



**ROCHESTER SECTION
IEEE NEWS FOR AUGUST 2014**

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The Rochester section web site is at: <http://rochester.ieee.org/>

Rochester Section Meeting – Tuesday, August 5 at Noon

The next monthly Rochester Section business meeting is on Tuesday, August 5, at 12:00pm, at the **Hibachi Sushi Buffet Restaurant** in South Town Plaza on Jefferson Road (Route 252) just west of West Henrietta Rd. (Route 15). Any IEEE member is invited to attend. Lunch is only \$3 for IEEE members. No reservation or RSVP is needed, just show up.



Centennial Year? – It seems like just yesterday

The Rochester Section of the IEEE is celebrating its hundredth year of existence. Now, the IEEE did not come into being until 1963, so how is this our 100th year? Well, the IEEE is the result of a merger between two engineering societies. The oldest, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) had a decidedly electrical power orientation, while the newer society, the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) was oriented to radio and electronics. They merged in 1963 to form the IEEE, which covers all aspects of all disciplines related to electricity, and some areas not directly related.

The AIEE was founded in 1884 a decade before radio came into being. See http://www.ieeeahn.org/wiki/index.php/AIEE_History_1884-1963 for more details.

The IRE was formed in 1912 – the same year that wireless radio came into prominence with the distress calls sent from the doomed ocean liner Titanic. More background can be found at http://www.ieeeahn.org/wiki/index.php/IRE_History_1912-1963.

In 1914, Rochester had a population of about 250,000. (Our population in 2013 was 210,358.) Among the population was a very active and skilled engineering community, served by the Rochester Engineering Society. The electrical engineers of the day were primarily involved in electric power generation and transmission, electric illumination, electric traction, and telegraph and telephone systems and equipment. A very few were involved with wireless systems.

The Rochester electrical engineering community came together to form a Rochester section of the AIEE. The official date of organization is July 24, 1914. The first Chair was J.C. Parker. The First World War began in Europe four days later, on July 28, 1914.

Twelve years later, local engineering activity in wireless and radio had soared, and a Rochester section of the IRE was organized on February 19, 1926. The first Chair of the section was Virgil M. Graham.

The two Rochester sections ran in parallel for many years until the merger in 1963. Many engineers belonged to both societies. Technical talks and events were sometimes held jointly.

I had personal exposure to this duality. When I was an engineering student, I joined the student branches of both the AIEE and the IRE. I was happy when the merger occurred, a year or so later, because it simplified my professional life and saved on membership fees.

The January 2014 IEEE Rochester Section Newsletter as published online carried a listing of all Chairs of the Rochester Sections of the AIEE, IRE, and the IEEE. Also in this issue is a reproduction of the original charter (1914) of the Rochester Section of the AIEE.

Centennial Dinner on Saturday, August 2, 2014

Members are invited to celebrate the section's Centennial at a special dinner on Saturday evening, August 2, 2014. Come and network with the leadership of IEEE Region 1, which includes New York and New England, and with other Rochester section members. Enjoy a served dinner accompanied by music provided by a group of young musicians at the Hyatt Regency Rochester. You will also receive a special commemorative gift. For more information and registration, please visit:

<https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/m/27053>

Spaces are limited so register early.

Life Member Affinity Group Meetings

At noon, on August 14th, the Life Member Affinity Group will have a lunch time planning meeting at the Rochester Yacht Club which is located at 5555 St. Paul Blvd. in Irondequoit. The purpose of the meeting is to plan activities of interest to group members. Please let us know by August 11th if you plan to attend this meeting by emailing Carol Richardson at carol.richardson@rit.edu.

The Life Members Affinity Group will have a tour of the Golisano Sustainability Institute Building on the RIT campus at noon on Wednesday, September 17th to see how sustainable engineering research is being conducted. A tour will highlight the building as a “living laboratory” for sustainability research and education on renewable energy systems (solar, wind, geothermal, and fuel cells) and sustainable mobility (electric vehicles, batteries, and biofuels). The tour will also showcase a few of the research labs and test beds that are being used to develop and test sustainable technologies. We will meet in the atrium, at the foot of the central staircase, at 12 PM for the tour and have lunch after the tour in the RIT Global Village.

If you would like to join the tour please email henrysimon@frontiernet.net by September 10th to sign-up.

Free E-book for IEEE members

In August, IEEE-USA will offer “Survivor Planning: What Every Spouse Should Know,” by the late George F. McClure.

In this practical reference, McClure urges readers “not to leave your family in the dark, digging to find important documents and information. Life has to go on after a spouse, partner, or parent passes away. Dealing with the myriad of decision processes immediately following a death in the family is a confusing ordeal.”

“Survivor Planning” gives guidance in advance planning, retirement benefits, wills, living trusts and finances. It also has a checklist that will help you organize all the important information you will need and Websites where you can find additional assistance.

This e-book will be available free to members in August.

Call for Authors

IEEE-USA E-books seek authors to write an e-book, or an e-book series, on career guidance and development topics. If you have an e-book idea that will benefit members on a particular topic of expertise, email your proposal to IEEE-USA Publishing Manager Georgia C. Stelluto at g.stelluto@ieee.org, and IEEE-USA Communications Committee Chair Gus Gaynor at g.gaynor@ieee.org.

IEEE Global History Network website is worth a look

In discussing the AIEE and IRE, I provided links to historical information on the IEEE Global History website: www.ieeeahn.org .

I find this website endlessly fascinating and informative and I suspect many of you would too. Fifteen minutes will give you a good idea of what it contains and where you might want to return to spend more time. Give it a try and see what you think.