

ASHRAE LeaDRS Program Report – Alexis T.Gagnon
Winter Conference – Las Vegas
January 28-February 2, 2017

When I joined ASHRAE I was not aware of all the workforce involved in it and all the decision-making process that was behind this big machine. As a student, I was mostly interested in the handbooks and all documents that could help grow my knowledge for my future career. The nearest chapter was a 2H30 drive. After graduating school I found a job in Quebec city where my employer rapidly encouraged me to join the rank of the local chapter. I was rapidly involved in the CTTC committee. After a couple of meetings and conversations, I decided to give my name for a chair position at the chapter and was quickly invited to the annual CRC. (Windsor 2009). At this meeting, I realized that the chapter was a small part of the puzzle and that there were Regional parts and Society parts for that puzzles. I still had a lot to learn but I was starting to have an idea of the organization. The following years I chaired multiple committees which lead me to the presidency of the chapter. During those years I was hearing and seeing my boss involved at a higher level and we had some really interesting discussions on how things were working regionally and at society. The regional involvement curiosity was growing at that moment but I was just not able to place a date on when I was going to jump in it.

The LeaDRS program creation was something I found interesting from the start and the second time it was offered I tried my chance. I was not chosen at that time but it gave me the interest to work harder on my application document for the next annual meeting. Things worked out great since I was chosen for the program. The LeaDRS program was something I was seeing as a boot camp for my futures Leadership goals.

Doug and I discussed before the beginning of the conference and from the start, It was clear that this experience was to help me better understand the way ASHRAE works and that I would be guided in what I should attend depending on my interest in society. Our DRC was aware that not everyone is in the same work field in the business and that maybe we would fit best in certain activities. I arrived Saturday and I attended the YEA/Student mixer. This was a great event and I enjoyed the way networking was encouraged. The ASHRAE networking flyer was a really good initiative. At the welcome party, I had the chance to be introduced by Doug to numerous DRCs and to know some of the others LeaDRS. It was a good moment to discuss with people of region II that I had not seen for a while.

On Sunday morning I attended technical sessions. I had the chance to be invited to the Leadership Luncheon and I was surprised to see how many organization around the world are in contact with ASHRAE. In this event, I was seated next to Marco Waldhauser the president of the Switzerland Engineer association, Farooq Mehboob a DAL, his LeaDRS Carine Saliba from Dubai, my DRC and other people from different organizations. In a survey they were asked to answer questions about the challenges these people were seeing for the next years in their respective organisations. During the evening, I went to the YEA hospitality event and I had the chance to meet with recent graduates from Montreal. The following event was Executive Hospitality. Again this event was a really great networking experience since I had the chance to meet most of the Leadership U participants. Robert Hoadley from NB/PEI who was participating in this program introduced me to them. I met Enrica Galasso from the Central New York chapter and Annie

Smith from the St.Louis Chapter. I was impressed to see all those young individuals interested in the tomorrow ASHRAE Leadership.

On Monday I went to the AHR expo. This expo is always bigger and from what I heard in reports this year was a record in rented square foot. I really enjoyed being able to see the new products, the development and at the same time to be able to create new links with some manufacturers.

At the Tuesday morning member council, I really understood the reason to prepare precise and concise motion so they can be voted. The RMCRs around the table had to vote on motions that can have a fiscal impact on the society. A non-precise motion would have not had reach this point. I read some small part of the Member Council MOP after that to understand the responsibilities of everyone around the table. After this event Doug suggested that I should attend the President-Elect Advisory Committee (PEAC) which I did. It was interesting to see the team around the future president. There were discussions on the preparation of the presidential speech as well as guidance on which points this group thinks the president should focus on. After that event, I attended the TC 9.10 Laboratory Systems meeting. Since I'm a corresponding member of that committee it was important for me to show up at this meeting.

On Wednesday I went to the Technology Council. Again it was an exciting meeting to attend since this council votes on Research project, on what ASHRAE should affirm or reaffirm its position on and on funds to promotes ASHRAE programs. I had the chance to meet M. Charles H. Culp during this meeting and to discussed with him a little about his research and his work during the break. At the DRC meeting, the LeaDRS participants and the Leadership U participants were encouraged to share the experience they had and to bring some constructive criticism to help improve the programs for future meetings. The final meeting was a board meeting where all the DRC, DAL and Executive committee member sit. Various reports were presented and discussions on how ASHRAE can be stronger at the International Level were held.

I'm leaving the Winter Conference meeting with a bigger enthusiasm in participating in the development of ASHRAE. This opportunity added strength to my belief about ASHRAE and I really saw the core values of the society in action (Excellence/Commitment/Integrity/Collaboration/Volunteerism). It was a really good learning experience and an enriching experience on how to lead effective meetings. I gained a lot of new contacts and I was able to solidify my existing ones.

I would like the thank our DRC Doug Cochrane, Audrey Dupuis our YRC, Region II and the Society to offer those wonderful professional development opportunities. I was already an ASHRAE believer and this will continue for sure.

