

Calendar of Events

In September

Tues. Sept. 8, 6:00pm
[Officers' Orientation Dinner](#)
 Chicago Section

Wed. Sept. 9, 5:30pm
[Visualization](#)
 Power & Energy

Wed. Sept. 16, 5:00pm
[The New Missile Age](#)
 "33 Minutes"
 Electromagnetic Compatibility

Fri. Sept. 18, 5:00pm
[Millimeter-Wave CMOS Circuits](#)
 Antennas/Microwave

Wed. Sept. 23, 6:30pm
[Mass-Market Electric Vehicles](#)
 Fox Valley Section

Mon. Sept. 28, 6:45pm
[Real Time Embedded Systems](#)
 Consultants Network

In October

Sat. Oct. 24, 6:00pm
[Hall of Fame & Awards Dinner](#)
 Illinois Engineering Council

Wed., Thurs. Oct. 28, 29
[VoIP Conference](#)
 Fox Valley

Fri. Oct 30, 7:30am
[Power System Grounding](#)
 Region 4 Power & Energy

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.



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This Month's Articles

Chair's Corner: 2010 Goals Focus on Website, Conference, Public Exposure

Our new Chair **Bill Nartker** reviews the IEEE-Chicago Section's Mission, Vision, and Goals and encourages all to attend **Officers' Orientation** on Tuesday, September 8. [\[more\]](#)

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 Saturday, November 13. [\[more\]](#)

Consultants Learn to Set Fees and Give Elevator Speeches

Joseph Auer, made two presentations, "How to Set your Consulting Fees" and "Giving a Lift to the Elevator Speech," at the July Meeting of the **Chicago/Rockford Consultants' Network**. [\[more\]](#)

2009 IEEE Conference Full of History

IEEE-Chicago Section History Chair **George Thomas** reports on the **IEEE Conference on the History of Technical Societies** with reflections on Benjamin Franklin, ENIAC, and the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893. [\[more\]](#)

Chair's Corner: 2010 Goals Focus on Website, Conference, Public Exposure



I am happy to report that the slate of officers, including myself, proposed in the May issue of eScanfax were elected at the May Executive Committee meeting: Chair **William Nartker**, Vice Chair **James Phillips**, Treasurer **Robert Burke**, and Secretary **Sharon Phillips**. In addition, chairs of the following standing committees were also elected: Advisory, **Bernard Sander**; Awards, **Jianhui Wang**; Conference, **Alireza Khaligh**; Membership Development, **John Zulaski**; Program, **Nicholas Buris**; Publication, **George Thomas**; and Special Events, **Yellapantula Ramakrishna**. We also filled one of the two positions that had been vacant: Student Activities Chair is now **John Soltzak**. **John Zulaski** stepped in to fill the Professional Activities Chair position on a temporary basis, but is looking for a permanent volunteer. [Email him](#) for information on this and other volunteer opportunities with the Chicago Section.

As the new chair for the IEEE-Chicago Section, I feel my first responsibility is to provide you with the **goals for 2009-2010**, which are below. They focus on current members and how to provide value to them. I have focused our attention on the website, conference, and public exposure.

We will be having our **Annual Officers' Orientation Dinner** at this month's meeting of the IEEE-Chicago Section Executive Committee on **September 8th at 6:00PM at DeVry University in Addison**. We will be explaining how to access the services that the Chicago Section offers all members and chapters within our region. I encourage everyone to attend. If you are planning to attend, please email [Connie Kelly](#) by September 4th.



Jack Sherman

I end, unfortunately, on a sad note. August saw the passing of Jack Sherman, the recipient of the IEEE-Chicago Section's 2006 "Distinguished Service" Award. Jack demonstrated a rare level of dedication and achievement through his long time service and noteworthy contributions to the Section. He served the Chicago Section and its members for over 17 years in many capacities including: 1995 Chicago Section Chair, Membership Development Chair since 1995, and as Chair for numerous incubating Chapters. His tireless service substantially contributed to advancing the work

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of the Executive Committee. In particular, Jack's work as the manager of the IEEE-Chicago Section membership database has been invaluable. We will miss him greatly.

Regards,

William (Bill) Nartker
IEEE-Chicago Section Chair

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IEEE-Chicago Section Mission, Vision, and 2010 Goals

Mission: The IEEE-Chicago Section's core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of its members and the communities within its territory and to promote the engineering profession.

Vision: The IEEE-Chicago Section will be:

Essential to the technical community and its technical professionals by providing:

- Stronger bonds between Executive Committee and chapters/affinity groups
- Significant information resources
- Conferences and Exhibitions
- Additional Chapter activity

Financially sound with a balanced budget and an adequate reserve by:

- Optimizing the headquarters rebate
- Finding other sources of income

Recognized for improving local conditions by providing:

- Grants from the Chicago Section Fund

2010 Strategic Goals

- Significantly increase the content on the IEEE-Chicago Section website
- Plan and execute 2 PACE Conferences earning a minimum of \$1000 each
- Plan and execute a Section-wide Technical Conference and Exhibition earning a minimum of \$1000
- Increase headquarters rebate by 10% over 2009 rebate
- Distribute at least 1 Chicago Section History Grant, 1 Chicago Section Education Grant and 1 scholarship grant

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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 Saturday, November 13, IEEE-Chicago is sponsoring an all day **Smart Leadership Conference at Harper College** in Palatine, Illinois. IEEE members receive special discounts: register before October 2 to receive early bird registration rate of \$159, which includes skill enhancement exhibits, lunch, and professional education credits. To register, call 847.925.6300 or go online at Harpercollege.edu/ce.

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Consultants Learn to Set Fees and Give Elevator Speeches



Joseph Auer

At the July meeting of the **Chicago/Rockford Consultants' Network**, the Network's current chair, **Joseph Auer**, made two presentations very useful for practicing consultants: "**How to Set your Consulting Fees**" and "**Giving a Lift to the Elevator Speech.**" Consultants have a lot of overhead costs –health insurance, retirement, and sick and vacation days – that they need to factor into their rates. They also have chores, such as marketing and bookkeeping – for which they cannot bill clients. The bottom line, Auer explained, is that, to achieve a target salary, consultants need to translate it to an hourly rate and then bill at a rate from two to three times that hourly rate. As IEEE-Chicago member, **Andy Mehta**, who attended, concluded, "There is a lot more to it than may meet the eye."

By definition, an elevator speech needs to be clear and succinct. It's a pitch short enough for a chance elevator ride with a prospective client. Auer recommended using

the “So what?” test. If a statement does not directly contribute to a client benefit or solution, it is either irrelevant and should be discarded or weakly stated and should be rephrased. The maxim for a successful elevator speech is “Rehearse. Rehearse. Rehearse.” A wise consultant is prepared in advance for that chance encounter.

For the details on these two useful presentations and to learn about upcoming meetings, visit the Chicago/Rockford Consultants' Network [website](#).

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2009 IEEE Conference Full of History

George Thomas, *IEEE-Chicago Section History Chair*, reports on the **IEEE Conference on the History of the Technical Societies** held August 5th through 7th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he made a presentation on the “**Reenactment of the IEEE Chicago Section’s Inaugural Meeting.**”

On March 13, 2004 at the **Illinois Institute of Technology**, IEEE-Chicago Section members reenacted the inaugural meeting of the IEEE-Chicago Section that had occurred 110 years prior on that same IIT campus. In my presentation, I clearly pointed out to the audience that the Chicago Section has the unique distinction of being the first **American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE)** section created outside of New York. AIEE is a predecessor organization to IEEE. I discussed the **IEEE-Chicago Section’s Centennial Celebration of 1993** and the role the **World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893** played in the section being granted the right to hold local meetings – a decision which was much debated at the time. I will submit a paper for the proceedings, which will be published by **IEEE Xplore**.



George Thomas, Chicago Section History Chair (l) met up with past IEEE President Merrill Buckley at the History of Technical Societies conference. Buckley spoke at the Chicago Section Centennial Celebration in 1993.

Approximately 125 people registered for the conference, which occurred on the campuses of the **University of Pennsylvania** and **Drexel University** and was part of the 125th anniversary celebration of IEEE. It was a great opportunity to hear the histories of the various sections and to interact with section officers on the challenges facing their sections. Our problems are common. A few volunteers do almost all of the work, and while the cost of producing print versions of section newsletters is becoming cost prohibitive, many want to hold onto

print publications. It is not only the cost of printing: mailing costs represent an almost insurmountable obstacle.

Hearing about the early electrical inventors and their vision of creating an electrical association was extremely interesting. Our own Chicago Section history is no less interesting and I was able to improve my understanding of the challenges facing the Chicago area AIEE members – called Western Engineers – in trying to organize local meetings and present papers. The only other option at the time was to take a train to New York to attend an Institute meeting.

In Philadelphia, I talked to members of the **IEEE History Center** and learned about their new initiative called the **IEEE Global History Network**. With this web-based platform, section members can, without knowledge of html, post their histories for all to see. Space was reserved for all sections, but the Chicago Section space was empty. I was shown how to add content and intend to post our material in the coming year.

Attendees were provided two treats. The first was a tour of the **ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer) Museum at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania**. From 1943 to 1946 as part of the war effort, the Moore School built the ENIAC – widely regarded as a pioneering digital electronic computer – to calculate ballistic trajectories. Four of the original 40 racks

exist in the museum. ENIAC's 18,000 vacuum tubes were run at reduced filament voltage to increase reliability. The ENIAC ran base-10 arithmetic, so was not a binary computer.

As a second treat, the IEEE Philadelphia Section invited attendees to a private dedication of an **IEEE Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing**. A bronze plaque will be hung in the vestibule of the Library of the **American Philosophical Society (APS)** to honor the book, **Experiments and Observations on Electricity**, by **Benjamin Franklin**, 1751.

We all had a chance to view Franklin's books and those of other authors of his time. Franklin was truly a remarkable individual. During his lifetime, others died trying to replicate his observations in some of his experiments, and he felt bad about that. After the presentation, a reception was held in the Thomas Jefferson garden in back of the APS library.



Benjamin Franklin greeted visitors at the entrance of the Electricity Building at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

2009 IEEE President and CEO **John Vig** spoke at the dinner banquet celebrating IEEE's 125th anniversary at the Down Town Club. The main speaker, **Henry Petroski**, provided case histories of failed engineering designs that served as invaluable information for future designs that worked. During the conference and banquet, seven former or current IEEE presidents were present.

I came away with a better respect for how international in scope IEEE is. It was great chatting with members from Russia, France, England, Japan and Brazil each of whom was very proud of their section's or society's history and equally dedicated to IEEE. I had a great time.

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