



IEEE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Jacob Z. Schanker, P.E., Newsletter Chair
The new Rochester section web site is at: <http://rochester.ieee.org/>

Rochester Section Meeting – Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 12 Noon

The next Rochester Section business meeting is on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 12:00pm, at the Shanghai Restaurant, 2920 West Henrietta Road, just south of the intersection with Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road.

Any IEEE member is invited. Lunch is only \$3 for IEEE members. No reservation or RSVP is needed, just show up. Come to enjoy the renowned Shanghai cuisine and the sparkling company of other IEEE members.

Section Chair's Report from Bill Fowlkes

Dear IEEE members:

On behalf of myself and the rest of the Officers I want to thank you for your support and offer you my best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2013. In the upcoming year we will continue our focus on professional development and technical training as well as development of our student branches and chapters. I also want to alert you that 2014 will be our 100th anniversary of the Rochester Section. We will have a planning committee this year to plan some special events for next year.

People sometimes ask me how they can get more out of their IEEE membership. I always have a one word answer -- VOLUNTEER! We are currently looking for a leader for the Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) affinity group. We also need an RES representative and volunteers for the Centennial Event committee. If you are interested in these or any other opportunities, please contact me at wmyfowlkes@ieee.org or better yet come to one of our Excom meetings (see this newsletter for the schedule and location) to introduce yourself and see what we are all about.

Join us at the IEEE Table at the RES Annual Gala April 20

The Rochester Section traditionally has one or two tables (of ten or twelve) at the annual RES Gala, which this year will be on Saturday, April 20, 2013. This where the entire Rochester engineering community comes to have fun and celebrate. The IEEE awards two scholarships at the gala and the winners will likely be sitting with us at our tables.

The full details on the event can be found in this issue (check the index). Now, here's the really good part: as an IEEE member, you and a guest can each attend for half-price! If you buy your tickets through the IEEE, we will pick up half the cost as a way of encouraging our members to participate. More details on the mechanics will appear next month, but if you are interested you should drop an email to the Section Chair, Bill Fowlkes, including your name and member number, and the full name of any guest you will bring.

IEEE Rochester Section is 99 years old and counting

The Rochester Section of the IEEE can trace its beginning back to 1914. Our presence in Rochester has been continuous since the founding of a Rochester Section of the AIEE in 1914. See the original letter from the Secretary of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) reproduced below. This letter, dated Oct. 10, 1914, was sent to John C. Parker of the Rochester Railway, Light and Power Company. It authorizes the formation of the Rochester Chapter of the AIEE and marks our beginning.

The Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) formed a Rochester Section in 1926. Both sections were active forces in the Rochester Engineering Society, just as the IEEE is now. The AIEE and the IRE merged into a single new society, the IEEE, in 1964. The present Rochester Section of the IEEE, with over 1200 members, is the largest professional society affiliated with the RES.

So, all of this means that next year we will celebrate our centennial year. The section wants to make it a memorable year. We can use help in ensuring that it is. Volunteers will be needed for activities and committees.

Do you know of something that was invented or developed in Rochester that would qualify for IEEE Historic Milestone status? One suggestion has been the invention of digital photography by Steven Sasson at Eastman Kodak Company in 1975

. It might be hard to top that one, but in a hundred years there's been a lot of inventing going on. For instance, how about the digital frequency readout you see on just about every radio made in the last 20 or 30 years? That was invented by Robert J. Ertman at General Dynamics/Electronics Division here in Rochester back in 1963. If you have another suggestion, contact me, or the section chair.

See: http://www.ieeeahn.org/wiki/index.php/Milestones:IEEE_Milestones_Program

for more about the IEEE Milestone program.

October 10, 1914

Mr. John G. Parker
Rochester Railway, Light and Power Company
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor of notifying you that the Board of Directors of this Institute, at its meeting held on October 9, 1914, authorized the organization of a Section in Rochester, New York, to be known as the ROCHESTER SECTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS. This action was taken in response to the petition forwarded by you to this office, and upon the approval of the Sections Committee.

A call should now be issued to the petitioners and any others who may be interested for a meeting for the election of officers. These are usually an Executive Committee, a Chairman, and a Secretary-Treasurer, but other officers may be elected if it is deemed desirable. A committee should be appointed at this meeting to draft a simple form of by-laws providing for meetings, the election of officers, and the government of the Section.

Each Section is entitled to a certain amount of financial support from the Institute, the amount depending upon the number of members within its territory. For the purpose of determining the number of members the territory of the Sections is limited to points within 60 miles of the meeting place. (See Section 51 of the Institute By-laws).

The appropriation of Institute funds for the meeting expenses of the Sections is made up as follows:

- a. One hundred dollars for each Section, independently of the number of members in that Section.
- b. One dollar and a quarter for each Institute member who shall reside within the territory of each Section at the beginning of the administrative year, namely, August 1.

A form is provided for rendering the monthly accounts of the local Secretary. The expense of social features must be paid for from local funds.

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You will note by referring to Section 70 of the Constitution that each Section is entitled to representation at the Institute's Annual Convention by an official delegate who shall be the chairman of the Section, or, in his absence or inability to attend, by an alternate delegate previously selected by the Section. The transportation expenses of this delegate are borne by the Institute. The Annual Convention is usually held during the last week in June, and the location of our convention for 1918 has not yet been decided upon.

The local Secretary is expected to make a report of all Section meetings to this office, and from this report a brief notice is prepared for publication in the Institute Proceedings, thus insuring a permanent record of all meetings, and at the same time giving proper publicity to the Section. A report form is provided for this purpose.

Further particulars regarding the routine work and other details of management are given in our annual circular letter to Section officers, a copy of which is enclosed.

Kindly send us a report of the preliminary meeting, with the names of the officers elected, as soon as convenient.

We enclose herewith a copy of the Constitution and By-laws. A supply of expense vouchers, application forms, report forms, and return envelopes are being forwarded to you separately.

With best wishes for the success of the Rochester Section, and trusting to hear from you if we can be of any further service, we are

Very truly yours

Secretary

A Trip on the Way-Back Machine

Grab your flux capacitors and electrostatic inductors and switch to reverse polarity as we peek into a time before the World Wide Web, a time before everyone everywhere had internet connectivity. Listen as the 300 baud modem crackles and hums and buzzes trying to handshake and connect with its twin at the other end of plain old telephone system (POTS) lines.

We have arrived in 1988, and this is how things were done then, some twenty-five years ago:

IEEE COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD

Now at 2400 baud - The IEEE Rochester Section BBS can be accessed at (716) 288-5230 at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud with 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, no parity. Check the bulletin board for last-minute meeting notices or changes, telephone numbers and addresses of Rochester Section and Society Chapter officers, employment opportunities, and interesting chit-chat.

Public domain engineering software - As you are probably know, there is a lot of public domain electrical engineering software available. Much will now be found on the IEEE Rochester Section Bulletin Board, with more to be added in the near future. All this is available for downloading and use by our members, or any members of the engineering community who wish to avail themselves of this free service.

If you have some software which you have written, or otherwise (legally) acquired, please consider sharing it with the rest of the engineering community. The quickest way to share it is to send a copy of the disk(s) to me. Please include sufficient documentation, preferably on the disk as a text file, so that others can use the programs. I will see to it that it is included on the bulletin board.

While on the subject of public domain EE software, I would like to remind you of the E.E. Public Domain Library, 36 Irene Lane East, Plainview, NY 11803. The library currently has available more than fifteen disks chock full of useful programs. You can write Gerry Harrison, who runs the library, to get a list of available programs. Gerry charges \$10 plus tax for each disk. Although some of these programs will appear on our bulletin board, consider that it might take an hour or more to download the equivalent of just one disk. So, the ten buck charge is really quite reasonable.

(2013 Editor's note: The disks I was talking about back then were 5-1/4 inch floppy disks with a typical capacity of 360 kilobytes or so. Contrast that with the capacity of your USB flash drives, and see how far we've come.)