



Q+A

Donna Pollander

Profile Data: Donna Pollander is the executive director for the International Fluid Power Society. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the IFPS, as well as working directly with the board of directors to ensure the Society's mission is being fulfilled. She also is the director of operations for the FPDA, Distranet, ESA and FPEF.

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

A: My career in fluid power is an indirect one. As many of us who work in fluid power, directly or indirectly, I sort of tripped and fell into the industry. I started working for an association management company called Howell Management in 1994. The company managed the Fluid Power Distributors Association (FPDA). The company was sold in 2001 to Innovative Designs and Publishing, now known as IDP Association Management. When the companies merged, I began to manage the International Fluid Power Society (IFPS), Distranet Equipment Services Association (ESA) and the Fluid Power Educational Foundation (FPEF), all of which are fluid power industry related. Throughout my 13 years working in the fluid power industry, I have experience in various areas and functions, including financial management, membership data management, meetings management and executive level management.

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

A: Attending my first FIRST robotics championship in Atlanta, seeing the excitement in the kids' faces and then having a chance to talk to them about their experience with the competition and with pneumatics. These kids (some sophomores and juniors in high school) were so well spoken and knew far more about fluid power than I would have expected. Knowing these kids are the future of our industry was a very reassuring feeling!

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

A: I feel one of the most important achievements in fluid power is certification. In order for fluid power to be

a viable and desirable choice, we, the fluid power industry, need to make sure that those who are designing, troubleshooting and repairing our equipment are doing it properly. Safety and downtime are big issues to all companies, and when your employees are properly educated, these two problems dramatically decrease. Our certification programs are not specific to any one product; they are generic and definitely raise the bar in terms of effectiveness and productivity of an employee. Also, IFPS has recently become a part of an international committee of fluid power professionals working toward a globally accepted certification. Achieving this goal will be a very important achievement in fluid power.

Q: Why do you feel the IFPS is important?

A: As I mentioned, education in the fluid power industry is paramount! The IFPS not only provides certification training and testing, but it also offers a variety of online training courses, as well an extensive library of fluid power related books and reference materials.

Q: Why would you encourage industry professionals to join the IFPS?

A: I believe being part of the IFPS is very rewarding, and the networking opportunities are invaluable. Being a member of the IFPS offers many other rewards, such as substantial discounts on certification, recertification, training and industry publications; a complimentary subscription to the *Fluid Power Journal*; delivery of *The Society Page*, our bi-monthly e-newsletter; networking opportunities on a "members only" section of IFPS website; and free access to study guides, manuals and certification pre-tests. Please contact me if you would like to become a member of the IFPS or if you are currently a member and would like to become more involved!

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

A: I have personally gained many friendships and professional relationships that mean a great deal to me. Over the years I have learned about the technology, good and bad, and have come to believe that fluid power is here to stay!

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

A: With research, like that from the Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEFP)--funded with \$15 million from the National Science Foundation, \$3 million in combined donations from participating companies and \$3 million from participating universities--fluid power will be more viable than ever! If their goal to create new fluid power technology that is compact and efficient is realized, it will lead to significant fuel savings as these new technologies are implemented in existing and new applications. The new technologies will also enable applications and new products requiring portable, high-power, untethered operations over long time periods. With this kind of research, the only place for the fluid power industry to go is up!

Donna lives in Gloucester City, N.J. She has been married over 20 years to her high school sweetheart and has four sons ranging from 5 to 18 years! She can be reached by e-mail at dpollander@ifps.org or by calling 800-608-3005 ext 15.