



Cleveland Contact

Publication of the Cleveland Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

◆◆◆◆◆ Presidential Message for National Engineers Week 2000 from President Clinton

◆◆◆◆◆ Warm greetings to all those observing February 20-26, 2000, as National Engineers Week. As we begin a new century, it is an ideal time to recognize and give thanks for the many contributions America's engineers have made to the life of our nation. From putting men on the moon to developing our interstate highway system, from cleaning our air and water to prolonging our health, engineers have been involved in many of our century's most extraordinary and enduring accomplishments. With a passion for discovery, engineers have worked tirelessly to make our lives safer, easier, and more fulfilling.

◆◆◆◆◆ For half a century, National Engineers Week has helped to promote awareness of the engineering profession and to encourage young people to consider a career in engineering. I am confident that, with interesting hands-on activities and exciting competitions sponsored at schools and community centers around the nation, this year's observance will help to influence a new generation of young Americans to pursue their study of science and math, the foundation of a career in engineering.

◆◆◆◆◆ I commend the organizers, volunteers, and supporters of National Engineers Week for your dedicated efforts to advance the field of engineering, and I am especially pleased that you have decided to focus on the environment and sustainable development during this year's observance. You can take pride in the knowledge that your hard work is helping to ensure the prosperity of our nation and to build a brighter, healthier future for our children.

◆◆◆◆◆ Best wishes for a successful week.
Bill Clinton

IEEE Industrial Applications Society Cleveland Chapter, Region 2—West

by Carl J. Dister

Welcome to a new year for the Cleveland Chapter of IEEE IAS! As the new IAS Chapter Chair, I look forward to meeting each of you at one of our meetings in the near future. Come join us.

This year, we will meet on the third Wednesday, every other month, at the Hofbrau Haus downtown. At each meeting, we will have a speaker of interest to IAS members. It is a chance for all of us to get together and exchange ideas for the betterment of our profession.

To better serve you, please e-mail me at carldister@ieee.org or call me at (440) 255-2977 x. 739, with the following information:

What is your professional area of interest? What can IEEE IAS Cleveland Section offer you in keeping with your professional interests? What is your correct e-mail address, or fax and/or phone number so that we can keep you up to date on events?

Thanks for your support.

NEXT IEEE EXECUTIVE MEETING

The next Cleveland Section IEEE executive meeting will be on Monday, February 21st, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at a NEW LOCATION : The Flat Iron Cafe in the Flats, 1114 Center St., (216) 696-6968. Parking is free in their lot across the street from the restaurant. It is on the East Bank (South End), on the corner of Center Street and Old River Road. We meet from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.



IEEE Cleveland Section CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Allen Morinec

Congratulations again to Dr. William Schultz, who has been selected as the IEEE Cleveland Section Engineer of the Year, 2000. On a similar note, National Engineers Week will be February 20-26, 2000. This is a great opportunity to show students and children the exciting field of engineering, and to show the public how engineering achievements benefit them. There is plenty of information on the internet and in IEEE magazines. The Cleveland Engineering Society holds its annual banquet through the National Engineers Week Committee.

The Cleveland IEEE Section is also in need of volunteers to fill a few of the open officers' slots. Officers needed include: Webmaster, Membership Chairman, Cleveland Technical Society Council representative and a Chairman for the Vehicular Technology Society Chapter. Please contact me at (216) 447-2505 or HYPERLINK "mailto:powerquality@ieee.org" if you are interested in volunteering.

Our IEEE newsletter, "The Contact" is not delivered by U.S mail any longer. It is sent electronically over the internet and posted on our Web site HYPERLINK <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/cleveland>. If you or someone you know hasn't been receiving "The Contact," you may need to update your correct e-mail address to our database manager, Jim Sens, at (216) 642-1230 or HYPERLINK <mailto:jdsens@infinet.com> and also through the IEEE headquarters as well.

On a sad note, Edward J. Frick, 88, longtime member of the Cleveland IEEE, passed away last month. He was an engineer, inventor and businessman. Ed passed away at the Hospice of the Western Reserve, only 27 days after the death of his wife. After Ed graduated from the Case School of Technology, he founded the Clean White Bleach Co. in 1935. Ed was also a member of the Cleveland Engineering Society.

PATENT REEXAMINATION

by Michael W. Garvey

The validity of a patent can be challenged in court. A less expensive option is to challenge the validity of a patent at the Patent Office. In some cases, a defective or invalid patent can also be corrected at the Patent Office.

When a patent owner discovers that its patent is "defective", it can surrender its patent, correct the defects and ask for the patent to be reissued. The reissued patent is granted a new "reissue" number.

Another procedure is known as "reexamination". This is based on prior art that raises a new question of patentability not previously considered by the patent office. Prior art considered in reexaminations is limited to printed publications. Validity challenges in court can be based on any prior art. The Patent Office has had authority to reissue patents since 1832. The reexamination process was initiated in 1980.

Reexamination can be requested by the patent owner or by a member of the public seeking to challenge the patent. There are normally two circumstances in which the patent owner will request a reexamination. The first is when the claims are invalid because they are too broad. The patent owner uses reexamination to narrow the claims. The second case occurs when the patent owner wants the Patent Office to confirm the validity of the claims over prior art not considered by the examiner during the original examination. In both cases, reexamination usually results from imminent enforcement of the patent and the discovery of new prior art more relevant than what was considered during examination.

A challenger usually requests reexamination when it discovers prior art not considered during examination. The challenger seeks to have the claims declared unpatentable by the Patent Office. Failing that, the challenger hopes that the patent owner will have to significantly narrow the claims. If successful, the challenger will no longer infringe the patent or will be able to design around the reexamined patent more easily.

Under the old law, after a challenger requested reexamination, its involvement in the matter ended. The reexamination was conducted solely by the patent owner and a patent examiner.

Under the new law, effective in November, 1999, challengers can participate in the reexamination after initiation. The challenger can file written comments with the examiner. If displeased with the result of the reexamination, the challenger can appeal to the Patent Office Board of Appeals. The involvement of both the patent owner and the challenger is known by the Latin phrase "inter partes", meaning "between parties". One risk of participating, however, is that a challenger requesting reexamination cannot raise in subsequent litigation any issues it raised or could have raised during reexamination.

With the increased participation of challengers in reexaminations, it is expected that the validity of patents will be determined more efficiently.

Mike Garvey is a patent attorney with Pearne, Gordon, McCoy & Granger LLP in Cleveland.



Join Our Conference Team To Host The Automatic Test Equipment Conference 2004

by Vincent Lalli

Industrial Electronics Society has just completed its 25th annual conference, IECON'99, in San Jose, California. The proceedings have been published on CD-ROM. On behalf of the IECON'99 Technical Program Committee, our chapter was presented with a free copy of the IECON'99 proceedings. Please contact <Vincent.R.Lalli@ieee.org> if you would like to use the document for a couple of weeks.

We would like to put a team together to work on hosting the Automatic Test Equipment Conference 2004 at the IX Center in Cleveland. Hin Yee has been discussing this possibility at some of our committee meetings, and we would like to start lining up some other team members and groups in Cleveland and Dayton to support this major event. AUTOTESTCON is highly specialized and focuses on deployable automated test for NASA and DOD. We will need to have high level personnel from these agencies, and industry involved in supplying deployable I-level or O-Level test systems or components to these agencies. Our potential team needs to have genuine AUTOMATIC TEST EQUIPMENT experience before it would be considered viable. Please contact <Vincent.R.Lalli@grc.nasa.gov> if you would like to work on this team.

IEEE Officers' Positions Open

The Cleveland IEEE Section is in need of volunteers to fill a few of the open officers' slots. Officers needed include:

- **Webmaster**
- **Membership Chairman**
- **Cleveland Technical Society Council Rep**
- **Chairman for the Vehicular Technology**

Society Chapter

Please contact Allen Morinec at (216) 447-2505 or HYPERLINK "mailto:powerquality@ieee.org" or any of the other IEEE officers if you are interested.

Power Engineering News: ElectroExpo Trade Show in Cleveland March 29-30th

by Allen Morinec

The Electrical League of Ohio proudly announces that its triennial electrical/electronic trade show will be held March 29 and 30, 2000, at the Cleveland Convention Center. Electro Expo has attracted over 300 exhibitors and more than 7,500 show goers at their last show. This year's show promises to be bigger and better than ever!

The trade show will kick off with an opening dinner on Tuesday, March 29, at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Cleveland. The guest speaker will be Mike Zafirovski, President and CEO of GE Lighting.

We invite you to participate in one of the most successful electrical trade shows in the country. The show is open to the public from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. each day. This is a great opportunity to have your products seen by thousands of industry decision makers. Show attendees include electrical contractors, architects, engineers, electrical inspectors, industrial users, building owners and managers.

Electro Expo 2000 offers exhibitor booths, seminars, sponsorship and bus subsidies. This trade show may be free to IEEE members. Please contact Terri Hanna at (216) 221-8370 or HYPERLINK http://www.hanna.mktg.com/el/el_expo.html for more information.

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Webmaster		
Website:	http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/cleveland/	
News Group Mgr.	Richard Bloss	216-464-0405
FAX		216-464-0490
e-mail:	aa974@cleveland.freenet.edu	

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The line is open twenty-four hours per day.**



Cleveland Section

Editor:
M. Greene

Art Director:
Jeff Greene

Advertising Manager:
Lee Bernasek

IEEE Chairman:
Allen G. Morinec

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