

ELECTRON

Institute Of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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THE IEEE CHARLOTTE SECTION NEWSLETTER

October 1997

IEEE POWER ENGINEERING SOCIETY MEETING

FIELD TRIP TO THE SCE&G COPE FOSSIL PLANT

Come and join us for a fun and exciting trip to the Carolina's newest coal-fired plant. Cope was designed and constructed by Duke Energy's subsidiary, Duke/Fluor Daniel. It is a 400 MW coal-fired unit built with expansion capability for a second unit. The focus of the tour will be the station's power system. For those that are familiar with Duke's coal fired units, the latest of which was Belews Creek completed in the early '70s, it should be quite an eye opener to see what 20 years has done to the advancement in power system equipment.

DATE: Friday, October 17

COST: Lunch and snacks will be provided for IEEE members.
Non-members cost is \$6.00.

RESERVATIONS: Reservations are required. We are limited to 25 people so please sign up early.
Please contact one of the following:
Lee Underwood 426-3016
Steve Ladd 382-6656
Chris Clippinger 382-9333

SCHEDULE: 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Duke Energy pool car Garage
8:30 a.m. Depart in two vans
11:00 a.m. Lunch
12:30-3:30 p.m. Tour
6:00 p.m. Back at Duke Energy

BROWN BAG LUNCH - RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR

SPEAKER: Charles C. Stoner
First Vice President of Investment, Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

For some of us, retirement or separation from an employer may come at a time that we least expect. The decisions you make in terms of pension payouts and savings plan distributions can impact your future lifestyle. It is never too early to plan for the future. This retirement planning seminar will be presented by our guest speaker, Charles C. Stoner, a Retirement Planning Specialist and First Vice President of Investment for Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.

Please join us for a free, retirement planning lunch time seminar. Bring your lunch and the IEEE Charlotte Section will provide drinks while they last. No reservations are required.

DATE: Monday, October 20

TIME: 12 noon - 1:00 p.m.

ACE: Duke Energy Center, O. J. Miller Auditorium
526 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC

CHARLOTTE SECTION MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 15

Communications Society Meeting
Tuesday, October 21

Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 12

Charlotte Section Annual Banquet
Thursday, November 20

Executive Committee Meeting
Annual Planning Meeting
Wednesday, December 10

CATHY'S CHATS



BOO!!! Trick or Treat!! These familiar expressions remind us that a visit from our neighborhood ghosts and goblins is fast approaching. We can either treat these specters or prepare to be tricked!

Meetings

No need to worry about that from your IEEE Executive Committee...only treats in store for the rest of the year. The Charlotte Section is sponsoring a retirement planning session and the PES is hosting their annual field trip. Details on both can be found on the front page.

Annual Banquet & Elections

Our annual banquet is planned for November. Please note that the date has been changed to **Wednesday, November 19**. John Tannery, Vice Chairman, has invited an excellent speaker and we plan to elect the Section's 1998 officers that evening. I hope many of you plan to attend. Thanks to Bill Whitlock and the Awards & Nominating committee for developing the slate of Section officers and directors for 1998 (see article below). Please take the time to consider this list of nominations and where you can volunteer for the upcoming year. With elections in mind, I hope each of you completed and returned your IEEE ballot. By voting, the IEEE can truly be an organization that serves and supports your interests.

Members In Action

The Executive Committee is hard at work trying to keep operations running smoothly and continue sponsoring monthly programs. Thanks to Natalie Sayles for straightening the bank out on our checking accounts. We appreciate the support from our retired members (particularly Carol Mullis and Roscoe White). They attend Executive Committee meetings regularly and provide valuable input. And, thanks to Natalie and Carol again for their help with the August picnic. A successful presentation on Lotus Notes® in September was hosted by the Computer Society. With school back in session, it was great to see the students again. Thanks to John Jacomino for providing the program and hosting us at the IBM facility.

NCSE '97 & N.C. Council

NCSE '97 on Wireless Communications held in September was a great success. I saw many new faces and met IEEE members that had recently moved to the Charlotte area. I also attended the N.C. Council business meeting where the 1998 elections were held.

Southcon

The Section and Region are already planning for the new year with Southcon being held in Orlando, Florida in March, 1998. With a growing focus on continuing education, North Carolina is planning to host tutorials in April, 1998 as an extension of Southcon. Keep reading the Electron in the next few months for details.

Remember that we trying to meet your needs with our technical and social meetings. Please feel free to contact any Executive Committee member if you have ideas on programs, comments, or want to volunteer for a committee. Hope to see many of you over the next few months.

Cathy Hope
Charlotte Section Chair

DICK RIDDLE RUNNING FOR REGION 3 DIRECTOR

Mr. Dick Riddle is candidate for Region 3 Director. Dick has been active in IEEE for more than 20 years, holding various offices including Winston-Salem Section Chair and N.C. Council Chair. Dick is currently Region 3 PACE Coordinator.

As PACE Coordinator, Dick founded the Employment Assistance Program in Region 3 which grew into a nationwide program in all U.S. IEEE Regions. Dick is a retired Bell Labs employee.

There are two other candidates running

for Region 3 Director; neither of which are from North Carolina. Dick would appreciate your support in this upcoming election.

1998 SECTION OFFICER & DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The following members have been nominated to serve in the indicated section positions for 1998. Elections will be held at the Annual Section Banquet in November. Additional nominations may be made by petition or from the floor at the Banquet.

Chair

John Tannery

Secretary

Natalie Little Sayles

Directors

Roscoe White

Vice Chair

Becky Harrison

Treasurer

Tracy Blackmon

Carol Mullis

Kale Meade

Dave Pullen

THANKS!

Our thanks to the following companies for their generous door prizes for the 1997 Summer Picnic: General Electric Company, Mec-Tric Control Company, Jake Rudisill Associates, Robert W. Chapman & Company.

ENCRYPTION BILL

In letters sent in July to the chairs of the Senate Judiciary and Commerce, Science and Transportation Committees, IEEE-USA joined with the ACM (formerly Association for Computing Machinery) to urge defeat of the Secure Public Networks Act (S. 909). According to the letter: "National security and public safety will be weakened by the mandated introduction of constrained or recoverable-key encryption. We also believe that such action will hinder U.S. competitiveness in international markets, establish a dangerous precedent for the future, and endanger cherished civil liberties in the United States and elsewhere in the world."

TORT REFORM ADVANCES

President Clinton on June 18 signed the Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-19) into law. The new law clarifies and restricts the potential liability of volunteers who serve on non-profit association boards and committees such as the IEEE. However, it does not address liability issues related to "good Samaritan" situations, such as engineers who act in a personal capacity during an emergency. Congress is also looking at two new bills that would further expand the liability restrictions to include the individuals' organizations. IEEE-USA has supported passage of volunteer protection legislation at the state level for years through the American Tort Reform Association (ATRA).

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY MEDAL SEEKS NOMINEES

The Commerce Department has issued a call for nominations for the 1998 National Medal of Technology. Nominations are due by Sept. 30, 1997. Eligible nominees include individuals, teams, companies, or organizations with important accomplishments in the innovation, development, commercialization, and management of technology through new or significantly improved products, processes, or services. The National Medal of Tech-

nology Evaluation Committee, comprised of independent private sector technology experts, reviews the nominations and forwards its recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce, who then forwards them to the President for final decision. The program honors winners at a White House ceremony. The five 1997 Medal winners were all IEEE members: Norman R. Augustine (Lockheed-Martin); Ray M. Dolby (Dolby Laboratories, Inc.); Robert S. Ledley, Jr. (Georgetown University Medical Center); Vinton G. Cerf (MCI); and Robert E. Kahn (Corporation for National Research Institutes). To obtain a nomination packet, send a message to NMT@mail.ta.doc.gov.

WHAT IEEE-USA'S TRANSITION YEAR MEANS FOR U.S. MEMBERS (PART I)

by Daniel Benigni, Chair, IEEE United States Activities Board

The new Bylaws for IEEE-USA will take effect on January 1, 1998, and what is now known as "IEEE United States Activities" (IEEE-USA) will become "IEEE United States of America." What does this change mean to you -- the U.S. members of the IEEE? Is this just a cosmetic change? What will the effects be, and will they benefit you? Why should you care? I will address these important questions over the next few months in a series of articles designed to keep you up-to-date on the actual transition and on my priorities for this year.

The new Bylaws were written to: (1) make USAB a more autonomous, self-governing IEEE entity; and (2) end the practice of the VP of Professional Activities automatically assuming the role of USAB Chair -- some basic, but important, objectives.

Although the Bylaws do not take effect until next year, we are preparing now for a new IEEE-USA Board configuration, which includes four new offices to be filled when you, the U.S. members, vote. At our February 1997 Board meeting in San Antonio, USAB endorsed the candidates nominated for all positions. There are two candidates each for President, President-Elect, Member-at-large for a one-year term, and Member-at-large for a two-year term. [We also have a petition process if any of you wish to run for any of these positions.] In subsequent years, the election will only be for President-Elect and one Member-at-large (the other candidates are being elected this year only, as it is a transitional time).

The real historical significance is that for the very first time, you, and not the IEEE Assembly, will decide who is going to lead IEEE-USA. The person you choose will not have the separate responsibility as Vice President of Professional Activities -- that title and position will no longer exist on January 1, 1998.

Your Vote is Vital

This is your opportunity to make your IEEE vote count as never before, since the first few Presidents of IEEE-USA that you elect will set the tone for the future of the organization. Pay close attention to their campaigns, to their ideas for the future, and to their commitment to positive change. What they want to accomplish will be the mandate you give to whom-ever wins. To me this is a most exciting new benefit for U.S. members. Another milestone is that these changes will be taking place in 1998, exactly 25 years after USAB's founding.

The title of IEEE-USA President may seem confusing to some, and that's understandable. The writers of the new Bylaws and the USAB Board felt strongly that the title is of utmost importance. The President of IEEE-USA will now unequivocally speak only for IEEE members in the United States. When that person speaks to Congress, to the White House, to the media, or to industry, he or she will be speaking for you more directly than ever before. When that person says 'I represent 220,000 IEEE members,' there will be no confusion as to who those members are. The IEEE President will still represent the global/transnational IEEE, and the two should not be confused.

The Member-at-large (MAL) positions represent another new benefit to U.S. members. The MALs are representatives of ALL of the IEEE's U.S. members. They do not represent a particular geographic area or technical specialty. This allows the MAL to be unencumbered by not having to respond to the will of a particular constituency. The MAL is, in effect, the eyes, ears, and voice of all U.S. members. The MAL has no formal portfolio of duties assigned by the new Bylaws, is 'at-large', and able to participate in specific IEEE-USA activities of interest to the MAL (with the concurrence of the cognizant IEEE-USA officers).

These are just a few of the new benefits that your membership and your ballot will give you this year, as we prepare for 1998. I would appreciate hearing from you through the IEEE-USA Office at 202-785-0017 or by e-mail at d.benigni@ieec.org.

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ELECTRON ARTICLES & COMMENTS

Send articles for publication and newsletter comments and corrections to me at Duke Power Co.-EC12R, P.O. Box 1006, Charlotte NC 28201-1006, p.colaianni@ieee.org or 704/382-5632/-0368 Fax. —R.Paul Colaianni, *ELECTRON* Editor

IEEE-UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES

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