



# IEEE Central Tennessee Section Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July, 2004

## Chairperson's Update

As we pass the halfway point in the year, I want to ask our members what IEEE and particularly IEEE Central Tennessee is to them. Is the IEEE just source for journals? Is it just a source for Professional Development Hours? Is IEEE Central Tennessee worth our time and effort?

I believe strongly that the IEEE Central Tennessee is worth the effort. So do a core of leaders who have worked hard to keep IEEE Central Tennessee growing – people like our Executive Committee members, Chris Finen, Mike Pucket, Mike Williams, and other constants like Bill Sims and Andy Dozier. We owe them, and unnamed others, heartfelt thanks and respect for their dedication

and contributions.

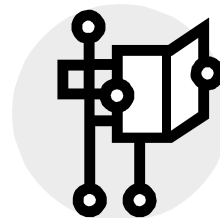
I came to IEEE Central Tennessee as an outsider – having lived in the New York area for most of my career. Last year, I reluctantly accepted the post of Program Chairman – as a new person, I was not sure I knew enough about Central Tennessee Members and their needs. I have gotten a bit more confident and a bit more involved. I see that IEEE can grow from the strong base that our dedicated leaders have established.

The only way that we can grow and expand what IEEE Central Tennessee accomplishes is if we grow the ranks of our leaders and volunteers. Over the years, we have all benefited from the efforts of

those handfuls of people who kept us going and growing. The sad fact is that they have carried too much of the load. Leaders work hard, often get burned out and, luckily, we have found people to step up to the task. While these peoples' efforts are Herculean, we still need more help.

On a very basic level, we have not been able to fill important volunteer positions such as Program Chair, Gold Chair, and Webmaster. And, right now, we need people to step up and begin work on our 2005 Election Committees. On another

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**Read on for IEEE Central Tennessee News and Happenings.**

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## The Rewards of Volunteering

One of my top priorities in my year in office is to focus on areas of strategic importance. Volunteerism is one of the most important. On a recent visit to our New Jersey office, I was surprised to hear the results of a recent survey, which suggested that most members are only vaguely, if at all, familiar with ways in which they can volunteer for the IEEE.

The IEEE is very fortunate to have a dedicated and very professional staff that supports its daily operations, but volunteerism is, and always has been, a core value of our organization. It's our volunteers who lead the IEEE at many levels and in many ways. Your elected and appointed officers, whether at the local or national level, are all volunteers.

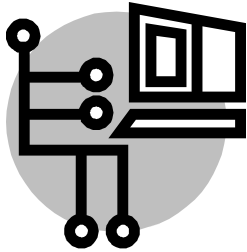
Editors, reviewers, authors, and conference organizers are volunteers, too. And there are numerous committee activities, including accreditation, pre-college, and public policy, for which volunteers carry out the work.

I recognize that many of you are very busy, and

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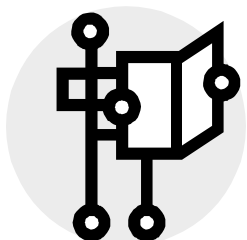
### Special points of interest:

- Former IEEE President, Michael Adler: "volunteerism is, and always has been, a core value of our organization."
- Volunteering not only helps IEEE, but also can improve your professional skills.
- We need Central Tennessee professionals to volunteer to work on exciting new IEEE projects.



**We need more people to help. We need more people to give back to their profession.**

**The Tennessean, July 2, 2004: "Teachers say education mandate leaves science behind."**



**IEEE is so much more than just magazines and meetings.**

## Chairperson's Update (from page 1)

level, there is so much more we as IEEE members can do for our profession and our communities. I cannot remember the author (any error in the quote is mine), but someone once said,

***"The mark of a true professional is not just what they know, but also what they give back to their profession."***

We need more people to help.

We need more people to give back to their profession.

IEEE is so much more than just magazines and meetings. It is about networking with peers and employers. It is about helping students learn to love science and engineering. It is about helping our communities to understand the importance and contributions of science and engineering in their lives. It is about each of us being involved in our profession.

This year, we will continue to have compelling speakers at our meetings, but we need your help for expanding what we do. Here are some programs that are in the works:

### IEEE & Metro Schools

We are beginning a relationship with the Metro Public School System. This Fall, we will be helping the Martin Luther King Magnet School launch a Robotics Club. Further, in July we met with Dr. Garcia and his staff to discuss more of what the IEEE can do. One fairly easy thing might be to connect them with the IEEE Faraday Lecture web-

cast. Another might be IEEE providing an occasional guest speaker to a K through 12 science or engineering class

### Engineers Week 2005

We are beginning to plan IEEE participation in Engineers' Week at the beginning of next year. Adventure Science Center is hosting an Engineering Weekend as a part of the festivities, and it will be great if IEEE can have a presence there, as well at any events in Tullahoma and Cookeville. Moreover, we need to get IEEE attendance up at the All Engineers' Banquet.

### Wireless Recognition

To get IEEE's name out there more, look for us in the news, and even in your local coffee shop. We are beginning a program to present recognition certificates to local businesses that are making IEEE 802.11 networks available to the public.

### TEC Support

We need to continue our support of the Tennessee Engineering Center (TEC). We need to get out there and solicit personal and corporate donations to help pay off the last part of the mortgage. The TEC is a significant resource in promoting science and engineering in Tennessee.

### MTATS Formation

Huntsville has a vibrant community of professional societies. The Huntsville Association of Technical Societies (HATS) provides a focal point for cooperation and coordination among Huntsville's professional organizations. Last year,

the Executive Committee voted to have IEEE take the lead in establishing a similar kind of organization here in Central Tennessee. The Middle Tennessee Association of Technical Societies (MTATS) is in the process of formation. Along with other organizations like the Project Management Institute and the Association of IT Professionals, we hope to expand the kinds of programs and services we provide our members through cooperation and shared services. We hope to get this new asset to Central Tennessee incorporated this Fall.

### Industry Relations

We are looking for more local businesses to partner with us in providing informative presentations and programs, and in sponsoring events.

What else can we do? The answer is anything we want – as long as we have the volunteers to help with ideas and effort. Efforts like these make Central Tennessee a better place for technical professionals, and a more attractive place for businesses with engineering jobs. It is time to step up, folks. There is lots of work to do, and we need your help.

Send me an email, or call me so that we can discuss how you can help.

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June 28, 2004

may sometimes find it hard to make time to volunteer. In fact, in the survey I cited, many of you told us that your time is at a premium. As you seek to balance your personal and professional lives, I hope you will consider the rewards of volunteering for the IEEE.

For me, the rewards have been great. My career has been enriched by what I have been exposed to as a volunteer. I have improved my "soft skills," including my ability to run meetings, solve problems, understand finances, and even how to deal effectively with others when we don't see eye-to-eye. I have also valued the professional exchanges on technical topics that I've had the good fortune to have with my fellow members.

I feel very strongly that we

need to promote the importance of engineering as a profession, and that we need to encourage young people to consider engineering as a career. The IEEE is a great organization that does a lot for engineering by maintaining a global community of professionals. Volunteering is one way to give back something to the profession that has been the cornerstone of our careers.

As IEEE members, we all come from different places and experiences. Being able to share our backgrounds, work experiences, and technical ideas makes us all better and smarter people. Finally, and yet the most valuable aspect of volunteering, is the number of long-lasting friendships I have made along the way.

Dan Benigni, a former vice

president of IEEE Regional Activities and this past year's Sections Congress chair, said it best: "You haven't made the most of your IEEE membership unless you have volunteered."

If you are currently a volunteer, thank you. I hope you are finding your efforts personally and professionally rewarding. Please see what you can do about convincing some of your colleagues to get involved. If you are not presently volunteering, but would like to get involved, please send [an email to, or phone, one of your Executive Committee Members (see page 4) ] who can discuss the opportunities.

*Mike Adler, former IEEE President, From The Institute, President's Column, March, 2003*

## IEEE Member Awarded Young Engineer of the Year

Mr. Thomas Shane Kirby was recognized as the TSPE Young Engineer of the Year. Mr. Kirby is an electrical engineer with I. C. Thomasson Associates, Inc. in Nashville.

Mr. Kirby's professional achievements include his work as the lead electrical designer for the Belmont University Beaman Student Life and Curb Event Center

and the Yazoo City (MS) Federal Correctional Institution.

Mr. Kirby is also the electrical engineer for Nashville's new Schemerhorn Symphony Concert Hall.

A graduate of Tennessee Technological University, Mr. Kirby is a member of IEEE, NSPE, NFPA, and the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and

Surveying. Mr. Kirby is actively involved with youth, having been a mentor in the ACE Mentoring program and continually serving as a youth basketball and baseball coach for Hendersonville Parks.

Mr. Kirby is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee and Alabama.

*From The TSPE Newsletter*

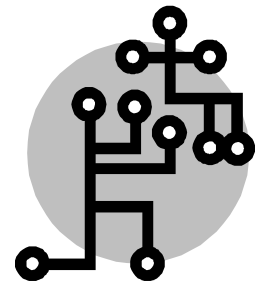
## 2005 Elections

We need volunteers to participate in the Nominating Committee and the Teller's Committee for the

2005 Executive Committee Elections.

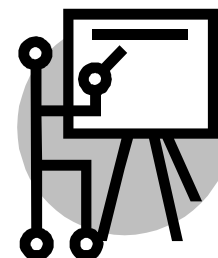
We got a late start on this

year because of election delays. You can help make this upcoming election go smoothly. Volunteer today!



**IEEE Volunteers help children at all levels learn and get excited about science.**

**"You haven't made the most of your IEEE membership unless you have volunteered."**



**Knowledgeable people like you are our best speakers**



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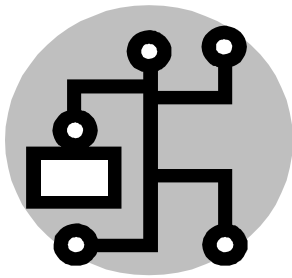
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**Are You Our Next Speaker?**

If you have a topic, and you think you might be interested in presenting at either a luncheon meeting or possibly in a seminar format, let us know! We can help you prepare your presentation and materials. Contact an ExCom member with your ideas.



**Contact an Executive Committee member and volunteer today!**

**IEEE Central Tennessee 2005 Executive Committee**

If you can volunteer and help us with some of our projects, please get in touch with any of the Executive Committee Members.

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