

Sitting in the Chair

by Bob Struthers

The companies and institutions which we are employed by, manage, or own are concerned with bringing their operations to maximum efficiency. These institutions state and examine their goals, evaluate how well the goals are met and revise their organization as needed to best accomplish the goals. The IEEE is presently considering reorganization in order to improve it's efficiency inservice and responsiveness to membership. I suspect that the IEEE Strategic Planning (SPC) and Organizational Improvement (OIC) Committees are finding this task more difficult than management of an industrial or commercial operation would have in a similar endeavor. Two difficulties I see are that (a) development, evaluation and planning for implementation of goals is dependent on volunteers whose financial and time resources are very limited, and (b) decisions must be based on a greater base of consensus than required for a commercial organization. In spite of these challenges, the committees have listed perceived problems of the existing structure and proposed several new organizational models.

The June issue of The Institute presented the tree models considered to be "finalists" in the process. The "consensus" process is now in

progress and interested parties are beginning to respond to the models. It appears to me that members of the U.S. Activities Board are particularly concerned with the effect each of these models will have on services associated with professional activities, which are presently under USAB's jurisdiction in the U.S.A. Merrill Buckley, 1992 IEEE President, (a member of USAB) recently published his opinion that the present organization should not be changed. An excerpt (with apologies for not including his excellent summary of the existing IEEE organization) from his remarks is reprinted below.

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The IEEE -- How Should It Be Organized?

an excerpt from remarks by Merrill Buckley, 1992 IEEE President in the Oct. 1995 Philadelphia Section Almanack

I believe the strengths of the existing organization are:

- 1. It's decentralized structure keeps management at the lowest practical level. Volunteers are encouraged to assume responsibility and get involved.
- 2. Sections, Regions, Societies and the existing functional boards and committees are free to seek improvements and are encouraged toward excellence without unneces-

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sary interference.

- 3. Election to the Board of Directors (BOD) requires a demonstration of leadership, accomplishment and participation in our volunteer led organization.
- 4. Members elected to the BOD provide a good balance of different interests and geography. It has been stated that the BOD is too large. Using some other method of election could very easily reduce the number but it could also give us a Board out of touch with the members. Cost is not a significant factor since the BOD members are volunteers. My experience is that the BOD is not too large and provides a balanced forum.
- 5. The number of hierarchal levels in the present organization is about as small as practical. This has proven to be a key factor in productivity and efficiency.
- 6. The present organizational relationship between the members, the volunteers and the staff works very well.

In summary, it should be obvious that I have not been persuaded that any of the recently proposed organizational models will improve the IEEE organization and could very easily give us a lot of trouble. Some minor adjustments such as electing the V.P. of IEEE/USA by U.S. members may be wise, but let's stop there.

Meetings

Joint Vehicular Technology & Communications

7:00 p.m. National Digital Television Center Englewood, Colorado (corner Colorado Blvd. & Dry Creek)

For more information contact David Iliff (303) 757-1797 or Mark Schriver (303) 698-9668.

Components, Packaging and Manufacturing Technology

Thursday, November 16, 1995 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. **Maxtor Corporation**

Speaker

Mr. Nik Nikmanesh, AT&T "Design Issues in Fall Grid Arrays"

at (303) 678-2437.

November 16, 1995 **NIST**

Call Kevin Keilbach at 673-1349 or e-mail at kevink@ohmeda.com for more information.

Joint Power Engineering & Industry Application

Thursday, November 16, 1995 Social 5:30-6:30 Dinner 6:30 Brooklyn's Sports Bar 2644 W. Colfax Ave. (1 block south of McNichols Arena and Mile High) Dinner Fee: \$12.00 (Students free)

Speaker

Please call Jim Houlihan at (303) 297-3280 for details.

Please RSVP by November 13 to Barbara at Peterson Company (303) 388-6322 for dinner reservations.

AP-S/MTT-S/GRS-S

Thursday, November 16, 1995 4:00 p.m. NIST, Room 4020 325 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado

Speaker

Dr. Michael Jones, CIRES University of Colorado "The Projection-Slice Theorem and a Common Fallacy about Tomographic Inversion"

Reliability

Thursday, November 16, 1995 5:300 p.m. Storage Technology Corporation Health & Welfare Building

Speaker

Dr. Sam Keene "Total System Reliability and Field Failures"

Dr. Keene will present a short paper and a round table discussion will follow.

A light meal and drinks will be provided, and a small fee (\$2.00 limit) may be charged. All IEEE members (regular and students) and affiliates are invited.

Please RSVP to Sam Keene at 673-5963, so the right amount of food and beverages will be available.

Magnetics Society

The Magnetics Society will meet in November. Please call Dr. Jim Cates at (303) 673-4126 for information.

Engineering in Medicine and Biology

Wednesday, December 6, 1996 6:30 p.m. Shivers Conf. Room #823, 8th Floor Biomedical Research Building Univ. of CO Health Sciences Center 4200 E. Ninth Ave., Denver, CO

Speaker

Dr. Richard A. Schmidt University of Colorado "Electrical Nerve Stimulation in the Paraplegic"

Barbara Walters recent 20/20 interview with spinal cord injured Superman actor Christopher Reeves brought the topic of bladder and bowel problems accompanying this kind of injury into the public focus again. Dr. Schmidt will present a new type of technology concerning the possibility of regaining bladder and bowel control in this group of patients.

Please RSVP (303) 270-8972. Parking available at Colorado and 11th Ave. in the parking structure.

Biomedical engineering often requires engineers and physicians to work closely together to obtain their goal. Because of this close relationship we will try in the future to present both the engineer's and the physician's view at our meetings.

Future topics of the chapter will cover, Lasers in Medicine, Biomedical Data Acquisition in Space and a joint meeting with the Reliability Chapter about Cardiac Pacing and Medical Devices Reliability.

If you are interested in attending or presenting at our meetings in bioengineering, please fax, phone or email us so we can notify you directly for upcoming events of this chapter. We'd like to hear from you!

PROGRAM NEW JOINT DEGREE NNOUNCEMENT

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Thursday, November 16, 1995

Speaker

Peter Douglas Where are the satellite uplinks for PRIMESTAR? How is TCI networked to the satellite? Find out with Peter Douglas and see some cool stuff at the facility.

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Contact Mike Erni for directions

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eering Ph BS from Admission BET-accredited field, such as F wa I are required terials Science can eparation is in add Application packs

Industry Partnership Program (IPP)

PISCATAWAY, N.J., September 25 -- The IEEE is seeking members to help support an innovative new program at their place of work. Called the Industry Partnership Program (IPP), it was created to strengthen relationships between the Institute and organizations that employ engineers.

IPP promotes the benefits of IEEE membership within industry and recruits members directly from their work place through a special on-site event. It features an informational display of IEEE products and publications provided by Institute staff, and might also include other activities, such as a special lecture about the benefits of being an IEEE mem-

Members who are interested in helping to develop an on-site IPP event at their companies will be asked to do the following:

- * Obtain the appropriate approval from company management for the IEEE event.
- * Work with the IEEE staff to coordinate dates, locations and promotion for the event.
- * Spend time at the IEEE display to discuss the benefits of IEEE membership with colleagues and assist in recruiting new members.

More information about this program is available from Kathy Kowalenko, IEEE Corporate Communications, (908) 562-6825.

"Invest in the Future'

The Denver Section of IEEE has resources for "Careers in Engineering" programs for high school students. Handouts, videotapes, and program outlines are available for use in the schools in your area. Let's "Invest in the Future" of our high school students by letting them know how to prepare for these exciting career opportunities. Contact Jeff Wilson, Pre-College Activities Chairman, at Peterson Company (303) 388-6322.

From the Chair (continued from page 1)

A concern that I have in regard to the health of the IEEE is employer support of professional activities. In the past, many employers were willing to support activities such as attendance and travel for conferences, committee or working group meetings, and professional society dues. Pressures to reduce overhead have reduced support for these activities, increasing the share that the individual member is now paying to maintain his professional activities. Dues are now paying for travel and expenses of many volunteer members of administrative and technical boards, much of which was previously supported by employers. We all need to remind our employers of the benefits of professional society support, and urge them to budget support for professional activities. We can remind them that the professional societies advance theory and practice of the profession through peer review and publication of standards and recommended practices, and papers on the latest technology. Education is improved through standards and accreditation. Professional standing of members is increased through participation in technical and administrative activities on a national and world wide scale. Professionals are willing to donate resources toward these goals, and the businesses and institutions who also benefit should support them as much as they can. The administrative jobs that are necessary to support the technical activities deserve their support as well, because the technical benefits can't be achieved without them.

I am happy to announce that Victor Cheung has accepted the duties of RockIEEE Overlook Editor. I have been acquainted with Victor for a number of years and know that he and Anita Wanberg as Publisher will provide an effec-

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**Anyone interested in revitalizing the Aerospace Chapter please call
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