

Calendar of Events

In November

Tues. Nov. 10, 7:00pm

[Executive Committee](#)
Chicago Section

Wed. Nov. 11, 5:30pm

[Smart Grid](#)
Power & Energy

Wed. Nov. 11, 6:45pm

[Solar Energy](#)
Career Networking

Fri. Nov. 13, 8:00am

[Smart Leadership](#)
Chicago Section

Fri. Nov. 13, 5:30pm

[Reflector Antennas](#)
Antennas/Microwave

Wed. Nov. 18, 5:30pm

[Lightning Protection](#)
Industry Applications

Wed. Nov. 18, 6:30pm

[Women in Engineering](#)
Electromagnetic

Mon. Nov. 23, 6:45pm

[Real Time Embedded Systems](#)
Consultants Network

Email upcoming events to [Pat Hutson](#) for inclusion on the IEEE-Chicago [website](#) calendar and to [Michele Beaulieux](#) for inclusion in the e-Scanfax calendar.

This Month's Article

Chair's Column: Help Us Spend Our Money Wisely

All IEEE-Chicago members are invited to the Executive Committee Meeting on **Tuesday, November 10** to help set budget priorities for the coming year. [\[more\]](#)

IEEE-Chicago to Offer Smart Leadership Conference at Harper College

Learn to enhance meeting productivity, make smart decisions, negotiate for better results, and lead when you're not in charge on **Friday, November 13**. [\[more\]](#)

Oh, the Good We Could Do . . .

The newly established **IEEE-Chicago Fund** is looking for a few good projects and the money to finance them. [\[more\]](#)

The World in Which Bulldozers Call For Help

Emad S. Isaac, Chief Technology Officer at the **Morey Corporation**, spoke on **Current Commercial Telematics Technology** at the Chicago EMC Meeting [\[more\]](#)

Popov Central Museum of Communications Displays IEEE Milestone

IEEE-Chicago History Chair **George Thomas** reports on his visit to the Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia where an **IEEE milestone** recognizes pioneering contributions to practical telegraphy. [\[more\]](#)

Chair's Column: Help Us Spend Our Money Wisely



What is budget planning, but the setting of priorities? Far from a dry process, it is often quite spirited. The yearly budget guides the IEEE-Chicago Executive Committee throughout the year in planning and funding your Section's activities. The majority of the budget is devoted to Section operations and member communications, namely e-Scanfax and the section website, but a large portion also supports local Chapters and Affinity Groups. Your input on needs and future opportunities at this planning stage would be a great help to the Executive Committee and will enable us to respond more quickly to requests for funding as the year unfolds. The Executive Committee will plan the **2010 budget** at a meeting at **DeVry University** in Addison on **November 10** starting at 7 PM. All IEEE-Chicago members are welcome. This is a great opportunity to influence the direction and emphasis of the Section! We look forward to including you in the budget planning process.

Sincerely,

[William \(Bill\) Nartker](#)
IEEE-Chicago Section Chair

P.S. There has been some confusion: the official url for the IEEE-Chicago Section website is ieeechicago.org. Please make sure your bookmark is correct.

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IEEE-Chicago to Offer Smart Leadership Conference at Harper College



Marianne Rowe-Dimas

Marianne Rowe-Dimas, who presented the very well-received IEEE-Chicago-sponsored Effective Business Writing seminar last fall, returns this month to present at the IEEE-Chicago-sponsored **Smart Leadership Conference** with **William Jedlicka**, senior partner in the management consulting firm, Performance Improvement, and retired chair of the Management Department of Harper College. Jedlicka holds an MBA and a Ph.D. in Industrial Psychology from the Illinois Institute of Technology, and Rowe-Dimas, owner of the Image Factor, has more than 20 years of management experience in marketing, sales and customer service. They are well qualified to help IEEE-Chicago members enhance

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meeting productivity, make smart decisions, negotiate for better results, and lead when they're not in charge. So, come to the all day Smart Leadership Conference at **Harper College** in Palatine, Illinois on **Friday, November 13** to learn how to develop your leadership skills. IEEE members receive special discounts. Registration information is on the IEEE-Chicago Section [calendar](#).

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Oh, the Good We Could Do . . .

What if college students had inspiring mentors and could travel to technical conferences to present posters? What if K-12 classrooms were equipped for science experiments, and counselors extolled the virtues of technical careers? What if Chicago area museums had educational displays capturing significant local electrical engineering breakthroughs, and permanent IEEE Milestone plaques documented the sites of those breakthroughs?

We all know that science, engineering, and technology could use a boost in the Chicago area. With your help, the IEEE-Chicago Section can provide that boost. Last year, the IEEE-Chicago Section Executive Committee established a Fund to provide much needed resources for local educational programs as well as for the preservation, research,



The IEEE-Chicago Fund supports educational activities.

and promotion of the history of the profession and IEEE-associated technologies. As you review your year-end giving options, please consider the **IEEE-Chicago Section Fund**. You can donate [on-line](#) (After you fill in the initial form, click continue. Then indicate that the donation is to be applied to the IEEE-Chicago Section Fund.) If, given the tough financial times, you are unable to donate, you can still help! Consider giving us your ideas for projects for the Fund Committee to consider. Send ideas and questions to [John Zulaski](#). For more information on the Fund or to download a Fund brochure, click on the Chicago Fund tab at the top of this page.

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The World in Which Bulldozers Call For Help

On Tuesday, October 20, over 110 people were eating bratwurst and sauerkraut in a huge copper-shielded room. Yes, it's true. They were in the whole vehicle testing chamber of **Elite Electronic Engineering Inc.** in Downers Grove, and they were there to hear **Emad S. Isaac**, Chief Technology Officer at the **Morey Corporation**, speak on **Current Commercial Telematics Technology**. It was all part of a joint "Oktoberfest" meeting of the Chicago Chapters of the **IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Society** and the **Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)**.



The Oktoberfest spirit filled the copper-shielded whole vehicle radio frequency testing chamber at Elite Electronic Engineering, Inc.

Isaac began his very entertaining presentation with a slide of a bulldozer submerged in snow and ice. Close examination revealed that the bulldozer, while clearly in trouble, was a very rugged piece of equipment: the exhaust flap was up, indicating that the motor was still running, and the lights were on, indicating that the electrical systems were still working. What if, in addition to being rugged, the vehicle had been able to make an emergency call or, better yet, what if the accident had been prevented in the first place? What if the bulldozer had sensed that it was on

thin ice?

Telematics could have helped. Isaac defined telematics as “the potential for collection, aggregation, and storage of pertinent data, that can be digested locally, or post-processed remotely. It is a superset of machine-to-machine communications (M2M), and represents an intelligent network of connected ‘things.’”

What if the bulldozer had been able to communicate that it was on thin ice and shut down before it fell through? With sensors, it could have communicated the problem to central operations.

Another exciting new area of telematics is prognostics: the ability to predict that a failure is going to occur before it does. Then, the bulldozer would seldom need to be out of operation, enduring repairs. Instead, this expensive equipment would be operational a greater percentage of time, generating a profit. The ability to provide such services, thus, has a high dollar and productivity impact. Telematics has a productive future ahead.



As an added bonus, the Fox Valley Electric Auto Association had an electric car built by one of its members on display.

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Popov Central Museum of Communications Displays IEEE Milestone

*IEEE-Chicago History Chair **George Thomas** reports on his visit to the Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.*

One benefit of being an IEEE volunteer is that you have the opportunity to meet wonderful people from around the world who are dedicated to their profession and to IEEE and are very excited about sharing their experiences. One such person was **Nina Borisova**, Science Director of the **A. S. Popov Central Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia**. I met Nina this summer during the **History of Technical Societies Conference** in Philadelphia where we both presented papers sharing a love for technical history. Since I was planning a trip to St. Petersburg, she assisted me by recommending a guide for my visit with my family. While my family took a shopping break, I had a brief opportunity to visit the museum. I wish I had spent more time.



George Thomas stands in front of a communications satellite at the **A. S. Popov Central Museum of Communications**.

What impressed me most was the size and organization of the museum. It was much bigger than what I expected and

exceptionally clean. Founded in 1872 and located in the former A. A. Bezborodko palace near St. Isaac's Cathedral, it is one of the oldest technical museums in the world. Closed in 1974 because the building became unsafe, extensive repairs were required before reopening to the public in 2003 in time for St. Petersburg's 300th anniversary. Nina showed me the Great Gala Hall with its magnificent colonnades, sculpted ceiling, and hanging chandeliers. It now serves as a multifunctional meeting room with the grandeur of a palace. The museum has over eight million items relating to all forms of communications including mail, telegraph, telephone, radio, television, and space communications. This is a hands-on museum so children are welcome. When it reopened in 2003, the museum was the first place to offer free Internet access to St. Petersburg citizens.

Nina was especially proud of the **IEEE milestone** hanging on the wall recognizing **P. L. Shilling's** pioneering contributions to practical telegraphy from 1828 to 1837. The museum has his original electromagnetic telegraph. Seeing that milestone in St. Petersburg convinced me that the Chicago Section needs to step up its efforts in getting Chicago's technological achievements recognized as IEEE milestones.

For more information on the museum, visit the [website](#). In the middle of the screen you will see a "switch to English."

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Address corrections:

[IEEE Membership](#)

440 Hoes Ln.

Piscataway, NJ 08854-1331

[IEEE Chicago Section](#)

Mail and Delivery: 335 E. Geneva Road PMB # 389

Carol Stream, IL 60188

Voicemail: 630.493.4333

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