



IEEE *IEEE*Edmont Potential

A publication of the IEEE Piedmont Section - September 2006

Section Web page: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r3/piedmont/>

Council Web page: http://www.ieee.org/sc_council

Today's Engineer: <http://www.todaysengineer.org>

NEXT MEETING

“Retirement Myths”

Larry N. Grogan

Thursday, September 21, 2006

There have been many changes to retirement regulations since 2001. This presentation will cover many of those changes and provided detailed examples of how those changes can affect your retirement future.

We will also discuss specific financial planning strategies that can have a major impact on the value of your retirement assets.

Have you ever considered implementing the Net Unrealized Asset strategy to reduce your tax burden at retirement? What can I do to make my IRA last for multiple generations?

What current and future events may change my retirement lifestyle? What can I do now to give the greatest flexibility for tomorrow?

We will look at tax regulations, current workplace issues, and strategic planning issues you can implement today

to make tomorrow a better day for yourself. This presentation is suitable for all engineers, regardless of age, who want to make their retirement all that it

2006 IEEE Voting

IEEE has just announced that there is an error in the IEEE-USA section of the paper ballot. The names for the President-Elect and Member-at-Large positions are reversed. You will receive a second ballot for the IEEE-USA election. For your vote to count you will either have to vote the second ballot or vote electronically on the IEEE website.)

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should be.

Bio: Larry N. Grogan is President of Grogan Advisory Services. Serving IEEE since 2005, Grogan Advisory Services is an independent financial services firm focusing on planning to strategically guide their clients through life stages. Grogan Advisory Services offers complete financial planning, asset management, insurance, analytical portfolio analysis, and consultation.

Meeting Details:

6:30pm Dinner/Social 1/2 Hour

7:00pm Meeting begins

Dinner will be served from Fatz Cafe. Dinner cost is \$10 for members and guests, \$5 for unemployed members, and free for students (no charge to attend). The meeting location is ECPI College of Technology, 1001 Keys Drive #100, Greenville, SC 29615. Please email Jerry Clark (jclark89@hotmail.com) if you plan to attend and especially if you plan to eat.

IEEE-USA Legislative Alert

Congress will return from their August recess on September 5th. That will leave about five weeks before Congress' predicted adjournment date in early October. Between then and now Congress must pass a dozen major pieces of legislation on top of several dozen smaller bills that it would like to pass.

Within this busy schedule are several pieces of IEEE-USA's 2006 legislative agenda that still need to be voted on.

The best tool that we have to attract legislators' attention is the voices of our members. As we approach the November election, elected officials will be increasingly aware of what their voters are saying. Letters, e-mail and phone calls from a relatively few voters could have an enormous impact on which bills Congress passes this year.

There are two pieces of legislation in particular that our members need to know about because of their potential to impact their profession. They are:

- The American Competitiveness Initiative. This bill will drastically increase the amount the Federal government spends each year on basic research, \$10 billion in 2007 alone. It will also increase spending on education and students at all levels. This bill represents a huge investment in our high-tech economy and our high-tech workforce, but it is at risk as other groups push their preferred spending programs in front of it. Legislators need to hear that their voters support this program and understand its importance to their local communities.

- Immigration reform. While other issues have gotten most of the headlines, Congress is considering provisions that could significantly impact engineers. These include a significant increase in the H-1B temporary visa program and even larger increases in high-skill permanent immigration. While IEEE-USA has long supported shifting the focus of U.S. immigration policy from temporary visas to permanent

immigration and Green Cards, the policies currently being discussed by Congress go way beyond what the U.S. economy could reasonable be expected to absorb.

Two other issues have the potential to have a smaller impact on the engineering profession, but will still help. These are two caucuses IEEE-USA has helped to found within Congress. The Caucuses organize legislators who support technology and help them pass legislation to achieve this end. The two caucuses are the RFID Caucus and the Research and Development Caucus. IEEE-USA is urging more legislators to join them before the end of the year.

IEEE members who want more information on any of these issues can visit IEEE-USA's Legislative Action Center (LAC) here:

<https://www.capitolconnect.com/ieee>

Benefits of Wi-Fi Mesh Networks

The Institute

One silver cloud in last year's disastrous hurricane season was the way Wi-Fi technology helped at least some of the newly homeless to communicate when regular telephone service was down. In Houston, equipment from an experimental inner city wireless network was used to let thousands of people stranded in the Houston Astrodome find their loved ones. Now the same mesh technology has been added to the Wi-Fi standard, making wireless broadband networks, such as those planned for Philadelphia and San Francisco, cheaper and

more effective. Tune into this story on IEEE Spectrum Radio at:

<http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3611/00945600>

Marketplace of Ideas:

The Institute

An Internet Tax In May, a French member of the European Parliament suggested a Europe-wide tax on e-mail and cellphone text messages as a way to finance the European Union's rising costs associated with its expansion. Naturally, this prompted a swift outcry from bloggers and industry lobbying groups. Suggestions were also made to levy taxes on heavy users of network resources and e-mail from companies that send unsolicited promotional messages. Would you favor such taxes? Weigh in at institute@ieee.org

“The Best of TE on Career Survival”

IEEE-USA: Today's Engineer

New eBook Available: This compilation of articles on career

survival from IEEE-USA Today's Engineer magazine can help you find success in today's challenging job market. To survive in a changing world, engineers need to understand how the changing business ecosystem will affect their careers. This selection of articles will help readers increase situational awareness of the marketplace, learn how to assess the market and themselves, and how to identify steps to take to survive and remain competitive in today's competitive environment.

To purchase this eBook, visit: <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3560/108061>

Are You Prepared for Hurricane Season?

IEEE-USA: Today's Engineer

New IEEE Member Benefit Can Help You Weather the Storms: “Storm forecasters call for another very active season in 2006, with 17 named storms, nine hurricanes, and five intense hurricanes of Category 3,4, or 5,”

reports Kimberle Kennedy of ACE USA, in a white paper entitled “Extreme weather: events, trends & consumer impact.” The paper states that “in addition to uninsured property losses, victims of a natural disaster must continue to meet their ordinary obligations, including debt payments on mortgages and credit cards, while facing extraordinary expenses and potentially receiving less income or none at all.” IEEE will be the first association to offer ACE Disaster Mortgage Protection® to its U.S. members. Find out more about this product and other new member benefits, in “F.Y.I.,” the newsletter of the IEEE Financial Advantage Program.

Read on at: <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/3562/108061>

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