

# Leading Off



## Updates, Regional Events and Stetsons

Hello from warm and sunny Virginia. I hope everybody in the HVACR community is safe/healthy and doing well. As it looks to be an extremely hot summer coming up, be sure to stay safe and well hydrated. The digital edition you are reading this month covers some of the more practical skills you will need to have at your disposal as the days begin to heat up. The articles contained within are the best of the preventive maintenance issues, and they will serve to remind you of the importance of proper procedure while Headquarters is in the process of relaunching its magazine!

Although we had hoped to be able to have a physical (in-person) Conference and Annual Business Meeting this fall, due to personnel changes at Headquarters and COVID cases on the increase again, it's not looking too favorable at this time. As we begin to shape the format of the ABM for the fall events, we will notify you on how and when to participate.

Despite limited travel this year, I had the honor of making a trip down to Texas this past spring to attend the Annual Southwestern Regional Association's Educational Conference. This year, it was held in Round Rock, which is just north of Austin. If you've never had the opportunity of attending one of SWRA's Conferences, you've been missing something special. They always have great Educational Sessions, and almost always have an excellent expo, as well, which are generally coordinated by the husband and wife team of Jim and Jill Malone, both Members of the Cowtown Chapter located in Fort Worth, TX. They've been involved with the HVACR field long enough, to have accumulated a wealth of knowledge and contacts, and are extremely well respected in our industry. This year, due to timing issues, an expo was not held, but everything else was top notch. The Austin Chapter did an awesome job hosting this great event, in a short period of time.

A highlight of the SWRA Conference for RSES Presidents is being inducted into the "White Hat Club" (see RSES News for more information). The hat (a Stetson) isn't actually white, but rather a silver grey. The inductees are the Immediate Past SWRA President and the current International President. I was honored to be inducted this year, but it was somewhat bittersweet.

Though there were numerous people attending the show who are near and dear to me (including, but not limited to: Mac and Past International Auxiliary President Pat McCarthy; Jim and Past International Auxiliary President Jill Malone; Past Region 10 Director Dick Burks, CM; International Secretary/Treasurer and Region 10 Director Jerry Clark, CM; Immediate Past International President Mike Ralston, CM and Past International Auxiliary President Sandy Ralston; and E&E Board Chairman Roger Hensley, CMS, RCT and his lovely wife Delories), there were some who weren't there. A few who have passed on include: Past International Presidents Steve and Ellen Stephens (Ellen was an Auxiliary President); Past International Auxiliary President May Stewart; and Past SWRA Regional Presidents Wade and Linda Clark. Also missed were Darwin and Lynne Sharpe whose health issues prevented them from being able to attend. The SWRA is like family to me, and I love them dearly.

2022 has been a rather unpredictable year for meetings and travel plans, however, I am looking forward to seeing where the next few months of my International Presidency take me. In that time, I would like to speak with as many RSES Members as I can. Be sure to drop me a line if you have any questions. 🌊

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