



The IEEE

Newsletter

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It is not necessary to inform the North Jersey Section when you change your mailing address. The NEWSLETTER and other section mailings use a list provided by IEEE's national headquarters in New York. This means the Section has no need to maintain a mailing list or addressing plates. Section membership records are changed when Headquarters notifies us.

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Seventeen (17) replies were received: five (5) claimed they had already renewed their memberships; four (4) indicated that they planned to renew; and eight (8) said they would not renew for various reasons. A typical response in the last category is quoted here:

"I had been a member of AIEE and then IEEE for 28 years until I dropped my membership early this year. I do not feel IEEE membership has benefited me in any way whatsoever. The management does not support the issues I feel are important; worse, they frequently support the opposite viewpoint!
"Maybe it's the cowardly way out—not to stay and fight for improvement in IEEE—but there are far more important problems to work on and we have only a fixed amount of time."

Our records indicate that the writer became a Member in 1948 and a Senior Member in 1958 — and now, an Ex-member in 1976.

Most of the 112 ex-members to whom questionnaires were sent never did renew; our Section membership declined from 1016 as of 12/31/75 to 926 on 12/31/76. The major reasons, as ascertained from the survey, were the dues increase and the lack of responsiveness to member needs.

It seems clear the Professional Activities will have little value to the members until they are based on inputs from the engineering professionals who want and need them. Perhaps the recent PAC/USAB Workshops and this newsletter are steps in the right direction.

Joseph M. Erbacher
Chairman
Mid-Hudson Section

2700. Neat? The trick worked because the members weren't paying attention. Beware Of Greeks Bearing Gifts

Since that time five members' propositions for Constitution amendment have been on the ballot. Not one has ever been properly presented to the members and evaluated on its merits in an IEEE open forum. Not one has passed. Last year one proposition advanced a procedure for providing an open forum. The Directors saw to it that IT did not receive an open forum, and opposed it saying they would provide a better plan. The proposition failed to receive the two-thirds majority required for passage. The members weren't paying attention. Over 65% didn't even vote!

One elite group of IEEE members IS paying attention. They are the PAC members and supporters: the readers of this newsletter, for example. You, the collective PAC, must press the Directors into making good on their election campaign promises. A major promise of the Directors was a policy and a procedure for a proper forum on all new ballot propositions. To date nothing has been done. When, and if, a procedure is proposed by the Directors ONLY YOU, the PAC, will be paying attention. Study their proposition carefully. Only you can listen for Greeks breathing inside a "wooden horse."

Beware Of Greeks Bearing Gifts
John W. Crowe, SM
22060 Independencia St.
Woodland Hills, CA. 91364

IMPACT Newsletter

The following two articles are reprinted from the May, 1977 issue of "IMPACT", a newsletter concerning the professional activities of the IEEE.

All PAC Chairmen, Section Chairmen, Institute Officers, Officers of Groups and Societies and Editors of other newsletters receive "IMPACT." All other participants and interested members may receive it as well. To add your name to the mailing list contact: Mrs. Dorothy Bomberger, IEEE Washington, D. C. Office, 2029 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006; (202) 785-0017.

Mid-Hudson Survey

IEEE Sections have always been encouraged to contact members in dues arrears to try to persuade them to continue their membership. Last fall, the Mid-Hudson Section Membership Committee waged just such a campaign, sending letters and questionnaires to the 112 members who had not paid any dues for 1976.

Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts

Timeo Danaos et dona ferentis. Accipe nunc
Danaum insidias et crimine ab uno.
Vergil, Aeneid. BK.ii

When the ancient and legendary Greeks from Athens could not conquer besieged Troy by frontal attack they "sailed away," leaving behind a large "gift" wooden horse. The naive Trojans took in the "gift" from which after dark crawled Greek soldiers who opened the city gates for the "returning" Greeks. That night Troy burned.

Beware Of Greeks Bearing Gifts

In 1970 U.S. EEs were a restless bunch due to a bag of ills: high unemployment, lack of professional status, and so on. IEEE members were actually talking about running for high office and getting the Institute to do something about their problems. A nominating petition required signature count equal to 1/3% of the members: about 450. Large, but not impossible. That year the IEEE ballot contained a proposition for Constitution amendment recommended by the Directors. The proposition recognized Division Director as subject to nomination by the members—AND—specified all nominating petitions require signature count as given in the Bylaws—which are written by the Directors. The members naively voted as recommended by the Directors. When the members saw the new Bylaws they found the 1/3% changed to 2%. The signature count was then

Activities Reminder: Clip to Calendar

2nd Wednesday each month - Professional Activities Committee (PAC). ITT Conference Center, 500 Washington Ave., Nutley, N.J. at 7:30. All are invited to attend.

August 24 - PAC present IEEE Presidential Candidate, Irwin Feerst as Guest Speaker, at the ITT Conference Center.

North Jersey IEEE Meeting:

Feerst To Speak On

Recent Legal Developments

Irwin Feerst, IEEE presidential candidate, will be the featured speaker at a August 24, 1977 meeting which will be jointly sponsored by the North Jersey Section IEEE and the Professional Activities Committee. It will be held at the ITT Auditorium, Nutley, N.J., at 8 PM.

Mr. Feerst's talk "Recent Developments in the Legal Arena" will include Service Contract Act, Pensions, Professional Activities and items of interest to the practicing engineer. We invite husbands and wives of members to attend. They are vitally interested in the economic betterment of the electrical engineer and have frequently contributed searching comments and have added to

the lively discussions that have accompanied similar presentations by Mr. Feerst.

Mr. Feerst received his B.E.E. degree from City College of New York in 1951 after service in the U.S. Navy during and after World War II. His M.E.E. degree was earned from N.Y.U. in 1955. To counter charges made by academicians and corporate executives that he is obsolete, he earned another M.S.E.E. degree in 1974.

From 1949 until 1962, Mr. Feerst was employed by various profit-minded corporations (CBS, AIL, Ford Instrument, General Applied Sciences Lab., etc.) in positions of increasing management responsibility. From 1962 until 1969, he was Assistant Professor of Physics and Electronics at Adelphi University, Garden City, N.Y., where he devised and taught many of the now standard graduate and undergraduate courses. Since 1969, he has been an independent consultant in areas of CRT displays, electro-mechani-

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RICHARD F TAX ST
ST HAMTHORNE
PARK RIDGE
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JUN 30 1977

DATED MAIL

CANDIDATES FOR REGION I DIRECTOR

cal servo systems, signal processing, radar analysis, CAT scanners, and power supply design.

Mr. Feerst is a licensed Professional Engineer in New York State and is the author of several technical papers. Mr. and Dr. Feerst (herself a former engineer) are the parents of two sons, both of whom were advised not to study engineering.



Having long been convinced of the futility of changing IEEE by working from within, Mr. Feerst organized the Committee of Concerned EEs to promote the professional interests of EEs. He is the editor and publisher of its newsletter - now in its 5th year.

In 1975, '76 and '77, Mr. Feerst, by petitions of the voting members, rather than by nomination of the Board of Directors, was nominated for IEEE President.

For further information on the meeting call R. Tax at 391-9075 evenings.

Time: 8 PM, Wednesday, August 24, 1977.

Place: ITT Conference Center, 500 Washington Ave., Nutley, N. J.

REX H. BEERS

During the over 20 years that I have actively participated in the activities of IRE/IEEE, I have seen it grow in membership and stature to the point where it is a viable entity in the life of all engineers. The organization must continue to keep pace with technological progress in addressing the needs of its members in the entire spectrum of technical, professional and socio-economic activities.

Region I has been responsive to the needs of its members by supporting Institute Boards and Committees in a positive manner while actively establishing the means of assisting the grass roots members in addressing problems germane to their area. These activities would have my continued support.

A Regional Director must exercise his managerial abilities to assure that the needs of the members of the entire Region are addressed in a manner commensurate with the resources available and to be able to serve in his capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute in an effective manner to assure that the needs of the entire membership are served economically and effectively.

In my opinion, all IEEE officers should be equally committed to professional as well as technical activities. If elected, I will endeavor to equitably balance the needs of our membership to achieve the maximum results in these areas.

I support in principal the current USAB Program and would endeavor to provide direction and/or assistance in areas where our Region I members have the expertise to make a meaningful contribution.

In my participation in Region I activities as Secretary-Treasurer, Chairman of the N.Y. State Legislative Liaison Committee, as Workshop Coordinator and Vice Chairman, and my over 15 years in elected and appointed Section offices, I have had the opportunity to determine at first hand the problems that confront our members. Their deep concern for a financially and technically rewarding lifetime career is of primary interest to them. We should address our efforts toward assuring that these goals are brought closer to reality.

JACK L. JATLOW

AIM: To apply full time to improve the image of IEEE, and the professional and economic status of the engineer.

Some of my objectives are to make:

1. Technical activities the province of the IEEE Technical Societies.
2. The IEEE Board and Sections aggressive in upgrading the professional and economic status of the engineering profession. They shall employ "Publicity and Lobbying" to promote legislation beneficial to the engineering profession to:

Require portable pension contributions by prime and subcontractors on government contracts.

Increase allowable tax deduction limit for

individual pensions by engineers.

Change "Engineering Cost" to "Engineering Experience" as a factor in determining contract awards.

Enable the older engineer to professionally contribute in a changing technology.

Include engineering professional standards as part of government contracts.

3. The IEEE act on infractions of above.

4. The IEEE President speak out publicly (via communications media) on legislation affecting the profession.

5. The IEEE actively participate to avoid planned actions that may hurt groups of engineers.

6. The IEEE independent from Industry Support but cooperate with industry for mutual advantage.

7. Our publicity and public relations expanded and more effective.

8. Upgraded requirements for IEEE Membership.

9. College accreditation requirements compatible with IEEE standards.

JAMES E. SHEPHERD

IEEE's directors and officers must ensure that IEEE continues to do well in those activities that serve the technical needs of a majority of IEEE members, while it continues to search for workable positions on professionalism for engineers.

IEEE members are working at many different technical and professional levels, and in many different specialties. IEEE must continually find better ways to make available to each such working engineer the latest and most advanced ideas which he will need to keep his engineering solutions current and competitive. IEEE's policies on publications and public presentations must help each such working engineer in the optimum way by encouraging rapid and wide dissemination of new ideas; and must simplify the personal exchange of technical information through open meetings, committees, and standards activities of its many technical groups and societies.

IEEE must work to elevate the quality of engineering graduates through improved accreditation procedures, while encouraging entry into engineering college curricula by only the most competent high school students. IEEE must continue to contribute opportunities for competent "continuing education" for practicing engineers.

Nationally, IEEE must continue pushing actively for laws which support truly portable benefit plans for engineers, for fairness in contracts involving engineers, for non-discrimination because of age alone, and for backing its stand on the application of ethics in the practice and employment of engineers.

Regional Directors must push IEEE into increased legislative contacts at the state level, as in New York and Massachusetts, and toward maximizing member services of local IEEE sections and student sections.

IEEE Vice President Blasts Salary Busting

John J. Guarrera, Vice President of Professional Activities of the IEEE appeared June 14th before the Subcommittee on Labor-Management Relations of the House Education and Labor Committee. His testimony was in support of H.R. 314, an amendment to the Service Contract Act of 1965.

"Professional employees have repeatedly been the victims of salary busting practices by contractors and government procurement officers operating under intense pressure to cut costs and reduce bids on contracts whose principal cost component is professional salaries," asserted Guarrera. IEEE involvement in support of H.R. 314 came in response to incidences of salary busting and salary erosion in connection with the placement of service contracts with the private sector at various locations throughout the country.

Guarrera reviewed numerous case studies of salary busting. In one such case, a senior lead engineer with over 20 years of engineering experience was earning \$23,000 in 1972. Following the re-competition of the contract on which he was working, his earnings were slashed to \$10,500 in 1974. In 1976 this professional was still earning only two thirds of his 1972 salary.

In calling for the enactment of H.R. 314, Guarrera outlined the three major remedies it would establish.

"FIRST, it would provide an effective salary 'catch-up' provision for professional employees working on service contracts in areas where professional salary scales have been depressed because of successive waves of salary-busting. SECOND, all professionals would be covered under the Act equally. THIRD, it would provide that the prevailing salary pattern be determined by an agency of the government other than the contracting agency."

Guarrera concluded by recognizing that alternative proposals for solutions had been set forth, and that IEEE would welcome any further suggestions for resolving the problems of salary busting and salary erosion. However, he did emphasize: "Let there be no misunder-

standing, the objective must be full and complete protection of the salaries and working conditions of professional employees on government service contracts, protection that is fully comparable in every way to the protection already provided to other employees on Federal service contracts."

Professional Activities

By Joel Snyder

Vice-Chairman USAB

Professional activities is a relatively new role for the Institute and how well it performs this role will depend to a very great extent on how and what you do in your Section.

PAC's are a response to our 1972 membership mandate. Their aim should be to assist members in career related professional matters and to seek to improve the professional stature of engineers. PAC's are a functional arm of IEEE's United States Activities Board (USAB). USAB and the PAC's are the only IEEE entities committed to finding solutions to professional problems and to improving the level of professionalism.

What can a local PAC do? You can work at two levels - local and National.

1. You have the opportunity to develop wholesome relationships between your Section and all of the elements of society within its geographical area: representatives of federal, state, and municipal government; the business community and, particularly, the employers of your membership; the educational institutions; local subdivisions of other technical and professional societies; and the public at large. With the establishment of such relationships, you will have the opportunity to use them to further the proper interests of the profession.

2. In addition, you may wish to assist USAB in the performance of certain tasks with greater than local implications. From time to time, USAB will seek Section Committees to undertake such projects. On the other hand, you may wish to volunteer such assistance to USAB. It will be welcomed.

3. You also have a responsibility to your local constituents to see to it

that their interests are properly served by the policies and activities which are formulated and implemented by the Institute on a National level.

To perform these roles you must find ways to be responsive to the needs and wishes of your local constituency. It is also your responsibility to be well informed with respect to the activities of USAB. The USAB/Professional Activities Liaison Committee and its Chairman are charged with the responsibility of assisting you in that regard.

Some of the things you can be doing in your Section include; surveys, seminars and forums, telephone hot-line, inter-society liaison, local government liaison, and public relations. Each of these can be as major a task as you choose to make them. This short list just scratches the surface. What you do in your PAC is virtually unlimited.

Keep in mind that an active PAC is vital to the continued growth and well-being of the Institute and the profession which it serves.

How To Write Your Congressman

When Writing Your Senator:

Senator (name)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator (name):

All Senators have the same zip code regardless of the location of their Washington, D.C. office.

When Writing Your Representative:

Congressman (name)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Congressman (name):

All Representatives have the same zip code regardless of the location of their Washington, D.C. office.

Remember, there are only 100 Senators and 435 Representatives! All of them have a Washington, D.C. address. If you want to write but forget the zip code or do not remember the correct form of address, write anyway. If you get the name and Washington, D.C. on the envelope, he or she will receive it. If you know the local address, you can write