

Chapter News

It is with a great pleasure that I am writing to report on exciting new developments; specifically, three new PELS Chapters have been officially established as follows:

- IEEE Russia (Northwest) Section IAS/PELS Chapter. Please contact Professor Valery I. Chrisanov <chrisanov@ieee.org>, The State University of Telecommunications, Power Electronics Department, Moika 61, St. Petersburg, 191186, Russia.
- IEEE Greece Section – IES/IAS/PELS Chapter. Please contact Professor S.N. Manias <manias@central.ntua.gr>, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Division of Electric Power National Technical University of Athens, Iroon Polytechniou 9, Athens, 157 73, Greece.
- IEEE Malaysia Section – IES/IAS/PELS Chapter. Please contact Professor Abdul Halim Mohd Yatim <halim@ieee.org>, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Technology, Skudai, Johor 81310, Malaysia.

May I take this opportunity to personally thank, on behalf of the Society, the above Chairs who have been actively involved in collecting signatures of fellow members and dealing with the paperwork, so that the Chapters can be established. I extend my best wishes for the successful operation of the Chapters. There are many

President's Message *from page 10*

- **Diagnostics, André Capolino**
<capolino@isa.u-picardie.fr>

Some of these names (e.g., Electronic Transformers) have links back into history, and some (e.g., Diagnostics) might seem not closely linked with power electronics. However in each case a group of committed PELS members had an interest in that area and was prepared to “make something happen.” The “guidelines” for these committees are that they should:

(1) Hold a meeting once a year. This is not very difficult. In general, book a lunch room at our annual meeting, let a few people know about it, try to get it on the conference notice board, and see who turns up. At least that is how I did it when I ran the Educational Activities Committee! I was always pleasantly surprised at the number of people who turned up, had a genuine commitment to the subject, and really appreciated the chance to meet like-minded colleagues and discuss issues. We made some decisions, and spent some society monies; for example we made a video, a CD, and we supported

more individuals, members of our Society, who are taking similar initiatives and hopefully soon I could include more new Chapters in our ever-expanding list.

I am also very excited as I am making my plan to attend the annual joint IEEE IAS/PELS/IES German Chapter meeting, a joint meeting this time with the Benelux Chapter and the Student Branch Aachen, which will be held at Philips Research Laboratories in Aachen on 13-14 November 2003. Dr.-Ing. Peter Magyar, Chairman, and his team have been working really hard in organizing this meeting and judging from the planning, which started several months in advance, I am extremely confident that it is going to be a huge success. The amount of work and care that he has put into making sure things are organized with the highest possible standards and that even minute details are looked after is very impressive. Hopefully I will be able to report on my experience in the next newsletter.

I look forward to exciting new developments and wish you all the best. Thank you all for your continuous support to the activities of our Society.

Vassilios G. Agelidis
Chapter Development Chair
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“Education in Power Electronics” workshops around the globe.

(2) Consider running say a biennial workshop. Not all technical societies do this, but Simulation, Modeling & Control, and Automotive have done this very successfully for a number of years.

(3) Provide a source of reviewers for our transactions and our conferences. This networking aspect is really valuable, when we can identify a relatively small number of people with like interest in a specialist area.

(4) Plan for a “Special Issue” of our transactions. These are usually published early in the calendar year, the most recent example being in January 2003 on Simulation, Modeling and Control. Although the lead time for planning is long, special issues have been very successfully taken up recently; and time slots for the next 2 years are already booked (Distributed Generation in 2004, and Integrated Power Electronics in 2005). The 2006 issue is open for bids, and an expression of interest has already been lodged. A decision will be made at

Chapter Award Nominations

To promote technical activities within PELS chapters, in 2000 the Power Electronics Society instituted a Best Chapter Award. The award is given annually to the chapter that makes the best use of the PELS supporting capabilities (Distinguished Lecture Program, Annual Financial Support) and conducts activities such as organizing conferences and technical talks, operating a web site, and promoting Power Electronics technology.

The Best Chapter Award consists of a plaque including the names of the chapter chair, secretary, and treasurer. PELS will provide complimentary conference registration and will reimburse expenses up to a predetermined amount to allow the Best Chapter chair or nominee to attend PESC to receive the award. The award application form is available online at the PELS website www.pels.org under the Chapters Roster and Resources link.

Application forms must be received by March 31, 2004 to be considered for the award presentation in June 2004 at PESC in Aachen, Germany.

Please send the forms by e-mail <v.agelidis@elec.gla.ac.uk>, by FAX (+44 141 330 6004), or by regular mail to Vassilios G. Agelidis, PELS Chapters Development Chair, Department of Electronics and Electrical Engineering, 72 Oakfield Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8LT, United Kingdom.

APEC 2004, so if you want to have a go, contact Daan Van Wyk <peleditor@ieee.org> pretty soon.

(5) Do anything else that will enable like-minded people to interact. “Virtual communities” are words I hear regularly. I’m sure there are web-based linkages that could be used to good effect. A special session at a conference might be a good way to start.

And so to our members — if any of the topics above is close to your heart, just register interest with the chair, and see what happens. If your pet passion is not covered, give me a call. These committees are relatively easy to set up, and the society as a whole offers real support and encouragement.

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