

# ELECTRON

Institute Of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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THE IEEE CHARLOTTE SECTION NEWSLETTER

September 1997

## IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY MEETING NOTICE

PROGRAM: Lotus Notes®

SPEAKER: Michael Barnes, IBM Charlotte

Lotus Notes is taking corporate America by storm as computer users, information system departments, and managers discover the power it brings to their desktop. For years, computer users have been looking for an effective way to share information with their co-workers, vendors and customers. This presentation will present the evolution of the Lotus Notes platform. The speaker will enlighten us as to what are good applications of Lotus Notes, and what are not. The presentation will include a demonstration of how Lotus Notes works.



DATE: Monday, September 22, 1997

TIME: 6:00 p.m. - Snack meal (reservations required)  
6:30 p.m. - Meeting and presentation

PLACE: IBM 301 Auditorium  
1001 W. T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC

PARKING: Take the first IBM entrance northwest of I-85. Take the second entrance on the right off the perimeter road and park in the available spaces. After parking follow the signs to the 301 lobby by the yellow spiral statue. You will be escorted to the 301 auditorium.

Reservations requested for the meal. The snack meal cost is \$2.00. No reservations required for the meeting. Guests and spouses are cordially welcome.

This meeting will be held jointly with the Charlotte IEEE Section.

For additional information or reservations contact:

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## IEEE COMPUTER SOCIETY — STAYING IN TOUCH WITH TECHNOLOGY

### CHARLOTTE SECTION MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 17

Computer Society Meeting  
Monday, September 22

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 15

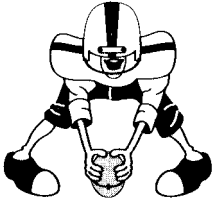
Communications Society Meeting  
Tuesday, October 21

Executive Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, November 12

Charlotte Section Annual Banquet  
Thursday, November 20

Executive Committee Meeting  
Annual Planning Meeting  
Wednesday, December 10

## CATHY'S CHATS



Hut, hut, Hike! Yes, it's that season again. The summer is over, the kids are in school, the Carolina Panthers are in Ericsson stadium, and your enthusiastic IEEE executive committee is planning another "season" of technical meetings and presentations. First though, I hope everyone enjoyed the picnic at Latta Plantation park. This annual event allows members, friends, and families one last chance to enjoy the summer. Thanks to John Tannery for organizing this fine event! Also, thanks to all the sponsors who donated door prizes. We appreciate your time and talents!

### FALL MEETINGS

The September meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup> is sponsored by the Computer Society. The presentation will be on Lotus Notes and will be held at IBM. (See front page for details.) On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, we're planning a discussion on financial planning during lunch. The annual banquet will be held in downtown Charlotte in November. Stay tuned to the *Electron* for details on these upcoming events.

### NCSE '97

This year's North Carolina Symposium and Exhibition (NCSE '97) will be held in Greensboro on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on Wireless Communications. Presentations and discussions include global systems for mobile communications, time and code division multiple access, and commercial fixed base systems. Members of the NC Council, the Central Section, and the Winston-Salem Section have worked hard to bring this educational program to us. Please give me a call if you need registration information or have questions.

### E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES AT DUKE ENERGY

One quick reminder to members who are employed by Duke Energy. Your new e-mail address is *your nickname@duke-energy.com*. Although the old address (*your nickname@dpcmail.dukepower.com*) will be functional for about a year, please take the time to let your Internet and IEEE friends know your new address. Members with IEEE aliases should contact the national office with this change.

With the excellent planning from the executive committee, it looks like we're off to a great start this Fall. I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming meetings and the banquet.

Cathy Hope  
Charlotte Section Chair

## IEEE-USA HOLDS FIRST-EVER ELECTIONS

This fall, U.S. IEEE members for the first time will elect the top officers of IEEE-USA. The IEEE Board of Directors approved a major restructuring of the IEEE Bylaws in December 1996, which resulted in a newly designated IEEE-United States of America with enhanced autonomy through an election process that gives the IEEE's U.S. members — not the IEEE Assembly — the opportunity to elect their leaders. IEEE-USA's new Bylaws take effect on Jan. 1, 1998. What is now "IEEE United States Activities" will become "IEEE United States of America" in the United States Activities Board's 25th anniversary year.

Beginning in September, U.S. members will vote on an IEEE-USA 1998 President, a 1998 President-Elect (who would serve

as President in 1999) and two Members-at-Large — one for a one-year term, one for a two-year term — on the IEEE-USA's Board of Directors. In February 1997, the Board approved the candidates nominated for all positions. IEEE-USA's President will now speak strictly for the IEEE's U.S. members, while the IEEE President will still represent the transnational IEEE. The Member-at-Large positions represent all IEEE U.S. members. In subsequent years, members will elect only a President-Elect and a Member-at-Large. Elections for other candidates take place just in this year of transition.

Candidates for IEEE-USA 1998 President are George F. McClure and John R. Reinert; 1998 President-Elect candidates are Paul J. Kostek and Charles S. Lessard.

For 1998 Member-At-Large, the candidate is Jerry C. Aukland, while Frank E. Lord and Robert P. Noberini are nominated for 1998-99 Member-At-Large.

Members will receive their ballots by mail with the elections booklet on the IEEE and IEEE-USA candidates, and instructions on how to return their votes. In the meantime, they can check out the IEEE-USA elections Web page at <http://www.ieee.org/usab/ELECTION/> to learn more and to link to other relevant sites.

IEEE-USA represents the career and technology-policy interests of the nearly 220,000 U.S. members of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc., the world's largest technical professional organization.

## NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK EXHIBIT REQUESTS PHOTOS

concert with National Engineers Week 1998, scheduled for Feb. 22-28, the National Building Museum in Washington will present a major new exhibit entitled, "Breaking Through: The Creative Engineer." The Institute, through IEEE-USA, is sponsoring the exhibit together with more than 50 other organizations.

To convey the topic of creativity in engineering, the first display will be a wall of photographs of actual engineers. Some will be historical figures or engineers featured elsewhere in the exhibit; the majority, however, will be ordinary engineers at work. Interspersed with their photos will be their quotations on creativity in engineering.

Robert Friedel, former director of the IEEE Center for the History of Electrical Engineering and curator of the new exhibit, is inviting engineers to submit candid photographs of themselves or others in representative work environments — e.g., in the office, in the lab, or at the computer. The submissions should include the subject(s)'s quotable thoughts on creativity in engineering.

Submissions should be sent by Sept. 1997, to "Breaking Through," National Building Museum, 401 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001. Please include the following items: black-and-white or color snapshot(s); identification of person/people and activities, place and approximate date of photos; thoughts on creativity; your name, address and telephone number; signed statement giving permission for the National Building Museum to use the photos and quotations in the exhibit; and self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you wish photos to be returned.

For more information on National Engineers Week or for a 1998 planning kit, contact IEEE-USA's Chris Currie at 202-785-0017, ext. 342, or c.currie@ieec.org.

## IEEE-USA NEWS BYTES

- At the 1997 IEEE-USA Technology Policy Council Symposium on June 11, Rep. Dan Schaefer, R-Colo., told more than 100 attendees that the House Commerce Energy and Power Subcommittee should pass his legislation to restructure the electric-utility industry by the end of this month. Schaefer, who chairs the subcommittee, also told the group that he expects the full Commerce Committee to take up the bill in the

fall. H.R. 655 would permit consumers to choose their electricity supplier by Dec. 15, 2000.

- In comments aired June 11 on nearly 20 radio newscasts around the country, IEEE-USA Energy R&D Policy Committee Chair Robert J. Thomas urged federal lawmakers not to lose sight of the technical challenges involved in reworking the nation's complex electric-power delivery system. According to Thomas: "Lower electric bills are small comfort if your lights don't work when you flip the switch. We take the high reliability of our nation's electricity for granted. But can we maintain reliability while creating a national power grid out of many small regional ones, while transmitting power long distances from generating facilities, and while facing pressure to cut costs by reducing research and development? To make restructuring work, legislators, regulators and industry will need to work together with engineers to create a new industry that will deliver electricity reliably, as well as cheaply."
- President Clinton announced on June 11 that IEEE Senior Member Richard Garwin was one of three winners of this year's Enrico Fermi Award. The government's oldest science and technology award, the Fermi Award recognizes lifetime achievements in the field of nuclear energy. Garwin is a fellow emeritus at IBM Research in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., and a consultant to Sandia National Laboratory. He joins the ranks of fellow physicists and Fermi Award winners, including von Neumann, Teller, and Oppenheimer.

## FCC WARNS OF DANGER OF AT&T'S SUGGESTED MERGER WITH A BELL COMPANY

When Congress passed the Telecommunications Act last year, one argument was that it would cause competition to flourish and bring better service and lower costs to consumers. One year later, as telecommunications mergers are on the rise, some regulatory officials worry that competition may actually be repressed with some proposed mergers.

One such union — between AT&T and SBC Communications Inc. — has raised the hackles of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and some senators. FCC Chair Reed Hundt said the prospective merger is "unthinkable"

under anti-trust guidelines, and that the mere discussion of merger "can have negative impacts on competition" by discouraging plans of would-be competitors. Although Hundt has announced his resignation from the FCC, he will stay on as chairman until there is a replacement.

AT&T has gone public only to the extent that its chair, Robert E. Allen, announced that a merger would be legal and pro-competitive under certain circumstances. And, reacting to the Hundt speech, AT&T said that if a partnership between a long-distance company and a local Bell company can be "structured to increase competition, both in the Bell's home territory and in the states it does not currently serve, then it ought to be considered."

If the merger is actually proposed, it must pass scrutiny not only by the FCC and the Justice Department, but by the states the Bell company serves. Texas-based SBC Communications Inc. provides telecommunications services to customers in five southwestern states; it acquired the Pacific Telesis Group in April 1997.

## REDUCE GOVERNMENT SECRETS, SENATORS SAY

Two senators with widely divergent political views have joined forces in proposing legislation to overhaul the entire system of managing classified information. The bill (S. 712, filed on May 7) calls for downsizing the amount of secret information and for examination and declassification of government documents at specified intervals. The cost of keeping the federal government's secrets was an estimated \$5.2 billion in 1996.

Sens. Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Jesse Helms, R-N.C., are the Senate sponsors. Reps. Larry Combest, R-Tex., and Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., are sponsoring companion legislation in the House.

Moynihan and Helms agree that we must develop "a culture of openness" in the federal government and that the term "secrecy" must be defined by statute. Secrecy, they say, belongs in the realm of national security and "must serve that interest alone."

Helms went on to say that Congress must establish a life cycle for secrets so that "all information, classified and unclassified alike, has a life span in which decisions must be made regarding creation, management and use," he said. This kind of rationalization would favor openness and reduce costs. The bill is now in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

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# ELECTRON

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## ELECTRON ARTICLES & COMMENTS

Send articles for publication and newsletter comments and corrections to me at Duke Power Co.-EC12R, P.O. Box 1006, Charlotte NC 28201-1006, p.colaianni@ieee.org or 704/382-5632/-0368 Fax. —R.Paul Colaianni, *ELECTRON* Editor

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