

## 9.0 RECOGNITION & AWARDS REPORT – STEPHEN ANTOSZ March 24, 2019, Anaheim, CA

### 9.1 IN MEMORIAM

#### 9.1.1 Dr. Robert Degenff



Robert (Bob) Degeneff passed away on March 16, 2019. Bob, who was 76, was a committee member for 26 years, and was known industry wide for his pioneering work in transient modeling of transformers. He was a leader and teacher for the committee, but most importantly, a friend to all of us and many colleagues around the world. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the Degeneff family.

Bob was born in 1943, and started his professional journey in 1962 completing a BSME from General Motors Institute (Kettering University) and a Masters of Engineering in Electric Power at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Bob served four years in the Air Force. After leaving the service, he joined General Electric Company's Power Transformer Department and at the same time worked on achieving his Doctorate from RPI. He worked for GE for 16 years and next became a professor at RPI in the world wide recognized Electric Power Department. He also founded his own company for consulting and the production of power quality mitigation products that are in use around the world.

In addition to his professional career, he was an active participant in the Electric Power community as an active participant in IEEE and CIGRE. Early in his career, he was Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the Berkshire Section of the IEEE and throughout his career; he participated in numerous working groups in both IEEE and CIGRE. A key contribution was his leadership of the working group that developed the guide for facilitating the understanding of switching transients induced by transformer, switching device and system interaction. Bob also served for many years as our Technical Editor.

He was recognized as an IEEE Fellow, in 1993, for his contributions to the modeling and computation of transient voltages in transformer windings, was awarded the IEEE Herman Halperin award and the Transformers Committees' 2015 Distinguished Service award.

Bob held eight patents, published a book and numerous papers (two of which were IEEE prize papers) and technical articles, and was a professional Engineer in the State of New York

Bob was also committed to his family, and was an active participant in his church. In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking and associated antique tools, history, raising fruit trees, bee keeping, and collecting old technical books.

## 9.1.2 John Luksich



John Luksich died unexpectedly at home on January 31, 2019 at age 64. He is survived by his wife Carol and two children Halle and Max.

John actively served on several WGs in both the Insulating Fluids and Insulation Life subcommittees of the IEEE Transformer Committee. He was a Principal Engineer with Cargill Industrial Specialties, focused on natural and synthetic ester insulating liquids. Prior to Cargill, he spent 15 years as a Senior Engineer in the Dielectric Fluids group of Cooper Power Systems. Mr. Luksich received his B.Sc. in Chemistry and M.Sc. in Materials Engineering, both from the University of Wisconsin. He was also active in the ASTM D27 Committee.

He has authored or co-authored more than two dozen technical papers on ester dielectric fluids, with special focus on quantifying improved cellulose life when impregnated with natural esters insulating liquids.

### **Tribute:**

Alan Sbravati - John was more than a colleague, a true professor. A tough one, with limited patience for lazy students. If you demonstrated real technical interest and asked the right questions, he would always be willing to share his extensive knowledge and go deep in a variety of topics. A great person who will be highly missed.”

### 9.1.3 Walter Seitlinger



Born Jan 1947, died March 2019 after a brief illness.

Walter began his career at ELIN Transformers in Austria, and VA TECH Peebles Transformers Ltd located in Edinburgh, UK. As engineer and head of R&D, Walter served as CEO of VA TECH Peebles Transformers Ltd from 2002 till 2004 before he founded his own engineering company. Walter held several patents and his R&D work focused on development of models for mechanical winding oscillations and investigations on resonance behavior with special consideration of damping representation. He contributed to several international engineering committees like IEEE, CIGRE where he published several remarkable papers. One of his noteworthy achievements was his leading role in the development of the world's first 525 kV phase shifting transformers for Salt River Project in 1996. He contributed to the first IEEE Guide for Application, Specification and Testing of Phase-Shifting Transformers

C57.135, and at CIGRE with "Phase shifting transformers. Discussion of specific characteristics" in 1998. His work on phase shifting transformers was ground-breaking and is referenced by other authors in notable industry papers on phase shifting transformers.

Walter received a prize paper award in IEEE-PES Transformers Committee coauthored together with H. Foschum, Loren B Wagenaar, and Jeff Fleemann for the Investigation of an EHV Autotransformer Tested with Open and Arrester Terminated Terminals in 1996.

#### **Tribute:**

Ewald Schweiger - With great sadness I have to share with you the sudden passing of my former colleague, brilliant engineer, and magnificent man Walter Seitlinger. Our thoughts are with his wife, children, and family members.

## 9.2 GENERAL SERVICE AWARDS

- Outgoing Subcommittee Chair – Dan Mulkey Shull, Subsurface Transformers and Network Protectors SC

### **9.3 NEW MEMBERS OF THE TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE**

The Transformers Committee welcomes 4 new committee members. Each of the following people were presented with a membership certificate:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rhett Chrysler  | ERMCO             |
| 2. Marc Foata      | MR                |
| 3. Zoltan Roman    | GE                |
| 4. Timothy Tillery | Howard Industries |

### **9.4 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS, FOUR TOTAL**

For long-term commitment, dedication, and contributions to the Transformers Committee.

9.4.1 Ross McTaggart

9.4.2 Don Platts

9.4.3 Bertrand Poulin

9.4.4 Pierre Riffon

### **9.5 2019 IEEE FELLOW AWARD - CHARLES PATRICK MCSHANE**

Piscataway, New Jersey, USA, January 2019 : Charles McShane, from Northbrook, Illinois, USA, has been named an IEEE Fellow, being recognized:

*for leadership in safety, performance, and sustainability of power transformers*

The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one- percent of the total voting membership. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognized by the technical community as a prestigious honor and an important career achievement.

### **9.6 WORKING GROUP AWARDS**

In addition to the Committee Awards above, the IEEE SA SB presents its own Award to the WG Chair upon publication of a new or revised document and offers the WG Chair the opportunity to nominate significant contributors to the project for an IEEE SA SB Certificate of Appreciation.

1. C57.15 WG Chair Craig Colopy. Standard Requirements, Terminology, and Test Code for Step-Voltage Regulators. Published in 2017. Two wood plaques: Craig Colopy Chair, and Gael Kennedy Vice-Chair. Eleven Certificates of Appreciation: Thomas Dauzat, Keith Armstrong, Fredric Friend, James Harlow, Lee Matthews, Daniel Sauer, Richard Kaluzny, Stephen Shull, Murty Yalla, Reginaldo Pimentel, Axel Kraemer

### WG Awards Not Done Yet:

C57.19.04 WG Chair Scott Digby. Standard Performance Characteristics and Dimensions for High Current Power Transformer Bushings with Rated Continuous Current in Excess of 5000 A in Bus Enclosures. Status: Waiting on publishing of the cover that is due 09/04/2018. WG submitted request.

## **9.7 Other Awards**

See the Awards Guidebook on our website <http://www.transformerscommittee.org/> for other award opportunities. The guidebook provides a reference for the awards that are available to the PES Technical Committees volunteers each year. The intent is to provide one reference point to assist the PES Technical Committees in recognizing the volunteers who donate their time and expertise to the betterment of the industry and society overall. This is meant to supplement, not replace the PES Awards web page: <https://www.ieee-pes.org/pes-communities/awards>.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stephen Antosz*

Chair, Recognition & Awards Subcommittee  
IEEE PES Transformers Committee  
March 24, 2019