

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, December 11 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. As is the usual case for December, our annual business meeting and roundtable discussion will take the place of the regular program this month.

The primary piece of business that will be taken care of at the meeting is the Executive Board election. For reasons lost in the past, the PACN governing body is called the Executive Board. All the other IEEE groups have Executive Committees. In any case we elect Board members at the December meeting. The Board currently has seven members elected for three year terms. That means that every third year we elect three members to the Board and two members the other two years. The Board will recommend to the general membership at this month's meeting that the size of the Board be increased to nine members. A 2/3 majority at a business meeting is required to change the size of the board. That means, assuming that the issue is approved, that once the startup effect is worked out, we will elect three members to the Board each year for three year terms. Bruce Johnson and Bill Morgan have faithfully served on the Board for many years and both have agreed to continue, if asked. The Board nominating committee knew a good thing when it saw it and nominated both for re-election to new terms. If the membership expands the size of the Board at the meeting, one added member will be elected to a three year term, and the other will be elected for two years. The nominating committee asked

Mike Jordan to run for the three year term and Ed Mischen to run for the two year term, and both agreed. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor if anyone else wishes to run. The requirements are that the candidate must be a regular member in good standing of both PACN and IEEE. That means that your dues have to be up-to-date in both cases. Board members must also reside in the Phoenix area, but that does not seem to be an issue with the current membership. Everybody lives here.

The Board has been doing good work, and everyone on it is getting involved. This is good, and we want to keep it going. All four of the nominated candidates either are making major contributions or will. Bruce is the current vice president, and Bill is the treasurer. Bruce did the lion's share of the work in organizing last year's workshop, and we all know Bill since we give him \$20 at each meeting. Mike has been attending the Board meetings regularly and has been doing a lot of good work for about a year now. Ed started attending the Board meetings more recently and has indicated his willingness to get involved up to his elbows. The more good and energetic people we have doing the Network's work, the less I have to worry about, and that is good, for me at least.

By the way, the bylaws define the nominating committee as consisting of the current president, vice president, immediate past president and another board member as chairman. I appointed Lane Garrett as chairman and Bruce filled two of the other categories. So the nominating committee consisted of the three of us.

When we get the Board business taken care of, we will go on to the roundtable discussion. This is an open discussion where all of our members can give their opinions about where the Network

ought to be going, what we are doing right and maybe not so right and what we should be doing but are not. This discussion is basically where the Board gets its direction for the next year. So please come and join in. We need your input.

Praba Kumarakulasingam gave a very interesting talk about computer architecture last month. I learned a lot, and I for one would like to learn more. We have a number of software types in our group. Maybe someone would like to continue with the subject or maybe we can get Praba to come back and give us Part 2.

We have set up a bunch of the programs for next year.

1. Our speaker in January will be Erik Graham, the Chief Information Security Officer, General Dynamics Corp. His topic, of course, will be information security.
2. In February, LaVern Douglas from the state office that certifies Professional Engineers will talk on the requirements and procedures. A number of our members already have PE after their names, and several others want to get certified. Whether we are planning to get a PE or not, this should be an interesting program.
3. In March, Frank Garza is going to talk about quality assurance which is his area of expertise. This should dovetail nicely with Dave Douthit's talk of a couple of month's ago.
4. In April, Gary Whitting is going to talk on the legal aspects of intellectual property. Gary is a new member who is just starting his patent law practice.
5. May, of course, is the annual family picnic, and we will not have a speaker.

In addition, Lane Garrett has agreed to talk on the H₂ economy and Bruce promised us a talk on windmills. We can't let him get out of that. Also, I am told that Jack Stewart is going to talk to us later in the year. We still have a couple of slots open for 2004. If you have any suggestions, please pass them on to me or another Board member.

As I have mentioned a number of times, we would really like to get the general membership to contribute to *The Advisor*. We have been trying for more than a year to get some short white papers describing what our members do for a living. The articles, of course, should not be too technical so that they will have fairly broad appeal to those of us who work in other fields. It is always interesting to learn a bit about another technical area. We would also like to get "Letters to the Editor". I think we would like the letters to somehow relate to PACN or be of general interest to a bunch of engineers. Otherwise, comment on anything that captures your interest. *The Advisor* would be a lot more interesting if there were more attention grabbing contributions in addition to the tomes Clark and I put in there each month. If you would like to say something, please send it to the good Mr. Jones, at jones8@mindspring.com. Clark tells me he prefers plain text format, but I know he also accepts Word 6. Word XP, however, is not good.

The 2004 dues are due January 1, and Bill has already started collecting them. Send you contributions to;

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

Or pay them at the meeting next week or

maybe this week. Clark went running off to Europe, and we are not sure when this issue of *The Advisor* will get out. The dues are cheap, and think of all of the benefits you get from belonging to this fine organization. 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 dues for the two categories. Associate membership is available to those who are not actively engaged in engineering, and the associate member dues are \$20/yr. When you pay your dues, Vaughn and Bruce will make a nice laminated name badge with 2003 or 2004 prominently displayed. The badges are supposed to be worn at all of our meetings so please remember to bring it each time. By the way, I have a briefcase of badges that have not been picked. If you haven't received yours, check with me at the next meeting. I usually have the briefcase with me.

If you haven't done so 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 so take advantage of it. 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 at peverett@everettinfrared.com.

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

See you on the second Thursday.

Paul

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

As Paul pointed out, I just returned from a trip to Europe. I had a great time! I was visiting a friend who lives in a suburb of Naples, Italy. The first weekend we went, along with two of her other friends, to Slovenia. Slovenia is the northwestern most country of what used to be Yugoslavia. It is a truly beautiful country, and the people are quite friendly. They have made great strides since the end of the Communist era. From the guide books that I have read, though, apparently many of the "tourist attractions" are rather crowded during the summer months.

I took a tour of Pompeii. One of the things that struck me is that it is much larger than what you would think from seeing it on television or in National Geographic. It was a LOT of walking, mostly on rough pavement (though given the fact that the pavement is nearly 2000 years old, it isn't surprising it's rough). In many places there are ruts the expected 4 foot 7.5 inches apart (same as U.S. standard railroad gauge). There are some truly lovely frescoes – they are meant to make the rooms look larger than they are, and you could practically walk right into them. I remarked to the tour guide that it makes one wonder what of our civilization will still be around in 2000 years. His reply was that about the only things likely to last would be our toilets, being made of ceramic.

We did get up to Rome for one weekend, and saw a bit of Vatican City, and did tour the Colosseum. It is an impressive building, and had a seating capacity rivaling that of Bank One Ballpark. It makes one a bit sick to see how it was ravaged over the centuries, but there's enough left to be able to see what it was like in its glory days. From the travel shows I'd seen on TV, I had gotten the impression that the Roman Empire structures were all together. Although

there are several interesting ones near the Colosseum, the rest are rather spread out.

We spent Thanksgiving weekend in London. Not to worry, we did have a turkey dinner, though we had it at Planet Hollywood. On Friday we took a bus tour of the city, and had a nice sunny day, which is rare at this time of year in London. (It was a bit chilly, but at about 52 degrees north attitude, that's to be expected.) Saturday my friend wanted to shopping, so we went to Harrod's Department Store and to Hamley's Toy Store. Harrod's is very large, with a lot of "upscale" goods,

which they are quite proud of. Hamley's, if you've never heard of it, is 6 or 7 floors, each of which is about 2/3 the size of the typical "Toys R Us" store.

I found out many interesting things in this trip, such as pizza is cooked in a different type of oven than is used in the U.S. -- it takes only 3 minutes to cook. But I've rambled on about my trip long enough, and I'm sure you'll appreciate my getting this out tonight (Sunday).

Clark

Vision of the IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network (PACN)

To provide the PACN members valuable technological and business forums for furthering their career goals as a consultant, utilizing the IEEE "Code of Ethics" as a guideline to conduct their business.

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**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: _____
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IEEE member? Yes____ (Membership number _____) No____

P.E.? Yes____ (States: _____) No____

Area(s) of expertise: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

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Fees: Full member, IEEE Member: \$25
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