

History (Cont'd. from Page 12)

ASHRAE 2016-2017 Past President's Interview



**Thomas J. Fields, P.E., LEED AP
2015-16 Past Chapter President**

What do you like to do in your free time? *I spend most of my time with my family, as my 6 year old and 8 year old keep us very busy! I do enjoy golf, the beach and poker when I can.*

Where have you worked in the past? *I interned at Walsh Construction Company while in college. If you are a student, pursuing an internship in the industry is an excellent way to learn the ropes, as well as make your first network connections. After college I started at Kallen & Lemelson Consulting Engineers, where I learned all I could. Excellent mentors helped with this. After this I was with Lilker Associates and FPM Engineering Group, before joining MG Engineering D.P.C.*

When and why did you decide to pursue a career in HVAC&R? *It was likely my senior year of college. I had a few possible career tracks, but following a consulting engineering track suited me best.*

When did you join ASHRAE? *2008.*

What was the year you held the president position in ASHRAE LI? *Just last year, the 2015-2016 season.*

When/Why did you decide to join the board? *Outreach by ASHRAE members is important! I was encouraged by one of our Past Presidents, Steve Friedman, to attend meetings and get involved.*

What do you feel was the greatest contribution you made in ASHRAE? *Getting young engineers involved with the board and with committees.*

How has ASHRAE played a significant role in your career? *The networking aspect of ASHRAE has led me to my current position, so of course I encourage young engineers to get involved. Many ASHRAE lectures have been used by me to help make decisions regarding design.*

What recommendation would you make towards students showing interest in HVAC&R? *Do not wait to get involved. The current ASHRAE Society President, Tim Wentz, states that "you need to be in the room." Attend meetings; find a mentor both at your college, and in the industry. Do not be afraid to ask for help or time; the members at the meetings are in the room for a reason, too.*