



the **Life Members** newsletter

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**Winter
1995/1996**

I am pleased to report that we are finally getting closer to meeting our schedules. In particular, the profile letter (this used to be called our dues bill) was mailed in late October and the returns are coming in, even as I write. I would like to report that we have solved the problem with the new Life Member Algorithm, that seems to concern some of you, but I cannot. The delay is my fault. We will try to have the matter resolved at our meeting in April, 1996.

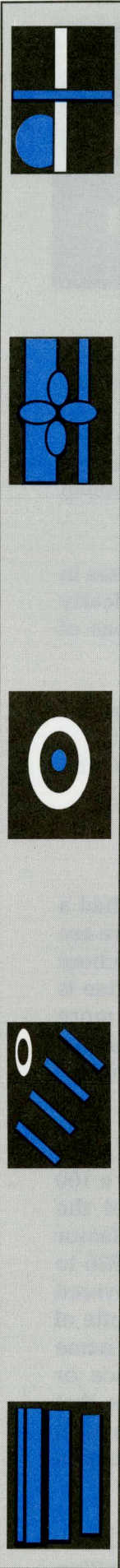
To give you some idea as to what guidelines the Committee uses in determining how to distribute funds, a project should have a clearly defined objective and should support the following primary areas of interest. (See page 5 for more details.)

- A. Young electrical engineers and potential electrical engineers.
- B. IEEE Life Members and other similarly mature Members who lack Life Membership tenure.
- C. History of Electrical Engineering.

During our last meeting it became clear that the Committee had a preference with regard to the support of education. Although there are many deserving projects that take place, most occur after regular school hours and mainly on an elective basis. The sense of the Committee is that any program that can be a part of the regular curriculum is more beneficial since it will reach all the students rather than the ambitious few. At the same time, the Committee feels it must always encourage and support the ambitious few.

At the other end of the spectrum, I would like to report on a letter that Patrick McCann, a Life Member in Dublin sent us along with a 100 page manuscript on the work of the individual who invented the Induction Coil. Nicholas Joseph Callan, an Irish priest, was a professor of natural Philosophy at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth from 1826 to 1864. He constructed great batteries and electromagnets and discovered the principle of self-excitation in dynamo-electric machines. In spite of his great and learned volume of work and his many discoveries, his name is not found in works devoted to the history of either science or technology. The manuscript describes in detail the structures that Professor Callan built and experimented with. The manuscript has been turned over to the History Committee. Anyone wishing information should contact Andrew Goldstein at the History Center.

**Theodore S. Saad, Chair
Life Members Committee**



War stories

My career in electronics began slightly before WWII when I started to play with a simple detector radio. Later I built a regenerative receiver and a simple one triode tube transmitter. We were happy transmitting up to about a 500 meter distance. However, we soon became involved in a more serious matter. On May, 1941, Slovenia (then a part of Yugoslavia) was occupied jointly by Italy, Germany and Hungary. Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia and my home, was occupied by Italians.

A clandestine radio transmitter named "The Screamer" began operating to cheer up the population. The transmissions were limited to 15 minutes to prevent the Italians from locating the transmitter. For this same reason, the transmitter was secretly moved around the town, never operating at the same location twice.

At first Italians forbade all outdoor antennas which did not help. Finally the Italians realized they would never locate the transmitter and decided to confiscate all radio receivers. Since all owners of radio receivers had to pay a monthly fee, this was not difficult to do.

Thus, the Italian officers got a nice stock of radios. Simultaneously, "The Screamer" also ceased to operate. The Italians never found "The Screamer" nor did they ever know who operated the transmitter. Then it became the radio amateurs' turn. We started to build short-wave radio receivers to hear British, American and Russian news. As a countermeasure, Italians built 5 kW transmitters with a poorly filtered DC supply to jam any British, American or Russian broadcasting in either Slovenian or Serbo-Croatian language. The jamming transmitters were located in the center of Ljubljana. On the Castle hill, about 1 km distant, were the monitoring receivers to check if the jamming frequency drifted and to phone the transmitter operator to correct the tuning.

Gradually, the supply of radio parts in Ljubljana became scarce. In the winter of 1941-1942, Italians had surrounded the whole town of Ljubljana with a barbed wire fence and guards. It was difficult to go outside, to Trieste, Udine, Tarvisio or Gorizia, to buy parts. Then my brother, who was a civil engineer and had to work outside of Ljubljana, occasionally visited shops in these towns to purchase the missing parts.

Many radio amateurs received a hard blow at the end of the school year in 1942. The Italians arrested almost all the males 16 years and older, including university students, many professors, doctors and engineers. They chained us two by two and sent us mostly to the concentration camp, Gonars, in northern Italy.

My brother fortunately escaped arrest. Later he even managed to arrange for my release from the camp. When I came home, after six months, I learned that one guy waited all this time for me to build him a short wave receiver. Already on the third day of my return, he brought me all the necessary materials. I started building the receiver that same afternoon. (Obviously the "cure" in the concentration camp did not help prevent such activities.) However, while I did not consider myself in poor physical condition (41 kg of body weight at 185 cm height), I had to quit by the evening. My legs had become totally stiff in the sitting position and my father had to carry me to bed. The next morning a doctor (who was with me in the camp but was released earlier) was called. He found all sorts of troubles including lung tuberculosis which persisted for the next 11 years. Nevertheless, I continued building short wave receivers as did the other radio amateurs.

Finally, Italians realized that by seizing all radio receivers they had denied themselves a powerful means of propaganda. They allowed the population to have their receivers back, but adjusted them so they turned only slightly left or right. This way only the local station could be heard. Now the amateurs' work became easier.

Peter Staric, IEEE Life member
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Kansas City Section – IEEE Life Member Committee

Life members within the IEEE Kansas City Section have banded together to form the IEEE Kansas City Section Life Member (LM) Committee. It is believed to be the first established LM Committee to be recognized by the Section.

In 1993 Life Member, Fred Schnittker, began attending the executive committee board meetings of the Kansas City Section. He enjoyed the many different items discussed, in particular the wide range these items covered. Schnittker wanted to organize events for LMs to give LMs the opportunity to interact with each other and learn about new technical developments. As a result, Schnittker proposed the formation of the IEEE Kansas City Section Life Member Committee.

The intention of the KCS LM Committee is to provide social & technical programs for members of the Kansas City Section. If attendance needs to be limited, preference is made toward IEEE members; however, being an IEEE member is not necessary to participate in the programs.

Two types of programs are conducted by the Committee: field trips and social meetings. Four to six field trips are planned for the year. A field trip (a technical program) is a tour of a local company. Field trips are not geared towards LMs but, if attendance is limited, LMs are given preference. Visits have included the following companies: Coffeen Fricke & Associates (a leader in consulting for audio & visual installations), Kraft Telerobotics (a pioneer in force-feedback robotics with remote control by radio or hard wire & applicable to handling contaminated material as well as delicate items), Allied Signal Aerospace (nuclear weapons manufacturing).

Social meetings are held as luncheons four times a year. The social meetings provide a forum for participants to suggest ideas and interact with fellow Life Members.

Occasionally, a social meeting will have a guest speaker or a specific program. Since most of the Life members prefer traveling during daylight hours, field trips and social meetings are scheduled during the day.

The Kansas City Section encompasses approximately 2000 members of which about 160 are Life members. About 25 LMs make up the "hard core" group. Attendance for each event has averaged approximately 12 members. The KCS LM Committee places its meeting announcements in the Section Newsletter. The KCS LM Committee is a self-supporting committee. The luncheons are conducted on cost per attendee basis. The field trips are held at no cost to the attendees. If there is a charge, it is stated in the newsletter giving its purpose and the amount payable.

Feedback regarding the KCS LM Committee has been positive.

Daniel C. Toland

If you are interested in starting a Life Members Committee in your Section, please contact Fred Schnittker (913) 631-5384. If you would like an information package concerning the Kansas City Life Members Committee, please contact Daniel C. Toland, IEEE Regional Activities, Piscataway, NJ (908) 562-5507 or e-mail d.toland@ieee.org

"... as engineers with special technical competences we really have a tremendous obligation to the whole world and all the people in it. Help us to be ever alert to the social and environmental effect of our works, and to act with due consideration of those effects."

HM Hess, Invocation,
Southeastern Michigan Section of
Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Sept. 11, 1908–Oct. 13, 1995

Ways to avoid blowing your charity dollars

You probably have received your Life member profile and the annual request to donate funds to various IEEE entities. IEEE is probably not alone. At this time of year especially, charity requests are numerous probably disrupting your meals and overloading your mailboxes.

So much like everything else in life, it pays to comparison shop. Which charity has the best record of accomplishments in the areas that interest you most? This can be a tough call. Often, these days, charities that seem marvelous can be so gung ho in promoting that they actually lose money. The actual amount spent on good deeds is a small percentage since most of it goes to an outside promotional company.

For instance, the United Cancer Council was once the fourth-largest cancer charity in the United States. It filed for bankruptcy on June 1, 1990 after thirty years of service. One charity watchdog, NCIB (National Charities Information Bureau), noticed the trouble back in 1985. In 1987, the NCIB reported that 97% of the United Cancer Council's income was being spent on fundraising.

So what are the signs of trouble? How do you find out if the charity is spending its (your) money wisely?

NCIB's criteria include:

- 1) The governing body should be active, independent volunteers (minimum of five) who meet at least twice a year to review policies, programs, operations. There should be no material conflicts of interest involving board or staff.
- 2) The charity's purpose should be specific and formally stated.
- 3) Actions should be in accord with the stated purpose.
- 4) Promotional materials should accurately reflect the charity's purpose and actions.
- 5) At least 60 percent of the organization's annual outlay should go to programs as opposed to management and/or general and fundraising expenses.

6) Financial records should be complete, and in conformance with standard accounting practices. Financial information on income and fund-raising activities should be given upon request including disclosing any commercial activities conducted on its behalf.

Financial figures can change over the years, the United Cancer Council is a perfect example. So reviewing your favorite charities every few years is a good idea.

Keep in mind that newer and not as popular charities and nonprofit groups have to spend more on promotional efforts. However, if you question the literature you receive, you can request the U.S. IRS Form 990 to review. Most of the time, you can get it from the state—if the state requires charities to file one. Or you can ask the IRS, itself, for a copy. It often provides a lot of solid financial information.

Along these lines, a contribution is generally tax deductible if given to a group designated as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3). Don't forget that only the charitable portion of your donation for goods or services is tax-deductible. For instance, if you are given tickets to a show as a thank you, the value of the tickets has to be subtracted out of the donation.

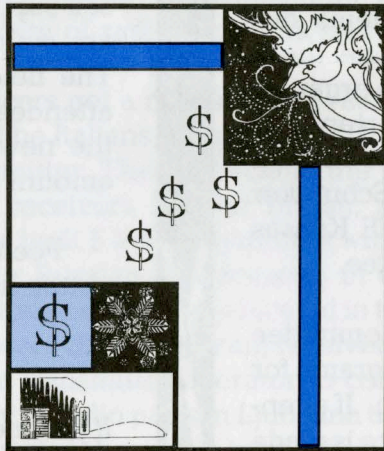
Ultimately, giving to an particular organization is only worthwhile if it operates in accord with your philosophies. There are many worthwhile causes and many ways of contributing, not the least of which is volunteering. Do what feels right to you.

Bonus tips

💰 Many less popular and less ethical groups name themselves in similar fashion to the popular ones.

💰 If you receive address labels or whatever in the mail without requesting them, you are under no obligation to contribute and/or return the item. The item is yours to keep.

💰 Beware fake bills or invoices that are really solicitations. Also, unless you remember actually pledging money, don't respond.



💰 Don't commit donations over the phone (I'm really guilty on this one.)

💰 Never use your credit card with an unknown group.

💰 Write the check out to the charity not the person asking for the contribution. While we all joke about it, people really do try to pull this stunt.

For more information about charities you are interested or concerned about, contact:

National Charities Information Bureau
19 Union Square W., 6th Floor
New York, NY 10003
(212) 929-6300
<http://www.give.org>

or

Philanthropic Advisory Service
Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc.
Suite 800
4200 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22203
(703) 276-0100
<http://www.bbb.org/bbb>

Volunteer programs to consider

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) involves those 55 and older anxious to help out in activities that match their life experiences. Activities can include: tutoring youth, helping other seniors complete income tax forms, planning community gardens and serving as hospital aides. RSVP participants provide over 80 million hours of service annually to communities across the U.S.

* * *

The Foster Grandparents Program assists those 60 and over in helping out in their communities. Foster Grandparents (FGPs) offer emotional support to children who have been abused and neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers, and care for premature infants and children with physical disabilities. FGPs meeting income eligibility requirements, who serve 20 hours per week, receive small stipends.

Both these programs are sponsored by the National Seniors Service Corps. If you would like more information, call: 1-800-424-8867.

Submitting proposals for funding

Have a proposal for funds you would like to direct to the Life Members Committee? Please use the format shown below. To be considered for funding, a project should have a clearly defined objective and should support one of the following:

- A. Young electrical engineers and potential electrical engineers.
- B. IEEE Life members and other similarly mature members who lack Life membership tenure.
- C. History of electrical engineering.

Generally scholarships are excluded, but may be considered in special circumstances.

Format

- I. Executive Summary
 - A. Synopsis of the Project and a succinct statement of why you feel it should be funded by the LMC.
- II. Detailed Proposal
 - A. Objective
 - B. Description
 - C. Budget
 - D. Funding Support Requested
 - E. Entities Involved
 - F. Expected Outcomes
- III. Participating Individuals
 - A. IEEE Staff Personnel: If yes, what specific personnel (or entity) are involved and what is the estimated level of effort?
 - B. IEEE Volunteers: Specific individuals, group, etc. Is there a commitment to the project: Estimated level of effort?
 - C. Professional Biography: Brief summary of the professional experience of the lead personnel would be helpful in making the decision.

FAST FACTS

The older population (65 years or older) numbered 32.8 million in 1993. They represented 12.7% of the U.S. population, about one in every eight Americans. The number of older Americans has increased by 1.6 million or 5% since 1990, compared to an increase of 3% for the under-65 population.

The older population itself is getting older. In 1993 the 65-74 age group (18.7 million) was eight times larger than in 1900, but the 75-84 group (10.8 million) was 14 times larger and the 85+ group (3.4 million) was 27 times larger.

The median net worth (assets minus liabilities) of older households (\$73,500), including those 75+ years (\$61,500), was well above the U.S. average (\$35,800) in 1988. Net worth was below \$10,000 for 17% of older households but was above \$250,000 for 14%.

About 3.5 million older Americans (11%) were in the labor force (working or actively seeking work) in 1993. They constituted 2.7% of the U.S. labor force. About 3.2% of them were unemployed.

Approximately half (54%) of the workers over 65 in 1993 were employed part-time: 48% of men and 60% of women.*

About 834,000 or 24% of older workers in 1993 were self-employed, compared to 8% for younger workers. Three-fourths of them (75%) were men.*

**Numbers or percentages in paragraphs followed by this symbol refer to the noninstitutionalized population only.*

Source: Administration on Aging, A Statistical Profile of Older Americans: 1994

Influenza advisory

Flu (the short name for influenza) is a viral infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. It is usually a mild disease in healthy children, young adults, and middle-age people. However, the flu can be life-threatening in older people and in people of any age who have chronic illnesses such as heart disease, emphysema, asthma, bronchitis, kidney disease, or diabetes.

Flu symptoms can differ from person to person. Some people have no obvious symptoms. Often, however, people with the flu feel weak, develop a cough, and have a fever. The fever can last from one to six days. Other symptoms include aching muscles, chills, and red, watery eyes.

It is easy to confuse a common cold with the flu. But a cold is accompanied by a stuffy nose more often than flu and usually doesn't cause a fever. Overall, cold symptoms are milder and don't last as long as the flu.

The flu is rarely fatal. But while your body is busy fighting off the flu, you may be less able to resist a second infection. If this second infection is in the lungs (such as pneumonia), it can be life-threatening. Pneumonia is one of the five leading causes of death among people 65 and older.

Many doctors suggest older people get a flu shot each fall. A low fever or redness at the injection site are possible side effects of the shot. For most people, the danger from getting flu and possibly pneumonia is greater than the danger from the side effects of the shot. One exception is people who are allergic to eggs; flu vaccines are made in egg products and may cause serious reactions in people who have such allergies.

Preventing flu is hard because the virus changes all the time and in unpredictable ways. The virus this year is usually slightly different from the virus last year. That's why flu shots are good for only one year.

The usual treatment for the aches and pains of the flu is to take aspirin, drink plenty of liquids, and stay in bed until the fever has disappeared (usually in one or two days). Call your doctor if the fever lasts; this may mean a more serious infection is present. An antiviral drug, amantadine, also is recommended to prevent and treat many types of influenza, particularly in high-risk people.

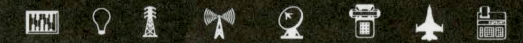
Check out your colleagues' life experiences.

"My career is checkered. I have worked as an individual at the bench, as a group manager, and as a president of a small company... Also, I have taught at three major universities and one small college... I believe I was a fairly good teacher and a reasonably good group leader; I was not a successful entrepreneur."

William A. Edson, page 123

Legacies is full of anecdotal glimpses on education, military and jobs in the twentieth century. Compare notes with 139 IEEE Life members on how technology has been created and used. Complimentary to Life members, you just pay the shipping and handling costs.

LEGACIES



What others say about the book:

"I want to express my appreciation for *Legacies*. The book's historical accounts fascinate me. Furthermore, I also found entries from a few people I have worked with."

"... your hope that we'd enjoy reading it, and that peers, cohorts, friends, grandchildren, etc. may do likewise. That hope is being realized, and I am sure will be increasingly accomplished in all those directions?"

Please send me my copy!!

Product # JP27023

Member Number _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Return form to:

IEEE Regional Activities Dept.
445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331

or call 1-800-678-IEEE (4333)

Please send me "Legacies."

I am a Life member, enclosed is \$6.00 (U.S.) for shipping & handling.

I am not a Life member but would like a copy, enclosed is \$15.00 (U.S.) which includes shipping & handling.

Please indicate method of payment:

Check Charge

Mastercard

Visa

American Express

Diners Club

Expiration Date: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks out to:
IEEE Life Member Fund

Just a reminder on what it takes to qualify

Beginning January 1, 1998, the only criteria for Life membership will be at least 40 years of IEEE (or AIEE/IRE) membership. Years of membership need not be consecutive. Until then, however, the year-to-year transition, with the years of eligibility and the age/years of membership indicated, is as follows:

1996: 100 algorithm or 64/36 or 63/37 or 62/38

1997: 100 algorithm or 64/36 or 63/37 or 62/38 or 61/39

1998: 40 years of membership

An individual with five years or more of Society membership immediately prior to attaining Life Membership, or who completes such a five-year membership while a Life Member, may continue Life Membership in the Society without fee payment. Life Membership in a Society entitles the member to receive, free of charge, services and publication(s) provided for the basic Society fee. The Life Member must confirm each year that such services/publication(s) are desired.

1996 ** 1996 ** 1996

**Best Wishes for a
Happy and Healthy
1996!**

The INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, Inc.
445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, USA

1996 Life Members Committee*

Theodore S. Saad, Chair

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*As approved at the December, 1995
IEEE Board of Directors meeting.

Who is on the mailing list?

Surprisingly enough, Life members are not the only ones who receive this newsletter. The Life Members Newsletter is also distributed to IEEE members 65 years and older, retired IEEE members 62 thru 64, and special boards and committees.

Where to write

Any ideas you would like to share? Opinions you wish to make known? Questions or problems that require assistance? Simply contact the Life Members Committee or its Staff by writing to: IEEE Regional Activities, 445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331, Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331.

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