

## **LEADERSHIP RECALL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Mr. Jeff Close – Rochester ASHRAE Chapter President 2016-2017**

***To make the interview most comfortable for you, please feel free to add-to, re-fashion or delete any of these questions.***

1. Would you give a brief biographical sketch of your life? (Place of birth, family size, early schooling, higher education, employment background outside of the HVAC industry, current family—spouse, children.)

I was born in Geneva, NY and raised in Shortsville, NY. I was the youngest of two siblings (older brother). I attended Red Jacket Central School where I played football, basketball, and baseball. After high school I attended Alfred State College and received my Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. My early career was spent gaining engineering experience with Erdman Anthony and Pathfinder Engineers. From there I joined PRES Energy and became a partner in charge of all operations and engineering. At home I married my high school sweetheart (Ryenne) and we have three wonderful children (Jacob, Nathan, and Avery). In my free time I coach multiple sports for my kids, avid family camper, and golf at Clifton Springs Country Club.

2. What attracted you to engineering and/or the HVAC industry?

In high school I always enjoyed designing and building different things. During my senior year I participated in a school to work program where I had the opportunity to work with consulting engineers on a sports complex project that involved laying out fields and designing the MEP for a facility. At this point I was hooked in the industry and continued to pursue this career path in college and summer internships.

3. What was your first job in the HVAC industry and where did it lead?

My first job in the HVAC industry was with Erdman Anthony. During college I had the privilege to work with them for three summers. After graduation it was a smooth transition to join them full time.

4. How and when did you get started in ASHRAE?

Right out of college I was encouraged to join ASHRAE. I was told that it was a great opportunity to network in the community and be exposed to additional learning opportunities.

5. On what ASHRAE committees/chairs have you served on?

(4) years as Research Promotion Chair  
(4) years as Board of Governors Member  
(1) year as Treasurer  
(2) years as Secretary  
(1) year as President-Elect  
(1) year as Chapter President  
(1) year as Region I CRC Treasurer

6. During your term as Chapter President, what were the major issue/challenge(s) facing the Rochester HVAC Industry?

One of the challenges the Rochester HVAC community is facing is the availability of engineers to support the amount of local work. Another challenge is providing young engineers educational opportunities to further advance their careers.

7. How did ASHRAE contribute to these issue/challenge(s)?

ASHRAE Rochester provides an opportunity for local HVAC professionals to network through our chapter meetings and events. Our chapter also sponsored multiple meetings geared towards educating the young engineers.

8. What people stand out as influences on you? (Doesn't have to be industry specific).

Several people have been influences on me in my career. Early in my career Ted Knowles a retired engineer was sub-contracted in to provide me guidance and education. A lot of what he taught me still applies to how I run my company today.

In ASHRAE, Al Rodgers was a major influence over my involvement and commitment to the Rochester Chapter. He first approached me when I was a young engineer and provided me with the support and confidence to take on my first committee position. From that point I recognized the value and continued to climb the ladder to Chapter President.

9. What has ASHRAE meant to you personally?

ASHRAE to me is a nationally recognized leader in the HVAC industry. Several of the design and principles engineers use on a daily basis come from research conducted by ASHRAE. On a local level, ASHRAE represents a community. Rochester is not one of the largest chapters, but it has several people who are active and to me has become a great network of professionals and friends.

10. What advice would you give to a young person entering the HVAC field?

Keep learning and ask questions. You will never know everything so continue to challenge yourself and expand your knowledge.

**THANK YOU!**