

IEEE Presidential Panel

21 September 2008

Quebec City, Canada

Moderated by:

**Joe Lillie – Vice President Member and
Geographic Activities**



Participants – IEEE Presidents

- 1984 - Dick Gowen
- 1995 – Tom Cain
- 1996 - Wally Read
- 2002 - Raymond Findlay
- 2004 - Art Winston
- 2005 - W. Cleon Anderson
- 2007 - Leah Jamieson
- 2008 - Lew Terman
- 2009 - John Vig

IEEE Sections Congress Presidents Panel

By Richard J. Gowen
President, IEEE Foundation
IEEE President - 1984



Student Member 1956

- Rutgers University IEEE Branch
- Join professional group
 - Information about current technological advances
 - Career choices
- Provided opportunities for leadership experiences
- Compete in Student Paper Contest

Continuing Growth

- Entry to professional community
 - Opportunities to share research experiences
 - Broaden collaborations with leaders
- Contributor to resolving challenges real or created
- Hone leadership skills - committees, boards, visions
 - Communication
 - Political-socialize issues

Privilege to Serve

- Sub-Section, Section, Region 5, Society, Division Director, TAB, Standards
- VP Professional Activities-USAB
- IEEE Centennial President-1984
- President - American Association of Engineering Societies
- President-IEEE Foundation: 2005-
- Chair-IEEE History Committee: 2007-

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Tom Cain
IEEE President 1995



Current Activities

- Fellow Committee: Consultant
- Member
 - Awards Board Policy and Procedures Committee
 - Awards Board Nominations and Appointments Committee
 - Editorial board of Computer: member
- Vice Chair
 - Computer Society Technical and Conference Activities Board

Why did I join IEEE?

- Joined the IEEE as an undergraduate student.
- There were two major reasons:
 - "the" professional society for my engineering discipline (electrical engineering)
 - a means of finding more information about the profession and the state-of-the-art

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Has enabled me to keep abreast of developments in the field via publications, conferences, standards, and VOLUNTER ACTIVITIES

- Particular:
 - Teaching: Education Society, EAB, Society EAB's including volunteer activities
 - Research: "the" place to publish the results of my and my student's research
 - Service: many, many opportunities to contribute to the profession

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Wallace Read
IEEE President 1996



Current Activities

- Director Emeritus IEEE Canada (Region 7)
- Member of IEEE Canada Foundation
- Member of the IEEE History Committee
- Member of the Fellows Committee

- Treasurer of Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Nature Trust

Why did I join IEEE?

- At 15 years of age at the time - I was awarded a scholarship which stipulated that the recipient pursue and engineering degree.
- One year after my graduation that I asked my boss "What would you recommend to a young fellow like me who has an interest in staying current and competent in the technologies we use?" Expecting a long answer, I relaxed but all I heard was three words "Join the IEEE".
- Now I was in a pickle. Unless I did just that I might be out on the street the next day looking for another job. I took heed of the advice and won again.

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Participating in IEEE activities and in particular rubbing shoulders with my peers in the profession was invaluable to me in my industrial career. In my case in the early days I felt I was isolated from the experiences other professionals were having, but IEEE opened that door for me to experience.
- There is no limit to the scope of IEEE involvement one might wish to undertake. But in my 56 years of involvement I have participated in a variety of roles and have never been disappointed in the challenge they offered. The exposure to members worldwide was on every occasion like meetings with an extended family. They taught me how to better relate with my workplace associates.

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Raymond Findlay
IEEE President 2002



Current Activities

- Director Emeritus – Region 7
 - Parliamentarian for Region 7 Meetings
- Member – IEEE Marketing & Sales Committee

- Professor Emeritus at McMaster University
- Retired Vice President of JDRF Electromag

- Serve the Engineering Community both locally (as Alternate Warden for the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer - Hailton Camp 13) and as Chair of the History and Archives Committee of the Engineering Institute of Canada

Why did I join IEEE?

- I think IEEE found me!
- In 1963, my graduation year from the University of Toronto. Unbeknownst to me, my professor had submitted a paper I wrote as part of my thesis requirements for the Region best paper award.
- The significance of the award was not lost on me. I was a student member at the time and had just discovered the publications - as a source of inspiration.

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Began to attend conferences.
- Very rewarding to have the opportunity to meet the giants in my field (power), the very people who had written all those fantastic papers that I found so **inspiring**.
- I began writing my own papers
- A source of information, and the opportunity to arrange meetings (Helped form the Canadian Atlantic Subsection) on subjects that interested me!

What has IEEE done for my career?

- In later years I realized that I got a great deal more out of this interaction - the fellowship of a large number of people, management skills, the opportunity to travel to meetings, ability to help in formulating procedures for various technical groups, and involvement with the governance of the organization at every level.

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Arthur Winston
IEEE President 2004



Biography

- ▣ Current IEEE activities:
 - Member IEEE Governance Committee
 - Chair, EAB Pre-University Education Coordinating Committee
 - Chair, Region 1 Strategic Planning Committee
 - VP IEEE Foundation and Chair, Development Committee
 - Representative to Life Members Committee
 - VP United Engineering Foundation
 - Member ED Search Committee

- ▣ Current Professional Position:
 - Director Emeritus and Professor of Practice, The Gordon Institute,
 - Tufts University

- ▣ In process of retiring

Why did I join IEEE?

- Professional status – industrial and academic environment in mid 50's
- Use of IEEE material in R&D job
- Continuing Education

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Enhanced status in industry
- Enhanced status in academia
- Continuing learning and updated technology
- Development of management skills
- Networking

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W. Cleon Anderson
IEEE President 2005



Current Activities

- IEEE Nominations and Appointments Committee
- Project Engineer for Wide Band Data Links and Satellite Communications for L-3 Communications

Why did I join IEEE?

- At the University of Utah my Microwave Systems Professor (Carl H. Durney, PhD) told me that, if I expected to be successful in pursuing a career in Electrical Engineering, I must be a member of the IEEE, and further, that he would promote my membership in the IEEE if I became a student member

What has IEEE done for my career?

- It gave me the professional network, which I found necessary for success

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Leah Jamieson
IEEE President 2007



Current Activities

IEEE Activities

- Chair of the IEEE Public Visibility ad hoc committee
- Member of PSPB (N&A Chair for PSPB)
- Member of IEEE Strategic Planning Committee
- Member of N&A Committee
- Member of Infrastructure Oversight Committee

Professional

- Dean of Engineering, Purdue University

Why did I join the IEEE?

- Was working on my PhD
 - My advisor told me that joining their professional society is what professionals do
 - Being a Society member gave me my own copy of the Transactions in my research field
 - Attending IEEE conferences connected me to my field (and gave me shelf-feet of conference proceedings)

What has IEEE done for my career?

■ Early career

- Connected me with some of the legends in my field, who were also volunteers
- It made me feel like I "belonged" to the research community I was entering

■ Mid-career

- Helped develop technical perspective and maturity (journal editor, conference program chair, technical committee participation and leadership)
- Helped develop leadership skills (Society technical committees, AdCom, officer positions)

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Later career
 - Helped develop my inclination, skills, and sophistication in strategic planning, leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration, finance, governance, and decision-making
 - Broadened my perspective on engineering careers, education, IT and learning, workforce, emerging technologies, public understanding of engineering, and what it means to be global

What has IEEE done for my career?

- Throughout my career
 - A credential that I was/am respected in the technical community
 - A global community of colleagues and friends
 - I've participated in IEEE conferences and meetings in 35 countries
 - A sense of "giving back" for all that I'd gained

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Lew Terman
2008 IEEE President and CEO



Low Terman: Introductory Info

- Year served as IEEE President: 2008
- Current activities: IEEE President
- Retired in 2006 after a 45 year + 1 day career at IBM
 - Retired as Associate Director of the Systems Dept., IBM Research Division.
 - Spent career working on semiconductor circuits, semiconductor devices and technology, chip design, solid-state memory, processors, and systems, and two years as President of the IBM Academy of Technology

Why did I join IEEE?

- I had a Physics BS degree, and decided to change to EE for my graduate work
 - More interesting courses
 - A feeling that I could have impact in the real world
 - So joining IEEE was a natural thing to do.....
- However....I did not join IEEE – there was no IEEE in 1958!
 - It was suggested by someone who I respected and admired that I should join IRE because it was a really neat organization, I would help my career, I would meet interesting people, etc.....

IEEE Participation: Invaluable!

- Honed a skill set – develop outside of work => brought skill back to the workplace
 - ▶ Interacted with people at all levels
 - ▶ Learned the different ways to run a meeting
 - ▶ Learned how (and how not) to build consensus
 - ▶ Learned how to negotiate
 - ▶ Learned governance
 - ▶ Learned how to work with hotels, caterers, printers, professional meeting planners, etc.

- Networking - met many people I would never have met in the normal course of work – at all levels
 - ▶ From other institutions and organizations
 - ▶ From other geographies
 - ▶ From other parts of IEEE

- Acquired Technical Information – own field, related fields, new and emerging fields
 - ▶ Local meetings
 - ▶ Local and international conferences
 - ▶ Editor, reviewer
 - ▶ Editor, reviewer

- IEEE brings the world to you.... and brings you to the world

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John Vig
IEEE President 2009



Current IEEE Activities

■ Chair

- IEEE New Initiatives Committee
- IEEE 125th Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee

■ Member

- IEEE Board of Directors/Executive Committee
- IEEE Strategic Planning Committee
- IEEE Compensation Committee
- IEEE Public Visibility Ad Hoc Committee
- IEEE Executive Director Search Ad Hoc Committee

Why did I join IEEE?

- Joined IEEE (37 years ago) after a colleague invited me to serve on the technical program committee of a symposium. This was also at about the time when I was looking to buy life insurance. I found that the IEEE offered the cheapest term life insurance.
- When I joined, I had already been a member of the American Physical Society for several years. (My Ph.D. is in physics.) Soon after I joined the IEEE, and settled into my field, I realized that my fields of interests were much more aligned with the IEEE's, and less and less with the APS'. Eventually, I dropped my APS membership and became more and more involved with IEEE, as a volunteer. I became hooked on IEEE.

What has IEEE done for my career?

- I spent my whole career doing, and leading R&D in a US government laboratory. Every employee had to maintain a "qualification profile" (a detailed CV). In it, participation in professional societies was one of the many factors. I have no evidence that my participation in IEEE was ever a major factor in my promotions, but, I am sure that it didn't hurt.

What has IEEE done for my career?

- The main benefit to my career was that I had served on technical program committees of IEEE conferences, on standards committees, on many other committees, as general chair of conferences, and as technical program committee chair. I got to know, and became friends with, many of the best and brightest in my fields. When I needed help with my research, there were many occasions when I just called one of the top experts and discussed the problem with him or her.
- So, the networking opportunities, as a volunteer, were of immense help to my career.