obstacles we faced is that the building is a landmark building and the interior finishes in most of the occupiable (front of house) spaces could not be altered. Most of the mechanical components, air handlers and refrigeration machines, required to be knock down construction, routed and field erected so as to not disturb the finishes. Additionally the central chiller plant in Rockefeller Center, which serviced the Music Hall, needed an increase in capacity due to increased heat loads relative to newer technology and ventilation air requirements. Under physical restraints, the new air handler coils physical size could not be increased. Our chiller plant design encompassed piping new and existing chillers in series to gain a lower discharge water temperature to compliment the physical restraints of the air handler coils. The new chiller plant design increased environmental comfort throughout the entire facility.

What ASHRAE positions have you held?

I started on the board of governors in 2000, I have been through every board chair and have been the Research Promotion chair twice on my way to becoming the Chapter President

When were you the chapter president? 2008-2009

What do you think are some of your best accomplishments with ASHRAE?

Aside from the enjoyment of being a Long Island Chapter board member, I have decided to further my ASHRAE career.. Currently I am the ASHRAE Region I Refrigeration Chair, I am also on ASHRAE Society level Refrigeration Committee. I am a standing committee member for ASHRAE Standard SSPC-170 "Ventilation of Healthcare Facilities". I am also an active member of ASHE (American Society of Healthcare Engineers), which works with ASHRAE to improve and provide guidance within Healthcare faculties.

Charlie Lesniak
Chapter Historian