



Wayne C. Farley

Fleet Manager, Indiana Michigan Power Company

Profile Data: Wayne Farley is a fleet manager at Indiana Michigan Power Company, a unit of AEP. He is responsible for the acquisition, maintenance and disposal of all vehicles and equipment. He serves as sponsor of the employee development team, which oversees the training of all personnel.

Q: When and where did your career in the fluid power industry start?

A: My first exposure to fluid power was working in my grandfather's service station and lifting cars on the hoist. From time to time, he would also need to repair floor jacks, engine hoist or transmission jacks, and he taught me to work on hydraulic brakes. My experience sparked a quest in me to learn more about how these systems worked. I studied in my high school years through a vocational technical school and landed an internship in a transmission shop. The main transmission rebuilder was a retired Air Force mechanic, and he quenched my thirst for knowledge by answering all my questions on the inner workings of automatic transmissions. It wasn't until I joined the American Electric Power Company (AEP) that I really became aware of the dynamics and versatility in hydraulic systems.

Q: What is the most memorable moment in your fluid power career and what did it teach you?

A: I have many fond memories in my career. The first was passing my Mobile Hydraulic Mechanic Fluid Power Certification. The second was becoming an Accredited Fluid Power Instructor. Both made me feel part of a group of fluid power professionals and assisted in launching my career. For over five years at AEP, I held the position of Fleet Training Specialist Sr. During that time in training and development of AEP personnel, I found it to be an enlightening experience that allowed me to grow as a professional in the fluid power industry.

Q: What do you feel is the most important achievement in the fluid power industry?

A: The continued integration of electric over hydraulic systems in the mobile equipment industry. This has allowed the mobile equipment world to advance into sophisticated, efficient systems and with more versatile applications.

Q: How and why did you get involved with the International Fluid Power Society?

A: One of my mentors at AEP was a fluid power troubleshooter, and when he was in our area, I was assigned to work with him quite frequently. While seeking books to learn about fluid power systems, I came across the Society and filled out an information card. Later, I was transferred to our major overhaul repair shop and encouraged our supervisor to allow us to become certified with the MHM Certification.

Q: Why do you feel the IFPS is important?

A: The IFPS allows individuals to distinguish themselves from others in the fluid power industry through certification. I have spoken to many fleet manager forums and encouraged them all to get their employees involved in the certification process to demonstrate their commitment to the industry and to the importance of having a well-trained workforce. Since the repair industry is experiencing a decline in the number of employees entering

the mechanic workforce, the current employees in the field must keep their skills honed. Also, the downtime of equipment is critical, and with a well-trained workforce, any reduction of downtime can equate into real dollars for the corporation.

Q: What have you personally gained by being a part of the Society?

A: Being part of an organization with a wealth of knowledge from a variety of industry professionals who share thoughts, ideas and common goals. Everyone I have been in contact with is devoted to keep the highest standards and professionalism foremost in our industry.

Q: Where do you see the fluid power industry heading in the next 10 years?

A: I see the industry migrating to smaller compact mobile power systems that are more environmentally friendly and increased efficiencies. The shortage of technicians and mechanics will impact the industry overall and we need to become better at attracting new talent and understanding the next generation of professionals.

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