

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 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. The program will follow at about 8. Our speaker will be Erik Graham, the Chief Information Security Officer of General Dynamics Corp. Information is the tool of our trade, and keeping it secure is a major concern even in my small business. Come at 8 for the program if you would like to pass on Monti's fine cuisine and the twenty dollar bill that comes with it. I think this talk will be well worth your time to say nothing of the fine fellowship you will enjoy by spending an hour or so in our company.

We held our annual business session and roundtable discussion at last month's meeting. The membership voted to expand the Board from seven to nine members. In the past we have usually had to do some hunting and then convincing to find people who were will contribute their time and serve on the Board. It is very comforting that we now have even a surplus of volunteers. This bodes very well for the Network's future. And there is more than enough work to keep everyone busy. Anyone who is interested in taking an active roll in PACN's operation only needs to attend the Board meetings that take place just prior to the monthly dinner meetings and are open to all members. They are held at ETA Engineering (Lane Garrett's company) near University and the Price Freeway. They start about 5 and end up a bit after 6 so we can head over to Monti's. If you

start coming to the Board meetings, however, be warned that you will probably end up on a committee and have to do something. Let me know if you want to attend, and I will send you directions.

We elected current Board members Bruce Johnson and Bill Morgan to new three year terms. We also elected Mike Jordan to one of the newly created seats on the Board. His term is also for three years. We elected Ed Mischen to the other new seat. His term will expire in two years and then switch over to a three year term in December, 2005. That way we will elect three members to three year terms on the Board each year from now on, or at least until we change things again.

We had a very good roundtable discussion going and very reluctantly had to cut things off a 9:30, because that is when Monti's closes. This was really too bad since we getting very good participation from everyone and were getting some really good ideas. The Network has been meeting at Monti's over most of our history. The food is good, but the real reason is the private rooms they have where we can hold our meetings. However, the price has been steadily going up. The cost for dinner was \$13 when I joined PACN in '96, and the Network made a dollar or two on each dinner. We now charge \$20 and subsidize it by a dollar or two out of the treasury. The \$20 dollar cost is keeping a number of our members from attending, and I think the rest of us would prefer to find a more economical arrangement. At any rate, we are looking for a less expensive restaurant that can provide us with a private room appropriate for a speaker with a projector, screen etc. If you have any suggestions, please send me an email.

Jim Soudriette suggested that we undertake

painting a house for a disadvantaged family. This is a program that has wide spread support throughout the community. Basically, we pay for the paint and supplies and show up on a nice spring Saturday morning and spend the day painting the house. This is an excellent opportunity for us to provide a needed service to the community and gain a great deal of personal satisfaction. Also, it will certainly help in making us known throughout the Phoenix area. The Board will take up Jim's suggestion at this month's meeting.

The Board will organize itself at this month's meeting. We set up the Marketing Committee a couple years ago to find ways to market our members' capabilities and, hopefully, generate work assignments. We have since sort of expanded the committee's purview to include marketing PACN itself and generate new members. With the increased participation, we may want to break our one standing committee into two, each with its own well defined scope. That is something we will sort out at this month's board meeting.

I should point out that *The Advisor* is probably going to be late this month, and the fault is entirely mine. With the holidays and the press of things that I should have done earlier, I was tardy in sending this "message" to Clark. I humbly apologize to one and all for any inconvenience that may have caused.

The programs for the next several months are:

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. May, of course, is the annual family picnic, and we will not have a speaker.
5. In June, Bruce Johnson is going to review The History of Wind Turbines.

In addition, Lane Garrett has agreed to talk on the H<sub>2</sub> economy, and 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](mailto:jones8@mindspring.com). Clark tells me he

prefers rtf format [please see my message – ed.], 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. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

I hope that you folks are better than Paul is at reading *The Advisor*. I've corrected him several times in these pages, and he still hasn't gotten it: I want **PLAIN TEXT**, not RTF.

Paul also forgot to mention that we gave an award to Lane Garrett. Fortunately, I had my camera handy, and snapped a picture.



I'm writing this after news that exploration robot Spirit has landed safely on Mars. Nova, on Channel 8, had a very nice program about the building of the two rovers that NASA sent to Mars. I think that we can all identify with the excitement that these guys have gone through. Considering how many failures there have been, it's truly encouraging to see the success.

Paul, in his message, noted that there are many exciting things scheduled for the coming year. On a more personal note, I expect that 2004 will be the first year that I'll be on at least three different continents in a single year. (There's even a chance for four, or maybe even five.) I've never been on more than two continents in a single year before.

Well, I probably should try to get this into the e-mail tonight.

See you Thursday at Monti's!

Clark

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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.

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