

**ASHRAE LEADERSHIP RECALL – RONALD L. KING  
FORMER MOUNTAINEER CHAPTER PRESIDENT**



**Ronald “Ron” L. King**

Ron King was an early member of the newly created Mountaineer Chapter of ASHRAE around 1990. He served all levels of chapter leadership and served as chapter president on more than one occasion and attended several CRC's. He always felt he should be giving back to the industry that was supporting him in his professional career. After changing jobs and new responsibilities in 2001, he left ASHRAE Chapter leadership because he was unable to make the added commitment of time needed.

**QUESTION:** Would you give a brief biographical sketch of your life. (Place and date of birth, family size, early schooling, higher education, employment background outside of the HVAC industry, current family—spouse, children.)

**ANSWER:** Born in 1955 in Charleston, WV and grew up in Dunbar, WV. After graduating Dunbar High School, I attended VA Tech for one year studying architecture. Graduated with honors from WV State University with a degree in Industrial Technology with emphasis in Architecture. Worked for my father growing up at K&M Builders. Upon graduating college, I was working for Moore Engineering. Later went to work as an estimator for WV Heating and Plumbing for 8 years. Went to work for Automatic Equipment Sales (AES), the Carrier air conditioning distributor and worked my way up to the Commercial Sales Manager at the time I left the company. I went back into contracting working from 1999 to present at Elco Mechanical Contractors as estimator and service manager and gaining the title of Vice President. I will be retiring at the end of June 2021. I had two older brothers growing up one deceased and one now living in Texas. My wife, of 42 years, Jacky and I have two children. Nathan lives here in Charleston and Rachel lives in Chesterfield, VA. They have blessed us with five grandchildren, four girls and one boy. Enjoying them is my plan for retirement.

**QUESTION:** What attracted you to engineering and the HVAC industry?

**ANSWER:** Growing up working for a home builder got me interested in architecture and how buildings went together.

**QUESTION:** What was your first job in the HVAC industry and where did it lead?

**ANSWER:** My studies in college helped me get the job with Moore Engineering a mechanical engineer which led to contacts in the mechanical contracting field. Working for the Carrier distributor is where I learned and honed my HVAC engineering abilities.

**QUESTION:** Describe the industry at that time. What were the challenges that you and your colleagues were facing?

**Answer:** Drafting was still done with pencil and paper and computers were just starting. Load calculations were done manually. Equipment selections were done from catalogs. Getting the mechanical drawings back to the architects on time and then they would make changes without extending the deadline was really a major challenge with the way we performed the engineering services by hand.

QUESTION: How and when did you get started in ASHRAE?

ANSWER: Late 1980's or early 1990's. As a commercial sales engineer for AES that was part of my job responsibilities.

QUESTION: What was your ASHRAE chapter, regional and Society experience?

ANSWER: Served all levels of chapter leadership and served as chapter president on more than one occasion through the 1990's. Attended several CRC's during that time. Always felt I should be giving back to the industry that was supporting me.

QUESTION: What were the major issues facing your ASHRAE Chapter during your presidency?

ANSWER: Getting involvement from the principles of the local engineering firms. They were supportive but without their involvement the vendors and contractors lacked involvement. Second would be getting the topics and speakers that would attract members. Third, Chapter was spread out over three states. Hard to get participation when someone must travel three to four hours to get to Charleston, WV where all meetings and events were held.

QUESTION: Did you have a presidential theme, and what was it?

ANSWER: I don't remember a specific theme, but if I did it was inviting a potential new member to meetings or events.

QUESTION: What do you consider to be the major accomplishments during your term?

ANSWER: For being the smallest chapter in the region we were still able to win some PAOE awards (History, Research Promotion). Also built a relationship with local AIA chapter in sponsoring a local trade show.

QUESTION: Did any humorous events take place during your term?

ANSWER: Well, there is the memories of Bourbon Street during CRC in New Orleans but nothing that we can put in print.

QUESTION: Are there any things that you wish you could have done differently?

ANSWER: Had more time to come up through the lower level leadership to get a better handle on the PAOE points and have enough participation to have a chairman in the committees that can teach the job to their successor.

QUESTION: What events have changed ASHRAE since your presidency?

ANSWER: Mountaineer Chapter went away and was reborn as WV Chapter.

QUESTION: What events have changed the industry since your presidency?

ANSWER: Computers, environment and energy efficiency legislation.

QUESTION: What has ASHRAE meant to you personally?

ANSWER: Built relationships and friendships that I would not have had otherwise.

QUESTION: What advice would you give to a young person entering the HVAC field?

ANSWER: Find the time to give back and know that ASHRAE has a long history of being on the front cutting edge of change. Nothing like volunteering with others and working for common goals.

QUESTION: What other interests and/or hobbies do you have?

ANSWER: Active at church, traveling and grandkids.

QUESTION: Any other comments you would like to make?

ANSWER: It has been about twenty years since I was active in ASHRAE and I feel a little guilty I didn't do more. But I am pleased and honored to have been able to do what I could. ASHRAE holds a lot of fond memories for me and I appreciate all the people that helped me and supported me during my time of leadership.