

the Beacon

Be Sure to Attend the Annual Meeting on May 20!

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Chair's Column

by *Ian Goepfert*, Section Chairman

Dear Colleague,

Spring is slowly making inroads to this winter's strong grip. And with the slowly warming weather on its way, it is time to reserve May 20th on your calendar for our annual meeting. This year during the annual meeting we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Maine section of the IEEE (details of the event may be found enclosed). This event will give us an opportunity to reflect on the advances in technology that have been developed in recent history with regards to manipulating electricity and magnetism, which is at the heart of the broad umbrella of societies the IEEE encompasses, and related discovers.

Discoveries from the electric light bulb near the turn of the last century to the development of the transistor in the middle of the last century to the development of the internet towards the end of the last century and well into this century will propel the importance of the IEEE as a conduit to provide technical information to members in a timely manner. To remain competitive in

today's workplace translates into staying ahead of the curve with respect to innovative technology that impacts your ability to increase your productivity, reduce costs, improve product quality, and enhance customer satisfaction. The IEEE provides us with these tools. And with your elevated skill set your job, your company, and the State of Maine will maintain a competitive edge in the world economy.

On a final note, if you have 10 or more years of professional experience (college education counts as well) I urge you to consider applying for senior membership status. The pertinent information may be found at the following link on the IEEE website: www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/md/smprogram.html

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting and celebrating 50 years of IEEE leadership in our great State of Maine.

New Senior Member

The following Maine Section member is our latest Senior Member:

Yong Liu

Congratulations!

Attention Section Members!

Your IEEE Beacon has adapted a distribution scheme whereby the usual method of sending you the Beacon will be e-mail. If you wish to continue receiving paper copies of all Beacons, please complete and mail the following form to the address shown. If you have previously filled out a similar form requesting paper copies of the Beacon, it is not neces-

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Maine Section Annual Meeting

Friday, May 20, 2005

Bath Region, Maine

This year's annual outing will take place in the Bath region of Maine which is rich in history and offers plenty of activities. The day's events will begin at the Maine Maritime Museum pier in Bath with a cruise on the Kennebec River with Long Reach Cruises. Captain Mike will navigate the river and give a "guided tour" of the six light-houses on the river banks. This cruise will be both fun and educational for all ages. There will be a cash bar on board. The late afternoon/evening section of the annual meeting will kick off at the Taste of Maine Restaurant in Woolwich, located approximately three minutes north of Bath on Route 1. There will be a cash bar and Hors D'oeuvres as well as a beautiful view from the balcony. The social hour will begin at 3:45 PM, followed by the first of three guest speakers for the evening. A buffet style dinner will be served at 5:30 PM which will include entrées of Baked Stuffed Filet of Sole or Seafood Newburg, Prime Rib, Italian Stuffed Shells, and Chicken Divan. Following dinner, the remaining two guest speakers will present. Topics for the lecturers will include wireless networks, alternative energy solutions and sophisticated lighting techniques. These discussions will be geared towards a general audience.

The activities should be finished by 7:45 PM. The meeting agenda is summarized below.



Boat Cruise (Optional)

Location: Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, Maine.

Departure time: 1:15 PM. The cruise will last approximately 2.5 hours.

Cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child under 18. Seating capacity is 55, so register early!

Directions: See top of next page

Late Afternoon/Evening Events at Taste of Maine

3:45 - 4:45: Social Hour (Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres, cash bar)

4:45 - 5:30: First speaker

5:30 - 6:15: Buffet style dinner

6:15 - 7:45: Speakers two and three

Directions: See top of next page

Cost and registration:

The cost for the dinner will be \$20/adult and \$15 /child under 18. Prices for both events will be \$40/adult or \$25/child under 18. This year's outing should be very interesting and fun. To ask questions or make reservations, please contact John Roberts at (207)380-6880 or john.roberts@biw.com. Please register no later than May 16.

Directions to Maine Maritime Museum

From points south: Take I-295 to old Exit 28. Follow Route 1 north through Brunswick to Bath. Take Historic Bath Exit down hill to traffic light. Turn right onto Washington Street. Go south for 1.2 miles past Bath Iron Works complex to Maine Maritime Museum.

From points north: Take Route 1 south across Kennebec River. Exit off bridge at Historic Downtown Bath / Maine Maritime Museum/ Popham Beach sign, bearing left down hill. At traffic light, turn left under bridge onto Washington Street. Go south for 1.2 miles past Bath Iron Works complex to Maine Maritime Museum.

Directions To Taste of Maine Restaurant

From points south: Take I-295 to old Exit 28. Follow Route 1 north through Brunswick to Bath. Travel over the bridge into Woolwich and continue for a short time. The restaurant is on the right at the top of the hill (past Bath Cycle and Ski)

From points north: Travel south on US Route 1. The restaurant is approximately 10 minutes past Wiscasset. After a small bridge, the restaurant is at the top of a hill on the left.

Offshoring Is Major Cause of Technical Unemployment, IEEE-USA Survey Reveals

Offshoring is the second-highest cause of unemployment among U.S. technical professionals, according to the 2004 IEEE-USA Unemployment Survey released today.

The leading cause of unemployment, cited by 62 percent of U.S. IEEE members who reported being laid off, was a business downturn. Fifteen percent reported that their jobs were transferred offshore, while 10 percent pegged merger or acquisition as the cause of their layoff.

A correlation between results of the Unemployment Survey and the 2004 IEEE-USA Salary & Fringe Benefit Survey, which showed the first median income decline for U.S. IEEE members in 31 years, revealed that people in industries reporting the largest drop in income also reported the highest percentage of unemployment because of offshoring. The following chart at the top of the next column illustrates this.

Industry	% Drop in Income	% Offshoring displacement
Electrical/Electronic Manufacturing	2.5	16.2
Computers	2.4	17.4
Communications	1.8	15.2

"This data supports our contention that offshoring not only contributes significantly to U.S. high-tech unemployment, but also suppresses wages," IEEE-USA President Gerard Alphonse said. "Our concerns extend beyond job loss and depressed incomes to threats to our nation's innovation infrastructure. Because innovation tends to follow jobs, key drivers of our economic prosperity could be lost."

The 2004 Unemployment Survey was sent to 5,329 U.S. IEEE members who reported being laid off at some point in the 2003-04 membership year. This represents an 80.3 percent increase in members reporting unemployment over the 2002 survey. Dr. Laura Langbein, a professor of public affairs at The American University in Washington, D.C., analyzed and reported the results, which are posted at

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/careers/pdf/EmploymentSurvey2004Report.pdf>.

Other findings reveal that 37 percent of the 988 respondents said they considered leaving engineering entirely, and 41 percent said they would not recommend the profession to their children.

"Another trend is that employers are providing much less service for laid-off workers than they did before," Langbein wrote. "Severance was provided in only 54 percent of the cases (compared with 90 percent in 2002) and extended benefits in only 27 percent of the cases (compared with 48 percent in 2002)."

IEEE Region 1, 2005 Summer Meeting set for South Portland

The IEEE Region 1 comprises all sections throughout New England, New York, and part of New Jersey. The annual summer meeting of this administrative unit of the IEEE will be held this year at the Sheraton Inn in South Portland, Maine on August 19 –21, 2005. This is the first time in many years that the Maine section has hosted this important meeting. The meeting is a great place to meet active members from our region and to learn more about the operation of the IEEE sections and chapters. See <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/1/>

Beacon Publishing

The Beacon is published on a monthly schedule based upon the need to advertise upcoming meetings. All material submitted for the Beacon must be received by the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which it should be included. Sorry, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

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