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## 2017 Meritorious Service Award



**Roland Roberge**

**Roland Roberge** was born May 31, 1959 in Rochester, NH, the sixth of eight children. In 1977, Roland graduated from Rochester's Spaulding High School. He then started college at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, MA graduating in June, 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

Roland began his career at General Electric Company, in Waltham, MA in June 1981 as a Field Engineer, Marine Division. He worked on rotating equipment, including DC motors and generators, AC motors and generators and associated drive systems. Desiring more time at home, Roland joined Narragansett Electric, North Kingston, Rhode Island in January of 1988 as Supervisor of Sub Station Maintenance. He was responsible for all sub stations in Southern Rhode Island, working on transformers, circuit breakers, metering and associated equipment. Roland began working with carbon brushes when he transferred to Morgan Advanced Materials in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania in April, 1990 as a Design & Application Engineer. Roland supported carbon brush applications in the Pulp and Paper, Steel, Traction, Mining and Aircraft industries. Company consolidation required Roland and his family to move to Greenville, SC in August, 1998. Roland was quickly promoted to Manager of Operations at the Greenville site in November, 1999. As Operations Manager, Roland was in charge of 200 people on three shifts. He inherited a past due list of \$400K and 50% on time delivery. Before transferring to a Project Engineering position in January 2004, Roland improved delivery to over 90% and eliminated the past due list, with a lot of help from his team. As a Project

Engineer, Roland was involved in moving production lines, closing a facility and investigating equipment safety controls. In January 2007, Roland was promoted to his beloved department as Manager of Design and Application Engineers. This transfer allowed Roland to become more involved in the Pulp and Paper Industry designing and applying carbon brush materials. One of Roland's recent achievements is the creation of a carbon material that provides over three years of brush life in generators used in the wind industry.

Roland joined IEEE in 1981 and attended the PPIC in 2001. Morgan Advanced Materials (formally General Electric Carbon Products) has a long history of supporting PPIC. This dedication allowed Roland to continue to participate in IEEE PPFIC as Chairman of the PCEMC subcommittee 2010/2011, Presentation Coordinator 2011/2012, Conference Local Chairman in Charlotte, NC, 2013 and currently as Membership Chairman since 2016. Roly has also authored and coauthored papers on carbon brush performance and application that have been presented at the PPIC Conference. He was a contributor to the "Handbook of Electric Motors" and is the Creator/Founder of the Morgan (National) "Commutator Surface Conditions" reference chart for dc commutator evaluation.

Roland married Elaine Ritter of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts in July of 1982. Roland and Elaine have five children from two generations, Ryan M. 33, Shanna 31 and Rory 29. Roland and Elaine are presently raising their second set of children, Ryan E. 9, and Chloe 7, who were legally adopted in 2015. Roland and Elaine are also the proud parents of one active member of the Navy and one active member of the Army. Roland and Elaine have four grandchildren, with another due in November.