

Newsletter of the
Area Consultants
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Number 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, June 12 at Monti's La Casa Vieja at the southwest corner of Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. Networking and the social hour begin at 6:30 with dinner starting about 7 PM. Bruce Johnson will present the program. Bruce is a member of the steering committee of the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks (AICN). That committee recently carried out a nationwide and comprehensive survey of consultants' income. Bruce will review the results of that survey. The data will include hourly/daily rates, total annual income and will be organized by technical discipline. This is a subject of particular interest to all of us, and if you ever wanted to know how much consultants really get paid, this is your chance. This is the real stuff. Bruce was going to talk about "Electric Windmills", but he changed subjects when these data became available. We will try to schedule the Electric Windmill talk later on.

The Network has been subsidizing the meals at Monti's to the tune of something more than 50%. The treasury was larger than we thought it needed to be, and subsidizing the meals seemed like a good way to return the excess to our members. Both our membership and attendance at our

meetings has
grown

substantially over the past few months. The result has been that the treasury is being drained at a rate that cannot be sustained. We have no choice but to substantially decrease the subsidy, and the Board decided to raise the meal cost to \$20. This is still a bit less than the actual cost, but we think we will be able to deal with it. The food at Monti's, however, is very good with a choice of filet mignon, orange roughy or Italian chicken with salad, dessert and that great bread. Coffee and tea are also included, but you have to buy your own beer, wine etc., no open bar. There is no cost if you don't eat so come around 8 if you want to skip dinner but still want to make the program.

We have been consistently overflowing the Senator's Room at Monti's and will move to a larger room in the back of the building this month. At this point, we don't know which room it is going to be. Check at the podium when you come in to find out what room we are in. In any case, please let us know if you are coming by sending an email to peverett@everettinfrared.com so that we can make sure that Monti's sets enough places for us. Hopefully we will not have anyone perched at a little side table as has happened the last few times in the Senator's Room.

Last month's picnic was a lot of fun for those of us who were there. However, attendance was a bit light. A few years

ago attendance at the picnic was very substantial, but it has been falling off recently. Let's make it a topic of conversation at our meetings over the next few months and see if we want to continue the tradition or have a regular meeting in May instead.

If you haven't paid your 2003 dues, please do so now. Send a check to

William D. Morgan
Treasurer, IEEE PACN
23 E. Fairmount Drive
Tempe AZ 85282

We are getting to the point where we need the money. Besides, the dues are cheap. The regular membership dues for IEEE members are \$25/yr. If you are not an IEEE member, the cost is \$30/yr. The IEEE requires a difference in the two categories. Associate membership is available to those who are not actively engaged in engineering, and the associate member dues are \$20/yr. All in all, it is pretty cheap. When you pay your dues, Vaughn and Bruce will make a nice laminated name badge with 2003 prominently displayed. The badges are supposed to be worn at all of our meetings so please remember to bring it each time.

If you haven't already, please put your resumes together and send them to Vaughn so that he can post them on the web site. His email address is vaughn@nakota-software.com. Our web site is steadily improving, but we need your help. This is a free marketing tool that the Network provides to its members. The more participants we have the more effective it is. So get your resume posted and help everyone, most of all yourself.

We will again have the Board meeting at ETA Engineering prior to the dinner meeting. The Board meeting starts about 5 PM and winds up a little after 6. Any member is welcome to attend, but let me know if you are going to be there so we can make sure there is a place for you to sit. Just send me an email.

Check out our web site at <http://www.ieeepacn.com>

See you on the second Thursday. Compensation is a subject dear to all of our hearts, and I expect attendance at this month's meeting will be higher than usual.

Paul

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

My apologies for the newsletter being a bit later than usual this month. I'm writing this on Sunday evening, and today was the 13th straight day that I've worked, and the third weekend out of the past four that I've worked. Although it would be great if I were able to bill by the hour, unfortunately I'm "salaried", so don't get overtime.

I certainly enjoyed the picnic last month, and I took along my digital camera and had taken some pics that I had hoped to include in this month's *Advisor*, but I've been so busy that they haven't even made it out of the camera and onto the

computer disk.

I had mumbled something about doing a couple of pages on testing for this issue, but completing it was another victim of all that overtime.

Paul mentioned the website in his message. Well, it did some good: I knew I had something wrong in the list of the Executive Board, but I couldn't recall the

correct data as I sat down to write this. (They say that memory is the second thing to go...) Anyway, I was able to look it up on the website. So Vaughn can be assured that his efforts have done someone some good!

I don't know about you folks, but I'm sure looking forward to a good dinner and meeting at Monti's on Thursday!

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PACN Website: <http://www.ieeepacn.com>

IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network Membership Application Form

Membership is available to anyone who is interested in the goals of the organization. Full membership entitles a member to voting privileges at business meetings, and to a web site listing. Associate members are not listed and do not vote, but receive all mailings. Please note that the newsletter is distributed via e-mail.

I hereby apply for (full ___ associate ___) membership in the IEEE Phoenix area Consultants Network.

NAME: _____
(Last) (First and initials)

IEEE member? Yes ___ (Membership number _____) No ___

P.E.? Yes ___ (States: _____) No ___

Area(s) of expertise: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Company address: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

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Preferred mail address: Work ___ Home ___ Signature: _____

Mail completed form with membership fee payable to "IEEE-PACN" to:

William D. Morgan
Treasurer, IEEE PACN
23 E. Fairmount Drive
Tempe AZ 85282

Fees: Full member, IEEE Member: \$25
Full member, non-IEEE Member \$30
Associate member: \$20