

ASHRAE

HISTORY OF THE CHAPTER

March 1998 By James L. Carver, Chapter Historian

In 1946, a few heating contractors met and joined what had become the American Society of Heating, Ventilating Engineers. Meeting at the Virginia Club, on the second floor in downtown Norfolk, Virginia. The numbers were indeed small at first with 8 men being a good turn out. Several of these men were also members of the American Society of Refrigeration Engineers. Contractors and Engineers alike met and talked about starting a Chapter here in Norfolk. The Charter was awarded on May 22, 1946 as the ASHVE of Norfolk. Interesting to note was the handbook in use at the time "ASRE Refrigerating Data Book, 1932 edition. Topics of the day were: " Experimental air conditioning " & " Engineering and Research involving Food Preservation". The other handbook of choice was the ASHVE Engineering Guide, 1936 edition. The Chapter's first President was William H. Webster.

Not much beyond this is known at this time, other than a merger in 1959 of ASHVE and ASRE made the new ASHRAE. (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers).

By 1961 the new ASHRAE Guide and Data Book "Fundamentals and Equipment" was in use. Chapter President Jack Spencer was eager for growth, and moved the meeting place to the popular Admiralty Motel. Ease in access proved to improve the membership attendance and growth. The Chapter remained small but solid with a good attendance of 15 or so every other month. Meals at the Admiralty were "Motel Food", so that says it all. In 1964, President Jimmie C. Daughety moved the meeting place back to Downtown Norfolk, to the Ranch House on Granby Street. Then new member Bill Antley remembers the excellent steak diners and poor to poorer seminars. Number of members 34. Cost of a meal \$3.50. The popular topic then was "Automatic Air Conditioning Systems" and "Unitary Rooftop Systems" The new Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel had linked Newport News and Norfolk, thereby improving access.

In 1971, Herbert Brown was outgoing President of the Chapter and Herbert L. Sullivan was incoming when the Chapter Region III Conference took place in Virginia Beach. The location was the Hilton Washington Club Inn on the Atlantic Oceanfront. The report from the chapter to the region notes *"Biggest problem is keeping the cost of meals at a level acceptable to the average member, attendance drops as the price of the meal increases"* The new meeting place now was to Lewis Seafood on Colley Avenue in Norfolk. During the 1971 CRC at Virginia Beach, Hurricane "Ginger " visited and made this CRC one to remember. Interesting note was the visiting of Society President Elect Walter Spiegel, who got stuck in Norfolk when passenger flights out were canceled. The number of members of the Chapter at his time was 77; money in the bank was \$100.00 with one contribution, indicating little local acceptance. By 1973 now President Bill Antley had moved the Chapter to Lake Wright. *Cost of meals seemed to be the real problem with attendance. Securing good speakers remained a real problem.* In reviewing the notes, it appears that the officers constantly did not use the Chapter Operation Manual. (I found that funny) money in the bank \$150 with 12 contributions totaling \$170.00. By 1975, the Chapter had grown to 108, enough for the chapter to receive the "blue ribbon " award for membership growth. The cost of the meal for a chapter meeting was \$6.50. President Joe Watson reported that year that the Research program did very well with the new enthusiastic Chairman. The chapter collected \$11.44 per member, up from \$2.23 in 1973-74. That chairman was Herbert Brigman.

HISTORY OF HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER

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The National Bi-Centennial of 1976, was the highlight of the year with a gala red-white and blue event held at the last meeting of the year. CRC's held in the Baltimore Hilton 1977, Tamiment Resort and Country Club, PA .1978, Colonial Williamsburg Cascades, VA.1979, & Downingtown Inn Resort, PA. 1980 were well attended, but uneventful for the Hampton Roads Chapter. In 1981 President Robert W. Hayes began to move the membership to become more involved in the Region and even Society. Hayes himself was on a Technical Committee. The CRC that year was in Charlottesville VA. in the Boar's Head Inn The Chapter received awards for membership, PAOE and honors. W. Boyce Blanchard became the Chapter Historian, although no Chapter written history exists today, Blanchard went on to become the Region III Historian in 1982. President Robert C. Baswood was at the Helm when Hampton Roads Chapter Hosted the CRC-82. The Conference was held at the Holiday Inn 39th St and Oceanfront, Virginia Beach. No Hurricane this time. *Energy Conservation and Management* were the topics of the Technical Sessions.

Missing time frame 1983-1989

In 1989, the chapter had excelled & was a fun Chapter to be a part of. The "R" in ASHRAE night was established, drawing very large attendance. The hallmark was the very elaborate "door prize" actioned off, with funds given to the "education fund". In 1990 Mark Elder was President of the Chapter and Howard M. Webb was the Refrigeration Chairman. Webb's ability to motivate people drew out the best in the membership. The result of his efforts paid off with Regional awards followed by the Society conferring the top award for refrigeration on him at the Simi Annual Meeting. . Awards were solid for the chapter during this period. The establishment of the Annual Golf Outing drew players and funds into the Chapter. CRC-92 in Philadelphia, CRC -93 in Roanoke with President Renison Tisdale at the helm, brought the Chapter into the Society Centennial Year with CRC -94 held in Pittsburgh. Year of the Centennial. 1894-95 .The Chapter had 142 members, \$4,000.00 in the bank. The cost of a meal at a chapter meeting was \$18.00. Problems stated *severe problems with meeting attendance, which were down, and finding Volunteers to fill committee positions* The next year Hampton Roads would again host the CRC, with SEE-R-SEA -95, The Norfolk -By - The Sea event was held at the Norfolk Marriott Hotel. 1995 CRC Chairman was Dan Petway, Chapter President was Ted Ambrose. In attendance was Milton Garland who celebrated along with ASHRAE his 100th birthday. A Chapter meeting that year had the honor of guest speaker Society President Billy Manning speaking on the theme "Building on the Shoulders of Giants". Research Promotion collected \$22.06 per member or \$4,500.00 Total attendance problems persisted, with the cost of a chapter meeting meal at \$20.00 and \$3504.00 in the bank. In 1996, Past President Rinison Tisdale was honored to a Vice-Chairman position in Region III. 1996 under John Say the Chapter Turned 50 years old, and was presented with a Certificate from then Society President Richard Hayter. In 1997, the CRC was held in Washington D.C. where Research Promotion Chairman for five years, Don Larson was awarded the Regional *Watchdog Award* for his excellent work. In June Of 1997 at the Simi Annual Meeting of Society held in Boston, the top *refrigeration award* was conferred on James L. Carver. The Chapter has full PAOE honors, plus adding \$2500.00 dollars to the Research Promotion Fund of the Chapter due to this award. By now the Chapter has 156 members .In 1997, the Chapter newsletter name changed to "ASHRAE MONITOR". In honor of the first naval ironclad ship battle in Hampton Roads. Which brings us to the present, under President Dan Petway, the chapter looks forward to the future and the year 2000.

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