

My name is Joe McLaughlin and I am the Director of Engineering at the Omni Hotel Austin Downtown. I am also the immediate Past President of AAFAME which puts me in the role this year as the Leadership Committee Chairman and the Nominations Committee Chairman. What I have to share with you today comes from both of these responsibilities.

I want to start by stating something that most of you already know or have heard before. In this statement there are two embedded points that emphasize the previously mentioned responsibilities and are the core of what I will be sharing with you. The statement is,

AAFAME is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization. It is the largest organization in Texas dedicated to the education and advancement of facilities and operating engineers.

As facilities engineers and vendor businesses continue to see the significant value in an AAFAME membership, the association continues to grow. In any volunteer organization, its common sense that volunteers are needed. The lifeblood of an association such as AAFAME, which has now exceeded 600 members, is participation in and leadership of the various committees within the association. Without successful committees, there would be no AAFAME.

It is very important to point out that volunteering and participating in a committee is not something that only benefits the well-being of AAFAME. In fact, committee participation can be exponentially more beneficial to the participant.

Let's imagine for a moment, that there is a building engineer out there that is eager to advance professionally. He has some certifications, some good experience and envisions being able to become a Director over a large complex of high-rise buildings. Perhaps be responsible for all the buildings in downtown Austin like Paul Heggins who was in the Member Spotlight on the web page last month. The desire, the motivation and the confidence are all there, yet there are obstacles. Obstacles that can come in many forms ranging from something as simple as the company being small to something as complicated as a bad supervisor, and everything in-between.

Now let's imagine that the engineer becomes aware of AAFAME, becomes a member and immediately signs up for the Training Committee for example. The engineer begins attending the once-a-month meetings and at one of the meetings the engineer is paired with another committee member and they are given the assignment to put together and coordinate a training class. Not only is it an awesome experience to put together a training class that sells out and has people talking about it for a whole month afterwards, but now the engineer has real hands-on experience with teamwork and organizing a training class for 40 people. Both of these are perfect "experience line items" for a resume and are certainly great topics to bring up during an interview. Let's

say that the engineer goes on to organize another successful training class and at the end of the year the fellow committee members select the engineer as the Co-chair of the committee for the coming year. The moment that the responsibilities of the Co-chair position term becomes active, another resume update can be made, and that update will contain the addition of leadership skills.

Any aspiring engineer member of AAFAME, in any role, in any company, can make this happen. By being a member of AAFAME, there are multiple interesting and exciting committees that they can join and be an active part of. They can move into the leadership roles in the committee and get the leadership skills that they need and are wanting. Now their resume will be such that there will be individuals and organizations interested in speaking with them about their dreams of being a Director of Engineering at a high-rise building or complex of buildings.

Additionally, when an AAFAME committee is successful, a set of possibilities go into motion that can lead to more professional development and more resume highlights. Once the committee Chair and Co-Chair tours have been completed, there is the possibility of a selection to the Board of Directors. That could lead to being an Officer on the Board of Directors and ultimately the President of AAFAME.

Last month I reviewed the entire membership list. I saw the names of many engineers in the membership who I don't know and haven't met but who I believe want to make more out of their career. Joining a committee and becoming active in the committee will get the AAFAME member the leadership and other skills that they want and need, to make that next professional step happen. I highly recommend and encourage committee participation from all members. Each of the AAFAME board members and past presidents are living proof of its effectiveness.

AAFAME is a non-profit, **volunteer-based** organization that is the largest organization in Texas dedicated to the **education and advancement of facilities and operating engineers**. Volunteer based, education and advancement of facilities and operating engineers. The two points that I mentioned in the beginning. Engineers, especially those of you who are early or in the middle of your careers, you are needed in the committees. Don't do it just because AAFAME is a great association and is asking you to do it. Do it because it will help you get valid leadership experience that will help you better advance your career.

Thank you.