

leading off



UP, UP And Away

Flying high. Fireworks. Blue skies. Rich history. These words and phrases can be used to describe Albuquerque, NM, but they can be used to describe the RSES Conference held in conjunction with PHCC that was held there, too. To put it in perspective, the RSES conference that took place during the Balloon Fiesta turned out to be one of the best I've ever attended.

This was all due to the outstanding support we received from our trade show exhibitors, sponsors, speakers, attending members, PHCC and, especially, our HQ staff. My thanks go out to everyone who participated in the forefront and in the background in making our comeback conference most memorable.

I took the opportunity to sit in on a few of the great selection of educational sessions, starting with "Hydrocarbons As A Refrigerant" presented by Art Miller, CMS, RCT. Even though I have been involved with this program, I attended to hear the questions, concerns and queries offered by the participants. Every comment added another layer of interest and possibility, and has inspired us to consider offering a "Train-the-Trainer" program to further deliver this program across North America. Stay tuned.

Next, I decided to "get wet" with the water table demonstration given by Roger Hensley, CMS, RCT (E&E Chairman). Like they say: Seeing is believing when it comes to understanding how air flows through a fitting, a take-off, transitions and various diffuser types. What is better than using something you can see—water injected with a dye to represent air (after all, they are both fluids that behave in a similar manner)—to better understand what happens in a duct system and what can be done to improve the flow.

And then I attended a session by Bill Sammons, CMS, who presented on the opportunity for air conditioning technicians to learn about the components most commonly used by refrigeration equipment. The introduction of the various components and their functions were used to help demonstrate that air conditioning is a process that the refrigeration system can provide—just like dehumidification, process cooling, ultra low temperature applications and even heating.

Finally, I sat in on a talk about facility/contractor coordination in the industrial environment by Vern Sanderson of RETA that discussed good practices on how to operate a smoother and safer (large) jobsite while providing the promised expectations and working toward profitability. And those participants that had the right answers on how to prevent and avoid the many associated pitfalls were rewarded with chocolate—awesome!

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank the Board of Directors for their continued support in working toward turning the changes we have all experienced over the past year into opportunities. RSES, being 85 years young, will continue to be the HVACR Training Authority for both this and the next generation as we all continue to work together and support the hard work, new ideas, opportunities and changes that HQ staff are working on—thank you all. ☺

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