

## Interview with Mr. Jeff Forman

It wasn't easy, but I was able to finally get Jeff Forman to pause for an hour for an ASHRAE past president "exit interview". Jeff is owner and partner of Mechanical Sales Midwest and is very busy these days working to grow his business. Jeff was ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter President for society year 2018-2019 and did a fabulous job. Here is the interview transcript:

*Q: During the years that you worked your way through the chairs, what did you determine that you wanted to focus on when you became chapter president?*

A: Many students and members may not know this, but the COK chapter is one of only 2 chapters in all of ASHRAE who has maintained "Premier" status since inception or since 1970. Amazing! Premier status means our chapter met or exceeded their Presidential Award of Excellence (PAOE) points in every category like Chapter Operations, Chapter Technology Transfer, Government Affairs, Membership Promotion, Research Promotion, Student Activities, etc. Further, your COK chapter was the chapter who developed this PAOE points system.

Naturally, one of primary focuses was to continue our success and achieve Premier status by working hard and surrounding myself with a motivated, skilled, determined, diligent and capable team of officers, chairs and BOG members. Mission accomplished and thank you again to everyone who helped reach our goals and put your COK chapter in 1<sup>st</sup> place in our Region VIII with 22,623 PAOE points for the 2018-19 year.

*Q: During the 2017-2018 chapter year, as you served as President-Elect, the Chapter won the Golden Gavel award. What affect did that major accomplishment have on you as you transitioned into your year as President?*

A: Damon McClure and his team did an excellent job and their successes absolutely motivated me to continue our chapter's great tradition and "move the ball further down the field", leaving the chapter stronger and improved from when I stepped in as president.

*Q: During the 2018-2019 chapter year, as you served as Chapter President, what turned out to be the biggest challenge that you faced, or what was the most surprising thing you ran into?*

A: This biggest challenge for me personally, was balancing Mechanical Sales Midwest duties, family, church, COK President, etc. However, having able folks on my BOG and committee chairs plus those members who assisted throughout the year made the time challenges much easier. Surround yourself with competent / talented people, provide direction and then let them do what they do best!

*Q: What accomplishments, would you say, were most meaningful to you?*

A: As mentioned above, surpassing last year's Golden Gavel PAOE points total and being 1<sup>st</sup> in PAOE points for the Region was important to me. One step higher was spending time with the 2018-19 ASHRAE Society president Shelia Hayter, who accepted my invitation to visit local HVAC manufacturing companies, our chapter and NEOK's chapter. Getting another former Society president Tim Wentz to visit and speak at our last meeting capped off an exciting year.

However, the one of the most meaningful events was our Sustainability activity working with Rebuilding Together to rebuild one of our local Veterans Home. Seeing the deplorable conditions that man lived in

after serving our country and keeping us safe, and then seeing how much difference our ASHRAE members and other organizations were making to improve his quality of life was humbling and extremely gratifying. Practicing the Golden Rule of “loving your neighbor as yourself” is timeless.

*Q: Tell me about your experience on the Cancun CRC trip. Did you have a good time?*

A: Yes! This CRC trip allowed me to fellowship with other COK officers and their spouses on a deeper, more meaningful level. Business is about relationships and CRC is an excellent venue to grow not only COK bonds, but also those with other chapters – even if they are from Texas!

*Q: After serving as Chapter President, you automatically roll into a Vice-President chair position. What is your primary focus in that role?*

A: Continuity and support. The COK role of Vice-President was developed to provide continuity of chapter operations and support when the current president’s term ends and the president-elect’s term begins. By continuing to participate in chapter events, chapter meetings and to remain on the board of governors the Vice-President stands ready to assist the president whenever the need arises. By providing a smooth transition from one year to the next, the incoming president doesn’t have to start from scratch and our Chapter is able to continue in its tradition of excellence and success.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your 2018-19 COK Chapter President. Jeff

Dusty Stoabs, PE, CPMP, LEED AP  
ASHRAE Central Oklahoma Chapter Historian

