



Connections

The Newsletter of the IEEE Neural Networks Council

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2

ISBN 1068-1450

July 1994

President's Message-Should the Council Become a Society?

Patrick K. Simpson

The IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) consists of societies and councils. The majority of the technical groups are societies. When there is a technology (e.g. neural networks or solid-state circuits) that appears to span the technical interests of several societies, a committee is formed. If the committee is growing and strong, it becomes a council. Sometimes, as was the case for the Robotics and Automation Society, a council will ascend to society.

Societies and councils are the same in most ways. They each sponsor periodicals, conferences, books, video tutorials, and so on. They each

elect an executive committee. In addition, each society or council has its own budget.

The primary difference between a society and a council is membership. The members of a council are other IEEE societies. The members of a society are people (IEEE Members).

When a society wants to join a council, it petitions the council and, if there is sufficient technical overlap, it is added. Once a society has joined a council, that Society's president appoints two of its members to represent the society in council affairs. The appointed society representatives, the council's executive

committee, and various committee chairs, conduct council business.

A second difference is subscriptions. Currently, to get the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* or the *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems*, you must be a member of one of the sponsoring societies. If you are not a member of a sponsoring society, you must pay a higher subscription fee (or join a sponsoring society for the lower rate).

A third difference is local representation. Most IEEE members are aware of Chapters. If there is enough local support, a society Chapter (i.e. Signal Processing Society Chapter)

(continued on back cover)

IEEE Neural Networks Council Member Societies

Circuits and Systems
Communications
Computer
Control Systems
Engineering in Medicine & Biology
Industrial Electronics
Industry Applications
Information Theory
Lasers and Electro-Optics
Oceanic Engineering
Power Engineering
Robotics and Automation
Signal Processing
Social Implications of Technology
Systems, Man & Cybernetics

Officers & Standing Committees

President: Patrick K. Simpson, Scientific Fishery Systems, Inc.
Exec. Vice President: Walter S. Karplus, UCLA
Vice President, Publications: Stamatios Kartalopoulos, AT&T Bell Laboratories
Vice President, Conferences: James C. Bezdek, University of West Florida
Past President & Nominations and Appointments: Russell C. Eberhart
Secretary & Constitution and Bylaws Com.: Wesley E. Snyder, North Carolina State University
Treasurer: Piero P. Bonissone, General Electric CRD
IEEE Trans. on Neural Networks Editor: Robert J. Marks II, Univ. of Washington

IEEE Trans. on Fuzzy Systems Editor: James C. Bezdek, University of West Florida
Standards: Mary Lou Padgett, Auburn University
Regional Interest Groups: Collin Witel, Boeing Commercial Airplane Company
Fellows Committee: Edgar Sanchez-Senecio, Texas A&M University
Awards: Mohammed H. Hassenoun, Wayne State University
Educational Activities: Karen Haines, University of New Mexico
Distinguished Lecturers: Donald C. Wunsch II, Texas Tech University
Video Tutorials: Mohamed A. El-Sharkawi, University of Washington

CoNNECTIONS Newsletter

Editor: Wesley E. Snyder
Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering
North Carolina State University
Raleigh NC 27695-7911
(919)515-1899
FAX: (919)515-5523
wes@eos.ncsu.edu

Associate Editor: Paul Bakker
Computer Science Dept.
The University of Queensland
Queensland QLD 4072 Australia
Fax: +61 7 365 1999
bakker@cs.uq.oz.au

Managing Ed.: Rosalyn Snyder
3603 Octavia Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606
(919)851-3603
r.g.snyder@ieee.org

Should the Council Become a Society? (Continued from front cover)

can be formed. Because the NNC is not a society, it cannot have chapters. It can form Regional Interest Groups (and it has), but this is not easily done and the funding for local activities is limited. For many, working within a chapter of the local IEEE Section is preferred.

Should the NNC become a society? If it did, it would charge dues to its members and each member would determine who would be on the Executive Committee and Administrative Committees. This would eliminate appointments and provide the opportunity to any IEEE member to become a voting member of the IEEE NNC AdCom and ExCom. Furthermore, the membership could exercise its vote on key issues. Other than that, the difference would be almost imperceptible (other than a name change).

It is difficult to say exactly how large the membership for an IEEE Neural Networks Society would be, but I will offer a guess. Currently there are 7,200 subscribers to the *IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks* and 5,850 subscribers to the *IEEE Transactions on Fuzzy Systems*. If three-fourths of these subscribers become members, and

approximately 50% of the subscribers receive both transactions, this would mean the IEEE Neural Networks Society would have almost 5,000 members.

What do you think? Do you feel that the current society president appointment structure that is in place is preferable to membership-based elections? Do you feel the current structure for local meetings is sufficient and does not require a chapter-based structure? Do you feel that the access to *Transactions on Neural Networks* and *Transactions on Fuzzy Systems* is hindered by having to belong to another society to get the lower rate?

I would like you to respond to the editor of *CoNNections* with your thoughts on this issue. The Editor will summarize these thoughts and publish the results in the next issue of *CoNNections*. If you have thoughts that you would not prefer to have publicly expressed, please feel free to send to me where I will treat them with confidence. My mail address is 17436 Ashburton Road, San Diego, CA 92128. I can also be reached by email at xm8@sdcc12.ucsd.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

PKS

**Direct from Australia—
The On-Line NN Calendar**



NNC CoNNections Associate Editor Paul Bakker of the University of Queensland, Australia, has prepared the bulk of the extensive calendar which has appeared in the last several issues. You may access the current version of this calendar (which is updated monthly) via anonymous ftp from <ftp.cs.uq.oz.au>. ('get' the file /pub/pdp/conferences).

If you would like to add a conference to this on-line calendar, please send (preferably) a Call-For-Papers to

Paul Bakker
Computer Science Dept.
The University of Queensland
QLD 4072, Australia
Fax +61 7 365 1999
email bakker@cs.uq.oz.au

IEEE Neural Networks Council
Dr. Wesley E. Snyder, Editor
North Carolina State University

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL
& ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS, INC.
445 HOES LANE
PISCATAWAY NJ 08845

NON-PROFIT ORGN
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PISCATAWAY, N.J.
IEEE
PERMIT #52

5588355 M
HARRY E MUSSMAN
GTE LABORATORIES
MS 48
40 SYLVAN RD
WALTHAM

NNN *****
ISX30
MA 02254