

Leadership Recall Interview

with

Frank Schambach

Frank Schambach, a member of ASHRAE for over 27 years, is a person who has served ASHRAE tirelessly during his years. He has not only served the New Orleans Chapter over the years, but also has held positions in our region as well as Society involvement.

Frank attended Archbishop Rummel High School, and graduated from Tulane University in 1978. He was working at the Landmark Hotel as Chief Engineer when he had an opportunity to move to University of New Orleans as an Energy Management Engineer in 1979. While at U.N.O., David Levine, who was a Carrier representative at the time, persuaded Frank to join ASHRAE (Levine, who passed away shortly thereafter, is now remembered by his name on the outstanding chapter award presented each year at the Chapter Regional Conference). Frank joined as an Associate in 1981.

While at U.N.O., Frank saw tremendous growth at the university. While at U.N.O., He worked on several energy conservation projects, and one of his projects placed 2nd in ASHRAE Energy Efficiency Award for Existing Buildings. In 1991, he became Director of Physical Plant. During Frank's tenure at U.N.O., the campus grew from 250,000 square feet of buildings to 2.1 million square feet by the time he retired in 2000.

After joining ASHRAE, he quickly became involved in chapter activities. From 1985 to 1987, he served as the Energy and Technical Activities Chair for New Orleans. From there, he got on the board and moved his way through the positions until he became president in 1992-93. One of the highlights of his presidency was the CRC held in New Orleans in 1992. Hosting an event like that mobilizes the chapter and increases participation, and Frank recalls the revitalization it gave to the New Orleans Chapter. It was a very successful event and also led Frank to get involved in a regional capacity.

Schambach worked with Billy Copeland, then the Regional D.R.C. while planning our C.R.C. He became assistant D.R.C. under Stan Houston from 1993 through 1995. In that capacity, he assisted Houston by attending regional meetings and making chapter visits. One of his lasting contributions was the institution of incoming president training that began during this time and is still going on today. During this time, Frank became a member of the Meetings and Arrangements Committee on a Society Level. In 1994, the ASHRAE Winter Meeting was held in New Orleans, and as the host chapter, Frank Schambach was the General Chair. It was a huge undertaking for the chapter, but it was a successful event under Frank's leadership.

Frank took over as Regional Vice-Chair for Refrigeration from 1995-1998. From there he moved on to the Refrigeration Committee for the Society. He served as Vice

Chairman in 1998 and as Chairman in 1999. It was during his time on that committee that Refrigeration was changed from a grass roots committee to a technical committee, an accomplishment Frank is proud of. The emphasis on refrigeration was diminishing, and through this action, its' awareness on a Society level grew. In 2000, he moved into the Society Technology Council until 2003, and was a member of the Society Programs Committee for 2003 to 2005. From 2005-06, he served as Vice Chairman for that committee.

Schambach's service to ASHRAE is also evidenced by the awards he has been recognized with. On a chapter level he was awarded the David Levine Award during his presidency. He also has received the Cary B. Gamble Award for Outstanding Service to the New Orleans Chapter. He has also been awarded the Regional Award of Merit in 1999 and Distinguished Service Award in 2003.

Since retiring from U.N.O., Frank started a company called Total Building Concepts, which offers construction management services. Asked what his fondest memories of ASHRAE are, Frank remembers the people he has met and the fun he has had. "I've met people from all over the world" recalled Schambach, who still attends most chapter meetings, regional conferences and Society Winter and Summer Meetings. For those of us who have been fortunate to work with Frank over the years, it was always fun. Frank has enriched our chapter and his representation on Regional and Society Committees is a credit to our local chapter. He has truly made the New Orleans a better chapter.

Submitted by Buddy Hodge, 4/28/08