

## SSCS Meeting Minutes, June 25, 2009

THE IEEE/LVS/SSCS CHAPTER MET AT THE KUTZTOWN TAVERN, KUTZTOWN, PA ON JUNE 25, 2009 AT 6:00 PM. ATTENDING MEMBERS WERE:

<b>Russell Foster</b>	REF, LLC
<b>Roger Fratti</b>	LSI
<b>Roger Minear</b>	AGERE, RET.
<b>Jack Moriarty</b>	ZARLINK
<b>Ian Rippke</b>	AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES
<b>Robert Peruzzi</b>	R. PERUZZI CONSULTING

### Agenda Items and Discussion

- **Plan LVS/SSCS broad goals and technical activities. What is our *raison d'être*?**
  - QUESTION FROM **Minear**: WHAT ARE THE LVS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES? (**Peruzzi** TO FIND OUT AND REPLY TO ALL.)
  - DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM **Foster**: HOW CAN LEHIGH VALLEY ENGINEERS REGAIN MOMENTUM AFTER OUR LOSS OF CRITICAL MASS OVER THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, AND WHAT ARE PRESENT AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES?
    - WHY DIDN'T WE HAVE LVS/SSCS UNTIL NOW?
      - LOCAL SSCS MEMBERS WERE THE HEART AND SOUL OF NATIONAL SSCS BACK IN 1985 AND A LOCAL CHAPTER SEEMED REDUNDANT.
    - THERE IS A LOT OF MONEY AVAILABLE FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PROJECTS. HOW DO WE GET SOME OF IT?
    - PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW ELECTRONICS FITS IN TO ALTERNATIVE ENERGY?
      - POWER MANAGEMENT ICs SUCH AS DC-DC CONVERTERS AND LDOs, SMART GRID, APPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL CONTROL SYSTEMS TO ELECTRICAL POWER INDUSTRY. BASICALLY, SYSTEM-LEVEL APPLICATION OF SIGNAL PROCESSING TECHNIQUES WE ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY.
    - **Consensus**: WE SHOULD OPEN A DIALOG WITH POWER INDUSTRY ENGINEERS TO UNCOVER PROBLEMS WE CAN MUTUALLY SOLVE. **Good topic for future meetings or even a symposium.**
  - DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM **Rippke**: OUR CHAPTER IS SMALL, AND THIS FIRST MEETING IS ATTENDED BY ONLY 10% OF THE MEMBERSHIP. HOW CAN WE GENERATE MORE INTEREST, AND WHAT ROLE CAN IEEE/LVS PLAY IN IMPROVING OUR PRESENT LEHIGH VALLEY SITUATION?
    - **Consensus**: TRY TO REACH CRITICAL MASS BY FORMING A LOCAL CONGLOMERATION OF ALL SOCIETIES RELATED TO THE BROADER CATEGORY OF ELECTRONICS. THAT WOULD INCLUDE SSCS, CIRCUITS AND SYSTEMS, ELECTRON DEVICES AND MICROWAVE THEORY AND TECHNIQUES – MAYBE

OTHERS. IT MAY MAKE SENSE TO DIVIDE THESE SOCIETIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, BUT LVS MEMBERS WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH A COMBINED "ELECTRONICS" SOCIETY.

- DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM **Minear**: OUR LVS/SSCS CHAPTER CAN HELP OUR MEMBERS FIND WORK IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY AND ELSEWHERE THROUGH NETWORKING. SOME OF THE GIANTS OF THE INDUSTRY ARE STILL IN THE AREA, SOME RETIRED AND SOME ACTIVELY WORKING. DRAWING ON THEIR CONNECTIONS TO PRESENT AND PAST COLLEAGUES WE COULD FORM A SO-CALLED OLD BOY'S NETWORK TO HELP OUR COLLEAGUES SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF A LIST OF AT&T LOCAL SPINOFFS AND IEEE CONTACTS THERE.
  - **Consensus**: LINKED IN CAN PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK
  - **Peruzzi**: I ALREADY, IF INADVERTENTLY, CREATED AN IEEE/LVS/SSCS GROUP ON LINKEDIN AND WILL TEST AND ANNOUNCE IT VERY SOON
- DISCUSSION TOPIC **Rippke**: WE SHOULD BE SURE TO INCLUDE STUDENT BRANCH MEMBERS OF IEEE IN ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES, AND WE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE PHYSICS MAJORS FROM KUTZTOWN U.
  - **Consensus**: TOTAL AGREEMENT. THIS BENEFIT STUDENTS AS WELL AS REGULAR MEMBERS
- DISCUSSION TOPIC FROM **Peruzzi**: PAPER STUDY GROUPS FROM TIME TO TIME. ATTENDEES STUDY AND PRESENT AN OUTLINE OF CURRENT JSSC PAPERS.
  - GOOD IDEA, ESPECIALLY FOR STUDENT CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT
  - SSCS CONFERENCES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET. HOLDING A MEETING AROUND SUCH A WEBCAST MAY BE USEFUL.
  - RECENT CHANGE TO PE EXAM FORMAT REDUCES OR ELIMINATES THE ELECTRICAL POWER AND THE COMPUTER ENGINEERING MATERIAL FOR THOSE CONCENTRATING IN ELECTRONICS. THOSE OF US WHO SAT FOR THE EIT EXAM BACK BEFORE THE GENERAL ENGINEERING TOPICS EVAPORATED FROM OUR MEMORIES, BUT CONSIDERED THE PE LICENSE NOT TO BE WORTH THE EFFORT MIGHT RECONSIDER IT NOW. A STUDY GROUP FOR THIS PURPOSE? MAYBE.
- **Immediate administrative issues**
  - ELECTION OF OFFICERS
    - WE AGREED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS AFTER THE KICKOFF MEETING TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER AND HOLD ELECTIONS BY INTERNET BALLOT SOON AFTER
  - TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS UNTIL ELECTION
    - CHAIR: **Peruzzi**
    - VICE CHAIR: **Rippke**
    - TREASURER: **Minear**
    - SECRETARY: OPEN. DUTIES TO BE SHARED BY **Peruzzi** AND **Rippke** FOR NOW. **Minear** SUGGESTS **Kouros Azimi** MIGHT BE CONVINCED TO VOLUNTEER.

- APPLICATION FOR SSCS FUNDING
  - \$2000 YEARLY SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES IS AVAILABLE, AS ARE SPECIAL GRANTS FOR IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE KICKOFF MEETING. **MINEAR**
- FURTHER MEETINGS
  - WE WILL HAVE A MEETING IN JULY AND AUGUST RATHER THAN SUSPEND FOR THE SUMMER
  - POST-KICKOFF, **Ico Koullias'** NAME WAS SUGGESTED AS AN INTERESTING SPEAKER TO TELL FIRST HAND OF HIS EXPERIENCE STARTING, RUNNING AND GROWING BUSINESSES
  - ANOTHER IEEE MEMBER WHO FORMERLY TOOK AN ACTIVE ROLE IS **Glen Offord**. IT WAS SUGGESTED WE CONTACT HIM AND RECRUIT HIS PARTICIPATION
  - ONGOING DIALOG, JOINT MEETING OR SYMPOSIUM WITH ELECTRICAL POWER CHAPTER TO DISCOVER WAYS ELECTRONICS CAN BE APPLIED TO SOLVE POWER PROBLEMS
- KICKOFF MEETING PLANS
  - LEHIGH UNIVERSITY WAS SUGGESTED, AND AGREED TO BY EVEN THE READING PARTICIPANTS
  - WAITING FOR AVAILABLE DATES FROM **Prof. Tom Lee**. **AI: Peruzzi to follow up ASAP**
  - SITE DETAILS: ROOM WITH TABLES OR AUDITORIUM? **AI: Peruzzi to ask Tom Lee ASAP**

### **Action Items Summary**

- **Peruzzi**
  - FIND AND REPORT LVS GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES
  - FINISH PREPARING AND ANNOUNCE THE LINKEDIN GROUP FOR IEEE/LVS/SSCS
  - FOLLOW UP WITH **Prof. Tom Lee** AS TO HIS AVAILABLE DATES AND PREFERRED ENVIRONMENT FOR KICKOFF MEETING.
- **Minear**
  - PREPARE APPLICATION FOR \$2000 ANNUAL SSCS FUNDING
- **All**
  - PREPARE IDEAS ON HOW TO ESTABLISH AN ONGOING DIALOG, JOINT MEETING OR SYMPOSIUM WITH ELECTRICAL POWER CHAPTER TO DISCOVER WAYS ELECTRONICS CAN BE APPLIED TO SOLVE POWER PROBLEMS

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ROBERT PERUZZI  
CHAIR (PRO TEM)  
IEEE/LVS/SSCS