

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, February 12th 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 LaVern Douglas from the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration. Ms. Douglas is a certified public manager and serves as the Deputy Director for the Licensing Department. In that capacity, she oversees the licensing and examining functions, and she serves as the board's Personnel Director. Ms. Douglas will speak on the requirements and procedures for obtaining a certification as a Professional Engineer (PE) in Arizona. Whether or not we are planning to earn a PE certification, this should be a very interesting program. 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.

Erik Graham, Chief Information Security Officer of General Dynamics Corp, was our speaker last month. He gave a great deal of insight into protecting information from internet intruders. I noticed that the computer professionals that we have in our midst really got into the talk. I might point out that it was also very interesting and informative to those of us who are not pros. We had so much discussion that we had to cut it off since we ran past Monti's 9:30 closing time. Erik did assume to at least a small degree

knowledge of technical detail that was foreign to me at least, but if you just went with the flow you could follow what he was talking about. Information is the tool of our trade, and keeping it secure is a major concern even in my small business. I have Norton Internet Security/AntiVirus, various firewalls and a few other protective devices on my system. I still get at least a half dozen attacks a day. Fortunately, I seem to be well protected, and as well as I know nothing has gotten through. Unfortunately, my domain name seems to have been appropriated by persons unknown who are sending out malicious emails from fictitious people @everettinfrared.com. These emails can come from servers anywhere in the world, and it doesn't seem possible, at least for me, to track them down. I rely on the internet for nearly all of my business, and this sort of stuff can give my company a bad name and hurt business.

The IEEE Phoenix Section recognized Bruce Johnson and Lanes Garrett at the annual Awards Banquet on January 24, for their many years of service and leadership to PACN and awarded them very nice plaques. Congratulations to both.

At its January meeting the Board organized itself for the coming year. Last year's officers will continue for another year. You are again stuck with me as President. Bruce Johnson will continue as Vice President, Bill Morgan as Treasurer and Eli Kawam as Secretary. We have had one standing committee in the past that sort of covered everything we wanted to accomplish. With the expansion of the Board we now have enough man power to address these issues in a more coherent manner. So we have organized things with two committees. The first one will retain the Marketing label we used in the past. Its purpose is to promote the organization and the members' capabilities. We want to enhance

PACN's stature within the engineering community, and we want to generate jobs or work assignments for the individual members. These two seemingly different tasks really are related. We need to get the PACN name out there so people will come to us when they need a job done. Ron Sprague will chair this committee. The other committee is Membership. It also is multipurpose. First, the intent is to bring in more members. We are doing well, and our membership is growing. We need to keep that trend going. There are a lot of independently employed engineers out there who could benefit from PACN. I work with a couple of them myself. We need to bring these folks into our fold. We also need to work on the services that the organization provides to its members. The Membership Committee has a fairly full plate. It will be chaired by Mike Jordan. If anyone would like to serve on either of these committees please contact the appropriate chairman. Participation in these activities will be greatly appreciated.

Jim Soudriette has found a multimedia projector for us. Up to now we have been relying on the ASU IEEE Student Branch to borrow one from the university for us. The one Jim found for us is a lease return and is less than 25% of its original price which is within our range of affordability. Thank you, Jim. We will put it to good use.

We are still looking around for a more affordable dinner option. There is a fair amount of sentiment for staying at Monti's. It has been noted that every time we have gone some place else we have come back. Monti's is set up for dinner meetings, and it will be hard to find someplace else with comparable facilities. However, it is not good if the \$20 cost is keeping people from attending. Even at that cost PACN is subsidizing the meals. The real cost is more like \$22 a head. Let us

know your opinion. Of course, if you are not attending the meetings because of the cost it is sort of hard to get your opinion in person. If so, send an email. You can always skip dinner and come for the program at no cost. You can even come for the good fellowship and just not eat. Monti's only charges us for the dinners they serve. You can put in your two cents worth on any subject by sending an email to me or anyone else on the Board. One issue is location. Most of us live in the East Valley. However, we do have two active members who live in the West Valley and a couple of others who are not so active. It is a long drive across this town. Our members live north, south, east and west of Monti's, and it is probably fairly close to the weighted geometric center. But if we were more West Valley friendly we might get more folks from out there to come to our meetings. In any case, let us know what you think.

At the Roundtable in December, Jim Soudriette suggested that PACN participate in an on going project to paint the exterior of houses that need it. It is basically a charity operation. The houses are carefully selected so that the owners of the houses are both in need and deserving. If you are interested in finding out more about it, please let us know right away. The cost to you is a Saturday in May and a contribution to cover the cost of the paint. Many of us feel we should contribute more to charitable causes but are concerned that a good part of our contribution doesn't make it to those who need it. Well here is an opportunity where all of your contribution in both time and money makes it to where it will do the most good. If you want to participate or find out if you want to participate, send an email.

Our board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month preceding the dinners meetings. 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. All members are welcome at the board meetings. 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.

The programs for the next several months are:

1. 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.
2. 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. He is both an engineer and a lawyer.
3. May, of course, is the annual family picnic, and we will not have a speaker.
4. In June, Bruce Johnson is going to review *The History of Wind Turbines*.

In addition, Lane Garrett has agreed to talk on the H₂ 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. Clark tells me he prefers rtf format [actually, I want plain text, ".txt" format, *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. 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 up. 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. Check out our web site at <http://www.ieeepacn.com>.

See you on the second Thursday.

Paul

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

Plainly our “illustrious” leader, Paul, isn't reading *The Advisor*. So, I suppose I could take that as license to say just about anything I would care to about him! But I'll be nice, as someday he might start reading my words, and find out that for many months I've been correcting his message:: I want **PLAIN TEXT**, not RTF. Oh well, at least he knows how (and when) to use the “Shift” key. I suppose I should be thankful for small blessings!

A couple of weeks ago I went to the IEEE Awards Banquet. It wasn't all that exciting, but on the other hand, it was interesting meeting other members of the IEEE, and hearing at least a little bit about what else is going on in the valley. There were some nice presentations, and dinner wasn't bad (though I

will say that I still prefer Monti's).

Our speaker this month definitely sounds interesting! My understanding is that they're currently not registering software engineers, but I know in years past there has been talk of doing it. I'm looking forward to hearing more about how to become a PE. (As of this writing, it sounds like we'll have a good crowd.)

Off on a totally different tangent, if you have any interest in seeing a “blast from the past” (literally), you might like to visit the Western National Shoot for the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, which is scheduled for February 25th through March 1st (though Monday is just “awards day”) at the Ben Avery Shooting Facility (northwest corner of I-17 and Carefree Highway). There will be shooting competitions with muzzle-loading rifles, pistols, and muskets, and knife and tomahawk throwing competitions. Although you have to be an NMLRA member to participate in competitions, anyone is welcome to observe, and to wander through Traders' Row. In some years they also have a display of historic firearms. On Saturday a lot of folks will be in period costume, basically anything Civil War or before. (I've even seen one person dressed as a Conquistador.)

See you Thursday at Monti's!

Clark

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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: _____
(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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