

Contact

Publication of the Cleveland Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

National Engineers Week February 21-27, 1999

by Richard Carlson

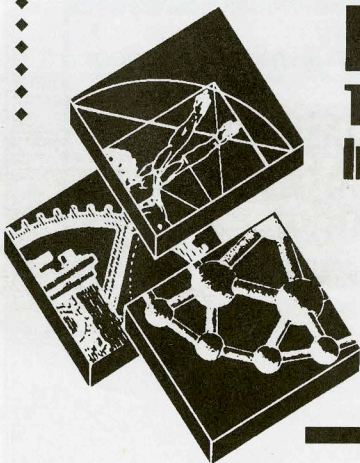
The 48th annual observance of National Engineers Week (NEW) will take place the week of February 21-27, 1999. These days are set aside to inform the public of the important work of engineers and to honor outstanding members of the profession. At the local level, the Cleveland Section of IEEE joins with other engineering and technical societies and local engineering schools to sponsor many events during the week-long celebration. The climax of NEW is the banquet on Friday, February 26, at the Cleveland Hilton South.

Among the activities sponsored by the Cleveland area NEW committee is the Engineer-for-a-Day program. This allows outstanding high school students who have expressed an interest in an engineering career to get a firsthand look at the day-to-day activities of an engineer. In many cases, this will be the first chance for the students to see the real world of the engineer. The experiences will help the students make informed choices about their future engineering careers. Host companies are needed to accommodate the many student participants. For more information, contact John Frater, (216) 687-2568, or Greg Shoof, (216) 687-5272.

Another activity that needs volunteers is the NEW Speakers Bureau. In cooperation with NASA, the Bureau sends speakers to Greater Cleveland area schools to discuss engineering as a career. NASA sponsors speaker training sessions. If you'd like to volunteer to be a speaker, call Alecia Gonzalez, (216) 433-5218.

If you are unable to reach any of the above mentioned individuals, call Jim MacMillan, (216) 391-3700.

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Cleveland Engineering Society

January Events

7 "Overall Management Systems" featuring Michael Szafranski, Ford Motor Company, 7:30-9:00 a.m., The Cleveland South Hilton Inn. \$20.00 CES members; \$30.00 non-members.

12 "Tour of Medina County's Central Processing Facility," 3:00 p.m. Price TBA. Call CES for additional details.

13 "...But Can We Talk?" featuring Paula Scully, Sales Tech., Inc. 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Construction Employers Association. \$30.00 CES members; \$40.00 non-members.

19 "Four Steps to Making a Sale" featuring Carol Latham and Greg Blair, Thermagon, Inc., and Eric Pezzo, Aerotek, Inc., 3:45-7:45 p.m., The Cleveland Athletic Club. \$55.00 CES members; \$75.00 non-members; \$25.00 for students.

26 "Determining Engineering Competencies for Success," featuring Christopher Ralls, Picker International, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Unified Technologies Center, 2415 Woodland Ave. \$20.00 CES members; \$25.00 non-members.

Contact Cleveland Engineering Society, (216) 361-3100, or visit www.cesnet.org for information and registration.



IEEE Cleveland Section CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Stephen Phillips

In this first message to the membership as your Section Chair, I'd like to propose a few modest goals for this year. Consistent with our mission to service the IEEE members in our region, we disseminate information through this newsletter and sponsor events through our local technical society groups and student chapters. We currently have eight technical groups and two student branches, listed on the back page of the "Contact." While the national IEEE organization mandates minimum requirements for our activities in these areas, I believe that we can better serve our members by striving to exceed these standards.

Regarding events, I propose that each local technical society and student group have at least three events during the year to serve its constituency. A few of our current groups need some re-ignition in order to meet this goal. As a volunteer organization the Cleveland Section relies on its members to provide guidance for these events. Modest funding is available to support these programs. Each of our current society leaders would appreciate your help in planning and organizing these activities.

In the area of information dissemination, we will resume our efforts to develop an electronic newsletter. Among the currently available formats, the Adobe Acrobat solution has proved the most effective for other IEEE sections in Region Two. We anticipate both a direct electronic mailing as well as posting to our world-wide web page. This solution should allow us to include advertising and graphics while maintaining our current production team, and can be accessed free of charge by our members. This effort should result in a much more timely newsletter and reduce our reproduction and mailing costs significantly. This will result in an increase in Section funding for events and programs. Continuing an effort begun last year, we will increase the announcement of non-IEEE events of interest to our members. We have also made contacts with the nearby Sharon, PA, Youngstown, Akron and Toledo Sections in order to jointly sponsor and advertise our activities.

Finally, if you have any suggestions, contributions or ideas, please contact me at (216) 368-6248, or E-Mail: stephen.phillips@ieee.org or call any of the other leaders listed on the back page of this newsletter. All of our events, including the monthly executive committee meetings, are open to our members. I look forward to helping the Section serve you this year.

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Sources for Intellectual Property Information

by Michael Garvey

As a belated holiday gift, and to commemorate the 50th edition of this column, I present to you information on a variety of sources for intellectual property information.

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has a web site that has lots of information, including free patent and trademark search capabilities at www.uspto.gov. The trademark database is somewhat limited, and both are a little difficult to use. It can also be accessed from a dedicated terminal at the Cleveland Public Library's Stokes Wing downtown.

IBM has a much better patent search page: patent.womplex.ibm.com. This site is easy to use and allows users to view each page of every patent, dating back to the 1970s. Information on some foreign patents is also available. Patents can be downloaded for a fee. Because of speed and organization, I still find that a manual search supplemented by a computer search is the most accurate. Soon, however, I expect that manual searching will become obsolete.

Micropatent (www.micropat.com) and Thomson & Thomson's Saegis (www.thomson-thomson.com) are two good sources for online trademark information. Both charge fees, but are better than the USPTO site. Micropatent is easy to use and has daily, weekly or annual subscriptions at

reasonable rates. Micropatent also permits patent searching and downloading for a fee. Saegis charges fees based on search results or "hits," so the charges are somewhat unpredictable, but this site includes state trademark registrations, as well as some information from foreign countries. It is probably the most comprehensive site. If you know a trademark application or registration number and want to check its status, call the Trademark Office's status line: (703) 305-8747.

"Managing Intellectual Property Rights" (Lee, Lewis C. and Davidson, J. Scott; John Wiley & Sons, Inc.) is a great book for the business person who wants to know the basics of intellectual property laws. It is fairly expensive, but provides thorough and understandable coverage.

The Cleveland Public Library has a number of self-help books on patents, trademarks and copyrights in addition to microfilm copies of patents. Other government publications related to intellectual property, such as laws, regulations and the Patent Office Official Gazette, are also available.

Here are a few useful addresses and phone numbers:

- **U.S. Copyright Office, Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20559. (202) 707-3000.**
- **U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. (703) 557-4636.**
- **International Trademark Association, 6 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017. (212) 986-5880.**
- **American Intellectual Property Law Association, 2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 203, Arlington, VA 22202. (703) 415-0780.**

This is far from a complete list, but it provides some of the most useful (and often, least expensive) sources for patent, trademark and copyright information. The best source, of course, is a competent intellectual property attorney.

Michael Garvey is a patent attorney with Pearne, Gordon, McCoy & Granger in Cleveland.

Positions Available

Applications Engineers

Provide application advice and tech support. Work with state-of-the-art computer products, learn technologies such as USB, Windows 98 & NT and the Microsoft Component Object Model. Requirements: BSEE or BSCS or related degree, plus ability to solve technical problems. Experience with signal measurement and processing a plus.

Engineering Technician

Develop leadership and technical skills in our engineering design environment. Seeking someone to guide products through component and system level testing. Qualified candidates have 3+ years' experience testing complex hardware and software systems, programming in C or Visual Basic and defect reporting and tracking.

Contact: Recruiter, IOtech, Inc., 25971 Cannon Rd., Cleveland, OH 44146. Fax: 440-439-4093. E-mail: engcareer@iotech.com



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**MLE: Microwave Theory & Techniques/Lasers & Optoelectronics/Electron Devices

Please note: if you are trying to contact the IEEE Cleveland Section by FAX, dial 216-473-6557. The line is open twenty-four hours per day.



Cleveland Section

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