

## SETTING A GOAL FOR KNOWLEDGE!

About five or six years ago I started hearing rumors that all HVAC/R service technicians would have to be certified by taking and passing an exam in order to work as a service technician. It was at that time I had come to realize that I had forgotten a lot that I had learned twenty or so years ago, and I felt behind in my knowledge of the trade. As a long time member of RSES (Austin Chapter) I decided at that time to set a goal for myself and become a *Certificate Member* (CM) of RSES.

In consecutive years I had taken the *RSES Technical Institute Training Manual 1 and 2 Courses*, and passed both. I then decided to take the *NATE Core* and *NATE Heat Pump Specialty* exams and passed both, which then I had certification to work as a certified technician in case it would be required by the State. But I still wanted to reach my goal to be an *RSES Certificate Member*. I then took the *Technical Institute Training Manual 3 Course*, thinking that I will be taking the RSES CM exam after it. After passing the Tech. Manual 3 Course, my taking the CM exam did not happen as I had planned.

The *RSES Heat Pump Training Course* was offered and I jumped at the chance to participate in taking that class. A week after the Heat Pump Course ended I had decided to go for the new *Active Specialized Member* (SM) status in RSES, and took the Heat Pump Specialty exam at the *59<sup>th</sup> Annual SWRA-RSES Conference* that was held March 5-7, 2009. I passed that exam and became an SM. About a month later I had taken the CM exam and I passed it and became a *Certificate Member Specialist* (CMS). In doing so I surpassed my original goal of becoming a CM. For the most part I owe it all to the *RSES Technical Institute Training Manuals*, and the *RSES Heat Pump Training Course, Vol. 1 and 2*. These are all great educational materials and future reference material to add to your library shelf.

If you find yourself lacking the knowledge, and knowing the value of these training materials, I encourage you to set your own personal goal in furthering your knowledge of our trade, and in doing so practicing the RSES motto: ***“Better Service Through Knowledge”***

My next educational goal will be working on passing another one of the eight specialty exams. (*Commercial Refrigeration – Commercial Air Conditioning – Heating – HVACR Electrical – Controls – Domestic Service – Heat Pump – Dynamic Compression*) What is your educational goal?

Stanley Domel, CMS – SWRA President