

Chairman's Update

(By Chris M. Finen, P.E.)

Well we are off and running in 2003! The new Executive Committee is in place and has already begun with some exciting plans for the Central TN Section. I have very fortunate to have a very capable, creative and energetic group of fellow officers. These dedicated volunteers bring a wealth of experience and innovative ideas on how to stimulate IEEE in the area.

The Executive Committee consists of myself as Chairman, Mike Puckett as Vice Chairman, Andy Dozier as Secretary, and David Tiller as Treasurer. This is the first time we have been able to split the Secretary and Treasurer positions into separate responsibilities, which should greatly help us accomplish our initiatives for the year. Also holding other key committee roles for the section are BJ Safdie as Program Chairman and Bill Sims as Membership Development Chairman. I am excited to be serving with such a capable staff...but we could still use more active volunteer support to accomplish our goals.

Already the Executive Committee has launched several new initiatives designed to help establish IEEE as THE leading technical society in Central TN. Some key initiatives for the Executive Committee include: enhancing communication with our membership, gaining wider publicity and recognition for IEEE activities / events, offering more new technical conferences and seminars, enhancing student chapters and activities, and establishing IEEE as the leading technical society in the area.

Hopefully, you have already seen efforts in enhancing communications. Membership communication is being enhanced through the www.ieeentraltn.org website and through IEEE e-mail notices. I highly recommend that each member make sure their e-mail information is updated with IEEE (www.ieee.org/membership). I also encourage you to utilize the E-mail alias service as a simple way to keep your e-mail address up to date with IEEE. We are also now publicizing meetings in local periodicals, publications, and other community calendars. This new publicity is focused on increasing involvement in the IEEE activities and increasing IEEE membership.

We are launching a new Professional Seminar Series on March 28th. The Professional Seminar Series is a series of very focused, highly technical programs on specific topics that are at the forefront of technology today. These sessions will typically be 2 – 3 hour sessions in the evenings. The Professional Seminar Series is a great way to increase technical knowledge, gain Professional Development Hour credits, and interact with technical leaders in the area.

We are continuing the development of active student chapter activities that was begun by Andy Dozier. Already the Student Chapters have conducted an IEEE Student Employer's reception targeted at linking graduating students and potential employers and a "Fastest Geek" Computer building competition. Upcoming events for students include a Student Professional Awareness Conference and the Southeast Con competitions.

The Executive Committee is reaching out and establishing links with other related professional organizations in the area to help boost membership and awareness of IEEE activities. By combining our resources and working together with other area technical societies, we can offer more benefits, activities, and technical resources to members.

Your Executive Committee is working diligently for you on these and other initiatives within IEEE. We desperately need more volunteer involvement in order to reach the goals. I encourage you to contact me if you have any suggestions, feedback, or would be willing to volunteer to assist in some of these activities (cfinen@ieee.org). Please come out and support the local chapter at the various upcoming events that are scheduled. IEEE offers tremendous opportunities to learn, network, and volunteer with the over 380,000 members worldwide.