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The Advisor

February 2002

Newsletter of the
IEEE Phoenix Area
Consultants Network

Volume 9 Number 2

IEEE PHOENIX AREA CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday, February 14, 2002
Social and check in at 6:30 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM
Choice: We will order off a set menu: fish, sirloin,
chicken, or pork chop, plus bread, vegetable, sherbet,
coffee or tea
Business meeting starts about 8 PM

WHERE:

Monti's La Casa Vieja on Rio Salado Parkway (formerly
First Street) and Mill Avenue in Tempe.
Phone: 480 967 7594

COST:

Cost will be a flat \$10 per dinner. If you come at 7:30 or
so and do not eat, there is no charge.

PROGRAM:

TAX CHANGES FOR 2002:

Our colleague Regina Caplan, CPA, (former associate
member of the PACN), will review the tax law changes
that are in the works for 2002 and following years.

RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED:

Advanced reservations are always appreciated, so please
email your reservations to Paul Everett at peverett@ieee.org
at your earliest convenience.

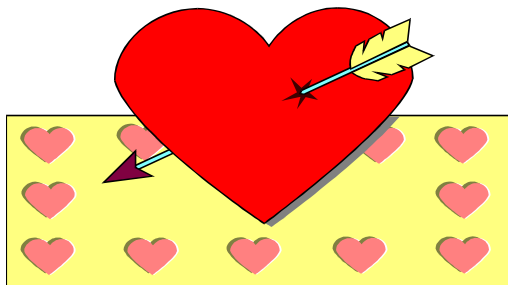
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Paul Everett, President

As most you know by now, Bruce decided to step down as PACN President, and I found myself put in his stead. I'm not sure how that happened. I think I blinked. Fortunately, Bruce agreed to serve as Vice President and run the workshop we are planning to put on in the Fall. That is a major task, and I hope everyone will pitch in and help. Bruce will be forming a committee to setup the workshop over the next few months. Please give him all the support you can. If you are not on the committee, please volunteer for the plethora of other tasks that will need to be done. We have had two very successful workshops in the past, and we want this one to be the best of the bunch. The workshops are put on in conjunction with a meeting of the AICN (Alliance of IEEE Consultant Networks), our national organization. By coordinating the meetings, we are able to have nationally known consultants tell us the secrets to their success. Besides that, a good time is had by all.

I should probably tell you what I think the major issues are facing PACN. Please let me know what other issues you think need to be addressed. Bring it up at one of the monthly meetings or send me an email at peverett@ieee.org. The two issues that concern me the most are declining membership and declining attendance at our monthly meetings. Both are about half what they were when I joined the group in 1996. This may just be a normal cyclical type of thing. Or it may be more fundamental. In any case, we need to fix it. If you have any ideas how we can get back to where we were, please discuss them with one of the Board members so that the Board can address the issue and do something about it. Or send me an email. One thing that was suggested is to schedule our programs and speakers at least six months in advance and put that information in our newsletter, *The Advisor*. We will start with that. We also need to find ways to promote ourselves within the IEEE Phoenix Section and the engineering community in general.

Our meeting this month falls on Valentine Day, Feb. 14, which happens to be the second Thursday of the month. We



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always have our meetings on the second Thursday, and the Board felt that it would too much confusion if we changed it. However, in deference to our better halves, one of our number made the suggestion that we bring them (spouses, significant others, whatever) to the meeting so that they could see "whom we hang out with". Anyway, the dinners are currently being subsidized by the Network, and it's a cheap date. The speaker at this month's meeting will be our old friend Regina Caplan who give us a heads-up on the multitude of tax law changes that are going into affect. We might actually learn something that could save us a couple bucks. And the ladies might feel a bit more comfortable with one of their own being the honored guest.

We are going to try to include more technically oriented programs in addition to those that are more directly related to consulting. The Board feels that the membership might find the technical talks interesting, and it might help to have a variety of subjects. Our schedule for the next several months is:

- February – Regina Kaplan will talk about the tax law changes in general and specifically how they can affect us.
- March – Ron Sprague will talk about how we can market our services more effectively, and I will talk about using a web site to generate business.
- April – Roy McAllister will return for a second round and will discuss the technology of hydrogen fuel cells and tell us how they work.
- May – This is our annual picnic, and we will have it this year.
- June – Bill Morgan will tell us about flight simulation technology, which is what he does to put bread on the table.
- July - Russ Johnson will talk about the practical applications of solar energy.

That is as far as the Board has worked out the speaker schedule. We will, however, try to keep at least six months ahead. If you know of anyone who would be willing to give a talk that our members would find interesting or if you would like to do it yourself, please let one of the board members know. We are always on the lookout for good speakers.

Our meetings are always held on the second Thursday of the month. We are going to try to continue to hold them at Monti's. The Board thinks there will be

less confusion if they are always at the same place. For the time being at least, the Network is subsidizing the meal tab, and the meal will cost you only ten dollars, not bad for steak, chicken or whatever.

It is now time to pay our dues, and they have been substantially reduced. For 2002 they are:

- \$25 for IEEE members
- \$30 for non-IEEE members
- \$20 for associate members

If you haven't paid for this year, please send your check to:

Bill Morgan, PACN Treasurer
 23 E. Fairmount Dr.
 Tempe AZ 85282

Also, the Board decided that anyone who brings in a new member will be relieved of the obligation to pay the following year's dues – good deal. So, get some of your friends to come and save a few bucks.

We still trying to convince Vaughn to continue as editor/publisher of *The Advisor*. Vaughn has done a truly exceptional job for many years, and he deserves our most sincere thanks for all that he has done. Vaughn is continuing as a member of the Board, and he is one of the most regular attendees at our meetings. If you would be interested in taking over our newsletter, please let us know. Vaughn would be pleased to have someone else take over. In the meantime, we are sending out these meeting notices in lieu of *The Advisor*. (*Editor's note: Thanks, Paul, it's good to be appreciated.. I broke down and did a "condensed" version of the Advisor this month, but I'd still like to find a replacement.*)

See you on the second Thursday.

<i>The Advisor</i>		
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