

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our August meeting is on the 8th and is early this month due to the accident of calendar. Joe Mansky of Natural Data will talk about opportunities in the area of temporary job assignments or what we usually refer to as job shopping. The Board thought that would it would be worthwhile for our members to at least be acquainted with the opportunities that job shopping can offer. It can be used to put bread on the table during lean times but still leave you in a position to return to your independent lifestyle when things get better. It never hurts to learn about what opportunities are available so that you can take advantage of them when it suits your purposes. A very good friend of mine from graduate school has been doing this for a very long time (20 years?) and loves it. Anyway, please show up on Thursday evening and learn what it's about. As usual the meeting will be at Monti's at the southwest corner of Mill Ave. and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. Networking and socializing starts at 6:30 with dinner at 7 and the program at 8.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 2. Ron Sprague is currently surveying potential host sites. Hopefully, we will have the location identified in the near future. Lane Garrett is well along on lining up speakers. So things are looking good. The national consultants organizations Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks (AICN) will arrange to have the meeting of its governing board on Sunday, November 3 at the same location. That way the AICN attendees will also attend our workshop which by the way will be a tremendous networking opportunity for us. It also provides us with a pool of excellent and well informed speakers for the workshop sessions. Workshop planning is moving along well, and things are looking good for having our third straight successful workshop. Bruce Johnson, the workshop Chair, is a good organizer.

It was suggested at the last board meeting that we consider having the board meetings precede the regular monthly meetings on the second Thursday. The advantage is that our board members would not have to give up a Saturday morning every month. The proposal sounded good to everyone there, and we are looking into it. Mostly, we just need to find a place to hold the meeting that is in relative close proximity to Monti's. It would save the board members an extra trip to my place which is a bit out of the way for those folks on the north side of South Mountain. Anyway we are looking into it and will let you know what happens.

At last month's regular dinner meeting, we started a discussion on trying to broaden our appeal beyond traditional consulting. Some of us are true consultants who provide expert advice and other services to their clients on an hourly or daily basis. I do some of that work myself. However, quite a few of us do more what could be called contract work where we agree to perform a well defined service (such as, in my case, design an electro-optic sensor) for a fixed price. Our friends at ETA (I finally found out what ETA stands for at our last meeting) also do a substantial amount of manufacturing in addition to their design work. A national magazine (I don't remember which one right now) recently identified Phoenix as the nation's hot spot for technology start-ups. The question is whether we should expand the scope of our organization to include the entrepreneurial side of things in addition to the consulting side of the technology business. Any decision on this issue would have to be made by the membership at the December business meeting. We would like to get a discussion going on the subject leading up to the business meeting. So put your thoughts on the table at the second Thursday meetings. I have an email list (or as my wife calls it a list-serve) for the membership. If anyone has any thoughts for the group to consider, email them to me, and I will forward them out to the membership verbatim. Just send them to peverett@ieee.org.

Vaughn Treude is putting his arms around the web site, and we will soon have that project moving forward in good order. We still haven't solved the problems in putting the newsletter into PDF format so this month's issue will still be in text format. We hope to get taken care of soon so that we can include articles from the membership and other interesting features. Bruce has agreed to use his digital camera to take pictures of the speakers at our monthly meetings and anything else that is interesting. Maybe we should have a "Really Bad Jokes" section, and everyone could make his woeful contribution.

The upcoming meetings and programs are:

- * August 8 - Joe Mansky of Natural Data will talk about using job shop assignments effectively
- * September 12 - Ed Koch will talk to us about his investment activities
- * October 10 - Jim Soudriette will talk about management consulting
- * November 14 - Lane Garrett will talk about the all solar powered building ETA Engineering is (was - something about municipal bureaucracy) doing in Tempe
- * December 12 - Annual business meeting and roundtable discussion

We are starting to set up the programs for next year. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please forward them to me or any other member of the Board so we can include them in our schedule.

See you on August 8.

Editor's Notes

Once again I have to apologize about having to send out The Advisor in "plain text".

I was "out of town" a lot during July. I also want to apologize about the lateness. Apparently Paul had already left town when I discovered that I couldn't open the ".doc" file he had sent (and apparently he had not connected the fact that I'd announced in June that the August Advisor was going to be "plain text" with the notion that what he should send me was a .txt file).

I did "accidentally" produce a PDF file of an incomplete version of July's newsletter, but with all my "adventures" I haven't had time to pursue it. I do intend to get some time to tinker with the problem in August, so with some luck, the September version will be "fancier". However, if you send me something for publication, PLEASE send a .txt file as well as the "formatted" version.

Contact Info:

Editor:	Clark Jones	(480)641-7801
	Executive Board	
President:	Paul Everett	(480)706-4753
Vice President:	C. Bruce Johnson	(480)759-2826
Secretary:	Ron Sprague	(480)962-8183
Treasurer:	Bill Morgan	(480)921-4094
Membership Chair:	Russ Johnson	(480)991-3787
Member at Large:	Lane Garrett	(480)966-1380
Member at Large:	Vaughn Treude	(602)750-3662