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Registration

Lana Deleon – TECO Westinghouse
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**Closing Event & Awards Dinner,
Transportation**

Ryan Prickette – Rockwell Automation
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Awards

Rory Johnson
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253-732-1324

Guest Program

TBD
TBD.TBD@ieee.org
xxx-xxx-xxxx



2018 Meritorious Engineering Award



RICHARD C. SCHAEFER

Rich Schaefer was born May 17, 1952 in Belleville, IL. He attended Althoff Catholic High School graduating in 1970. After high school he started at Belleville Area College, graduating in 1972 with an Associate Electronics Technology Degree.

Rich started his career at Basler Electric in 1972 as lab technician testing transformers of various KVA's then moved into the systems development lab, testing excitations systems and other products. Soon afterward, his work grew to include field service, troubleshooting excitation systems and commissioning new installations throughout the country. He has commissioned power plants from the typical 20 MVA units used in the Paper Industry to large Utility Power Plants up to 1000 MVA. Later, Rich became a Product Specialist, responsible for developing product specifications for both Analog and Digital Designs. In his next position, Field Application Specialist, he travelled both in the U.S. and internationally, visiting power plants and making recommendations for replacing old rotating exciters and old voltage regulator systems to new excitation equipment. If the system application was unique and never accomplished before, Rich often went to the field, testing and validating the product application and new features in operating software that were used for commissioning the digital systems.

His current responsibility is Application Specialist for Excitation Systems, providing Application consulting to power plants to retrofit obsolete excitation systems to new.

Rich has been a member of IEEE for 28 years, the PPFIC for 25 years and a Senior Member of IEEE/IAS for 17. Rich co-authored his first paper with Ken Riddle in 1987 at his first Pulp and Paper Conference. Since then he has co-authored over 50 technical papers of related topics which have been published in various trade magazines including IEEE Transactions, SAE, PES and Industry Applications. A partial list of Technical Papers includes: "Understanding Power System Stability", "Voltage Regulator Auto Tuning Speeds Commissioning of the Generator Excitation System", "Generator Excitation Influence on Engine during Block Load Pickup", "The Effect of Reactive Compensators and Coordination with Volts/Hertz Limiting", "Easing NERC Testing with New Digital Excitation Systems", "Voltage Regulator with Dual PID Controllers Enhances Power System Stability", "Plant Efficiencies Benefit by Selection of Synchronous Motor". When digital excitation systems first became available, they were very difficult to tune for performance, especially those units associated with rotating exciters that had two machine time constants. The strategy for deriving the PID gains for voltage regulator performance was tedious, time consuming, and it was very cumbersome to achieve optimum generator voltage response during commissioning. By field testing multiple digital excitation systems, Rich determined the optimum PID gain strategy that would work for any static exciter or voltage regulator system. Using the new strategy reduced the commissioning time of digital voltage controllers from many days to just a couple. The solution was called "Pole Zero Cancellation". Dr. Kiyong Kim and Rich co-authored a paper of the concept "Tuning a PID Controller for a Digital Excitation Control System" at the Pulp and Paper Conference in 2004. Rich has made significant contributions to the advancement of the understanding of the control of generation excitation systems and the development of new methods in applying, commissioning and tuning them for optimum performance. As Working Chairman of IEEE for 10 years Rich was responsible for three (3) different task forces for updating various IEEE specifications when they came due. These documents included IEEE 421.1 for Definitions, IEEE 421.3 High Potential Testing of Excitation Systems and IEEE 421.4 Guide for the Preparation of Excitation System Specifications. As they expired Rich would lead the group, coordinate the responses from the various committee members and update drafts with committee comments. He also received a Service Award of completion from IEEE for IEEE 421.4.

Rich and his wife Jean have been married for 40 years. They have three children, Lauren, Danny, Michael and 5 grandchildren. Rich has been an annual volunteer on a Habitat of Humanity home construction project with Catholic Holy Family Society organization for more than 20 years. He's also often served as an adult volunteer with his parish's high school youth mission trips. These week-long trips, part of the Catholic Heart Workcamp, are to areas where people and/or homes need some assistance. Rich worked with the youth to repair, paint, clean residences and yards. He and his wife designed and built their own passive solar home in 1983 and wrote a book about its design.