

Technology Policy and the Congress: Action on Innovation and Competitiveness

by Dr. Russell Lefevre

In the past year there have been a number of influential reports especially "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" from the National Academy of Engineering that have recommended a set of actions the country should take to improve our ability to compete in the new global environment. These recommendations have caused the U.S. Congress to take significant action and were highlighted in the President's State of the Union address. My talk will describe these legislative actions and point out what IEEE-USA staff and volunteers are doing to promote members concerns in the development of the legislation. I have had heavy personal involvement in this activity in my contacts with the staffs of over 20 Senators and many Representatives.

In December 2005, IEEE-USA initiated a member survey. The results were used to formulate a set of priorities. These include

- Improve member benefits
- Provide long term continuing education to help members manage their careers
- Improve science, engineering, and mathematics education for K-12
- Provide leadership in innovation to help the U.S. compete globally

The IEEE-USA Board under the leadership of Ralph Wyndrum, 2006 President, has formulated a set of responses to these member priorities. My talk will also address these responses.

I will conclude with a brief discussion of IEEE-USA Technology Policy activities. These are used to help define our legislative agenda and have had many successes.

National Academies Report Warns That US Could Lose "Privileged Position"

In a world where advanced knowledge is widespread and low-cost labor is readily available, US advantages in the marketplace and in science and technology have begun to erode. A comprehensive and coordinated federal effort is urgently needed to bolster US competitiveness and preeminence in these areas so that the nation will consistently gain from the opportunities offered by rapid globalization.

Citing the United States threatened position in the global economy, Members of the House Science Committee urged greater federal investment in K-12 education and scientific research and development. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nationalacademies.org/morenews/20051012.html>
<http://www.house.gov/science/hearings/full05/oct%2020/index.htm>
<http://www.house.gov/science/press/109/109-116.htm>

Communicate with Congress

IEEE-USA's improved Legislative Action Center will help the IEEE's U.S. members communicate with their elected officials. The tool gives U.S. IEEE members a private channel to their federal and state legislators. After logging in using their IEEE Web Account, members will be automatically linked to information about their federal and state elected officials, with up-to-date biographical and contact information. They can also easily send e-mails or faxes to any or all of their legislators. To access the IEEE-USA Legislative Action Center, go to <https://www.capitolconnect.com/ieee>.

SECTION MEETING Technology Policy Featuring: Dr. Russell Lefevre

Monday, June 26th, 6:30 pm
Mayo Medical Sciences Building
(321 3rd Avenue SW, Rochester)

► Pizza at 6:30; Meeting at 7:00 ◀

Dr. Russell Lefevre is the IEEE-USA Vice President, Technology Policy. He is a radar engineer with over 30 years experience. Dr. Lefevre has a B.S. and an M.S. in Physics from the University of North Dakota and a Ph.D in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is a Fellow of the IEEE.

IEEE Membership Portal

The IEEE membership portal boasts the value and benefits of IEEE membership while showcasing the availability of additional membership opportunities, such as Societies, Affinity Groups and the Standards Association. Links to member-benefit information are consolidated into drop-down menus on the top navigation bar. Also included are a "Featured Benefit" module, member profiles, membership-related announcements and more.

Members who login to the myIEEE area with their IEEE Web account will see personalized information, such as their grade, section affiliation and additional active memberships. A new feature called "Service Adviser" uses a member's technical interest profile to offer recommendations for IEEE membership offerings, conferences and publications. Links to the most commonly-used membership-management functions are included in a single module for easy access.

The portal is accessible from the Membership menu on the left navigation bar of the main IEEE Web site. The URL is

<http://www.ieee.org/myieee>.

Employment Resources

Electrical, electronics, computer and other electro-technology and information-technology professionals! Find your next great job through the IEEE Job Site! Search the job listings by technical area, title and location and find the next rung on your career ladder.

Any technology professional can search the Job Site listings, but you must be an IEEE member to take full advantage of this online recruitment service. Visit: careers.ieee.org and also

<http://www.todaysengineer.org/archive/career.asp>

Recruit A Colleague

Through the IEEE Member-Get-A-Member program, current members can receive a US \$5 credit toward next year's dues for every new member they recruit. Anyone who joins between now and the end of August pays half-year rates for a membership that runs through the rest of 2006.

For details on the IEEE Member-Get-A-Member program plus tips on recruitment, go to

http://www.ieee.org/web/volunteers/membership_dev/mgm.html

SURVEY

We haven't done a survey recently and we do value your input. This is your opportunity to influence what we present and how we operate.

Do you have a topic you would like to see presented. It can be a specific topic or a general request for a specified technology. If you know a particular speaker associated with the topic, please indicate the person's name and how to contact him/her.

Would you be **interested in Engineering in Medicine and Biology** topics? We are at a disadvantage at this time in that we do not have a Mayo employee on our Board. With help from one or more volunteers we can present some meetings and evaluate interest. Like the idea? Have specific suggestions? Please let us know.

Most of our meetings are cross discipline and presented as Section meetings to our full membership. It is also possible to have **Chapter meetings** for any of our Chapters that are more specialized and offered in formats such as luncheon or dinner meetings or

meetings during the day at work. Interested in more specialized Chapter meetings? Please share your idea(s).

If you do not live in Rochester and if we were to offer meetings using **web based presentations** and telephone audio, would you be willing to travel to a LOCAL meeting place for such a presentation?

Would you be interested in **helping** run your IEEE Section and its Chapters? You can get more information on various opportunities without committing yourself by providing your contact information. You must be an IEEE member in good standing. Not a member? It is easy to join - see <http://www.ieee.org>

Put your thoughts in a note and send it to Bill Gorder at w.gorder@ieee.org

This is our section. We look forward to your valued suggestions so we can continue to provide you the latest in technology presentations and activities of interest.



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