

**Scalability of your IEEE Membership:
Choices & Opportunities for Serving...
and for being Served!**

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A concept that I believe you will be hearing a lot about in the next few years is "Career Resiliency." As engineering students you are on the bleeding edges of technology use and creation. You have learned about computer technology tools with which you have done data collection, analysis and distillation into information. You are expert in electronic communications; email, word processing and power point presentation tools are already in your 'bag of tricks.' You have worked alone and in groups. You understand the concepts of networking, teamwork, and collaborative learning that get tasks done.

But in today's world of E-Commerce and Networking these skills are not enough. Scalability, performance, and reliability are king. IEEE can support your current and future needs in these areas if you are an IEEE member or volunteer.

You may not know that your IEEE is a 350,000 member professional society managed by several volunteer oversight Boards that cover education, publications, and standards activities as well as overlapping regional and technical activities Boards that interface with you, the member, through local IEEE Section and Chapter activities. No matter where you are in the world, there you are! You live or work in an IEEE Section that is in one of the ten IEEE Regions. If you belong to one, or more, of the 37 IEEE technical societies and 4 technical councils, you are also watched over by one, or more, of the IEEE Technical Divisions. In addition, here in Canada, you are fortunate to have the ability to use and develop professional activities programs at the local and national level that are managed by IEEE-Canada modeled after those created by the PACE Network of the IEEE-USA Board. These programs include learning and using leadership and managerial skills, and getting involved in career activities. Your IEEE-Canada Student Activities Committee provides project assistance and funding in cooperation with “RAB” - IEEE’s Regional Activities Board - for S-PACs, S-PAVes, and other professional activities options at the local, provincial and national level. (*Don’t understand the abbreviations I just used? Not many of the 30,000 IEEE volunteers do! Go online at <http://www.ieee.ca> to see what programs are available through IEEE-Canada that may be equivalent to the resources sponsored by IEEE-USA in Regions 1 through 6 – the United States - at <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.)*)

But why then have I equated IEEE with scalability, performance, and reliability?

Your contributions to IEEE, and your recognition from IEEE, are scalable. You may be just a member attending one or two technical meetings or conferences. That may be all you want or need from *your* IEEE. But your membership is scalable. You can choose to participate in those IEEE meetings and conferences as a speaker or organizer. You can kick your participation up a notch by becoming a volunteer leader at the local level for a Technical Society as a Chapter Committee Chair or Officer. Or, you might choose to become active in professional activities or even in the governance of all the activities in your local area by becoming a Section Committee Chair or Officer. Kick that choice up a notch and you might serve on your Technical Society or Regional Board of Governors. What's next? IEEE is scalable to the major entity Board level allowing leadership service at the Regional, Technical, Educational, Publications, and Standards Association Boards.

Exceptional IEEE members become one of our 2,000 volunteer leaders and role models.

A few hundred IEEE members chose to make it all the way, being elected a Society President, or as Director of a Region or Technical Division, still fewer become an IEEE vice-president, and several here in Region 7, IEEE-Canada, have chosen to seek service as President of the IEEE.

How far can YOU go?

Are you the next Wally Reed or Ray Findlay?

Where do you choose to volunteer today? Being a volunteer leads to on-the-job training in leadership, management, and presentation skills with a minimum of exposure to office politics. IEEE provides you with training at LOW RISK with HIGH REWARDS. Each step of the way you will have the opportunities to give and get training in leadership and management skills (especially if you join the IEEE Engineering Management Society!) that will improve your on-the-job performance. Many have remarked that their IEEE volunteer activities had helped them overcome their public speaking and presentation fears. Clearly IEEE helps us all increase our professionalism and performance.

Reliability is another of your keys to your tomorrow. Your Technical Society has publications and conferences you can rely on to inform you what the current and future state-of-the-art will be in your field. IEEE will be there when you need it. Need more reasons? Many IEEE members enjoy attractive discounts with IEEE life insurance, professional insurance and credit cards through the IEEE Financial Advantage program. How much does IEEE membership cost? How much is your future worth? Full IEEE membership dues, plus Engineering Management Society dues, are only about \$12/month. Why EMS? Management tools, baby – and Management skills!

And as a graduating student member, your dues are gradually increased while you are enjoying your local Section's GOLD affinity group activities:

- * Share resources and programs with other new graduates.
- * Get reliable leadership and management skills and training by volunteering.
- * Use IEEEExplore, your online portal into the IEEE technical publications for your technical area, when you need it, for little or no additional cost to members.
- * IEEE member Email aliases allow you to use a single email address linked to your service provider that can easily be changed when you change providers or travel – and they are 100% virus scanned.

And talk about reliability? Your IEEE has celebrated nearly 120 years of service.

Why IEEE?

With it you have career resiliency. Without it...

Now it's your turn to choose – will your choice be the path of an active or passive IEEE member? One who merely pays dues, or one who takes advantage of IEEE's scalability to climb the volunteer ladder that parallels the ladder of professional success.

You need to begin planning your future with IEEE now. Because, if you **fail to plan** for your future, you will most assuredly have **planned to fail** for yourself.

Charles P. Rubenstein earned a doctorate in bioengineering at the Polytechnic Institute of New York and a Masters in Library and Information Science at Pratt Institute.

*He is **Professor** of engineering and information science at **Pratt Institute's graduate School of Information and Library Science.***

He is a senior member of the IEEE and serves the IEEE in several volunteer positions including as Member-at-large of the IEEE Publication Services and Products Board, as Vice president -Member Relations of the IEEE Engineering Management Society, as IEEE-USA PACE Committee Technical Activities Board Representative, as Region 1 Area B Chair, and as Region 1 Electronic Communications Coordinator.

(Dr. Rubenstein served as Region 1 Student Activities Coordinator 1982 - 1984!)