

I was fortunate to have been chosen for the Leadership U program at the 2017 Winter Conference in Las Vegas. I shadowed Society Vice President Patricia Graef throughout the week, and sat in on her meetings with the Executive Committee (ExCom) and the Board of Directors.

These meetings were a glimpse into the decision making process within the society. I was able to witness the debates and votes on matters that will determine the direction of the society in coming years. The biggest take-away I have from these meetings is that the well-being of the grassroots of the society are the basis of all decisions made.

This was my first Society Conference, and I was also fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend several technical seminars and to have sat in on two subcommittee meetings of TC 9.6 – Healthcare Facilities (Water and Infectious Disease Subcommittees). I was also welcomed into several social receptions with the Board of Directors, and was able to make the acquaintance of many Executive Council and Board members. Regardless of what technical or social event I attended, I was always made to feel welcome in the room and a part of the discourse.

I also had the chance to attend my second AHR Expo whilst in Las Vegas. The trade show allows consultants like myself to meet directly with manufacturers to review new technology and products. I find this review of new products and applied technology to be very important professional development, and integral for young consultants and engineers.



The Board of Directors meeting agenda provides a time for members to bring forward concerns or comments regarding the Society. I took the opportunity to thank the board for the Leadership U program. I also took the opportunity to thank the board on behalf of my home chapter (NB/PEI) for the ongoing support of young engineers through the YEA program. The YEA program has reinvigorated our own chapter's membership and board of directors. We are now fortunate to boast a young and vibrant chapter leadership, and ASHRAE's YEA program is the driving reason for our chapter's renewal.

The Leadership U program was a unique opportunity to be part of the society leadership. Society President Tim Wentz referred to the importance of “being in the room” during his address at the Presidential Luncheon. This week I was welcomed into the room, and I now intend to give back to the Society to the best of my abilities. The YEA Committee should be congratulated for the inception of the Leadership U program.

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