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IEEE-SA Election Process in Place

by Donald C. Fleckenstein

In fulfillment of one of its major goals, the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) was established as a membership organization and its members were authorized by the IEEE Board of Directors (IEEE BoD) to elect the IEEE-SA President-Elect and the members-at-large of the IEEE-SA Board of Governors (IEEE-SA BoG).

The membership of the IEEE-SA BoG is to consist of the Immediate Past President willing to serve, the President, the President-Elect, the Chair of the IEEE-SA Standards Board, the Immediate Past Chair of the IEEE-SA Standards Board willing to serve, and eight members-at-large.

Not all the necessary elements of the election procedures were in place last year; therefore, the election process could not be implemented for the 1999 service year. Now, the candidate selection process and balloting procedures have been approved so that the corporate office ballot for service in the year 2000 will include, for the first time, candidates for IEEE-SA elective positions. Only IEEE-SA members will receive ballots for the IEEE-SA candidates. Further, since the President of IEEE-SA serves as an IEEE corporate officer, only individuals who are both IEEE members and IEEE-SA members will receive ballots for the positions of President and President-Elect.

Because this is the first election and the IEEE-SA is following the example of the

IEEE by having three P's (Immediate Past President, President, and President-Elect), it is necessary to elect a President and a President-Elect in the first election. The elected President will serve in the year 2000 and the President-Elect will serve as President in the year 2001.

Relatedly, in order to establish the two-year term plan for the members-at-large of the IEEE-SA BoG, all the members will be elected for service in the year 2000. The four members receiving the highest number of votes for a unique membership profile will serve two-year terms, while the four with the next highest number of votes for a unique membership profile will serve one-year terms. In the year 2001 and beyond, an election will be held for four members, each to serve two-year terms.

Candidates for the position of President-Elect are to have industrial or government experience, knowledge of and involvement in standards development activities, and proven leadership in their profession. Members-at-large of the IEEE-SA BoG are to reflect the technical standards activities of the IEEE. To reach this goal, the standards programs of the IEEE entities were examined. It was concluded that the four societies having the highest number of standards projects would be assured of representation on the IEEE-SA BoG and the remaining four seats would be assigned to candidates from groupings of the

remaining societies. In an instance where qualified candidates are not available from these sources, the procedures allow for the naming of candidates to run for the open seats. There are also provisions to allow for petition candidates for all positions.

As the IEEE-SA moves forward to its first election, the achievement of a significant organizational objective is about to be realized. Each ensuing year will see improvements in the process and a resultant strengthening of the IEEE-SA and its programs. Watch your mail for a list of candidates, to arrive by mid-May, and remember that petitions need to be submitted to the IEEE corporate office by 12 Noon EST on 11 June 1999. Further information about the rules and procedures for this process, as contained in the IEEE-SA Bylaws and the IEEE-SA Operations Manual, can be found at <http://standards.ieee.org/sa/index.html>.

Donald C. Fleckenstein is a member-at-large of the IEEE-SA BoG and Past-Chair of the IEEE-SA Standards Board.

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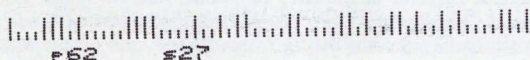
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Report by the President of the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA)

by Donald C. Loughry

IEEE-SA and Institute Interactions

With an eye toward open communications, it is appropriate to provide you with some insight on key discussions and decisions at the recent IEEE Board of Directors (BoD) meeting series, held this past February. Not only does the BoD meet, but a host of other entities such as the Technical Activities Board (TAB, Society connections) and the Regional Activities Board (RAB, Regional connections) also meet during that week. We in the IEEE-SA are forging relationships with these entities, which, by the way, is an activity very much in line with some of our strategic Standards goals. Following are some particular areas of interest to us.

A Transnational Committee, co-sponsored by both TAB and RAB, is focused on the IEEE's "Globalization" objective. Improving global participation and increasing representation on committees to be more in proportion to the demography of the IEEE's regional representation are two key goals. This committee is seeking IEEE-SA participation and support in promoting and applying a more globally-oriented thrust. With our standards development activities engaged in multinational interests, we have much to offer and we can leverage from this committee's interests and expertise. E. G. "Al" Kiener is our representative to the Transnational Committee.

One significant action in February was BoD approval of Policies and Procedures related to how we might better manage our standards meeting arrangements, particularly the larger ones involving several hundred participants and occurring in countries around the world. One key need is to ensure that the IEEE serves the public interest and

does not jeopardize its not-for-profit tax status, as significant funds are collected and dispersed in the course of doing our job. The aim from a standards perspective has been to improve our overall performance without an undue burden on those arranging and managing standards development meetings. We have an opportunity to leverage some of the Institute's resources on conferences and meetings, as well as gain greater visibility and recognition. We have an imperative to conduct our affairs in a responsible manner. This is a topic you will be hearing more about later this year as we translate bylaw-like policies into much more pragmatic, operational guidelines.

During the course of the BoD Series, I had an opportunity to speak at the Society Presidents' Forum. Many societies are interested in building stronger links to the IEEE-SA and the overall standards development process. This interest coincides with the same strong, strategic direction taken by our IEEE-SA Board of Governors, as expressed in the February *Standards Bearer* article, "Strategic Initiatives Launched." A commitment has been formed to partner with the four societies having the most significant level of involvement with standards development, so as to improve the relationships and interactions between our technical societies and our Standards Activities. This is an important effort which you will be hearing more about in the coming months. Donald Heirman, IEEE-SA Standards Board Vice-Chair, leads the IEEE-SA in this important endeavor.

In summary, the preceding examples signal a new level of awareness by the IEEE BoD and other IEEE entities of our standards activities. There is a growing opportunity for the IEEE-SA to partner with these same entities and team up for some synergistic enhancements in our standards programs. Together we stand to gain a great deal.

New IEEE-SA Corporate Member Benefits

The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) is offering three new benefits for its corporate members. These include:

- An allotted number of individual IEEE-SA memberships for employees of corporate member organizations who meet the individual IEEE-SA membership criteria. This number is based on the dues structure;
- Ballot privileges on IEEE standards that impact the corporate IEEE-SA membership companies and industry; and
- A 25 percent discount on any multi-user level of the IEEE Standards On-Line Subscriptions, the IEEE Web-based annual standards subscription service.

For more information, contact Karen McCabe at k.mccabe@ieee.org.

NESC Subcommittees Meet

Seven technical subcommittees of the National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) met at IEEE headquarters in Piscataway, NJ, for three weeks in September and October, 1998. Approximately 125 members met to review 294 change proposals submitted for the 2002 Edition of the NESC.

From 1973 to 1994, the NESC was revised every three years. In 1994, the NESC Main Committee approved a five-year revision cycle for the NESC, commencing with the 1997 edition. A longer revision cycle allows for a more thorough review of proposals, as

well as time for working groups to develop additional recommendations for inclusion in the Preprint.

Recommendations made at the meetings will be published in an NESC Preprint on 1 September 1999. Following publication of the Preprint, comments from the public and members will be due in May 2000. The 2002 Edition of the NESC will be published on 1 August 2001.

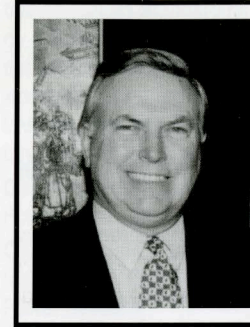
The NESC is adopted as law in the majority of states and Public Service Commissions across the United States.

For more information regarding the NESC, please contact Sue Vogel, NESC Program Manager, at s.vogel@ieee.org or visit <http://standards.ieee.org/reading/ieee/updates/>.

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE IEEE-SA STANDARDS BOARD

by Richard Holleman

Information Rules!



In the recently published book, *Information Rules*, by Carl Shapiro and Hal Varian, there are two chapters covering standards—"Cooperation and Compatibility" and "Waging a Standards War." I was especially interested in the authors' views on open standards, who wins and loses from standards, the formal standards setting (IEEE is mentioned), and lessons learned.

While I don't intend for this to be a review or a promotion for the book, it does help to focus on a point that, I think, we often lose sight of when we are engrossed in our day-to-day, week-to-week, IEEE-SA Standards Board/Committee activities. The point is that in industry today, more than ever before, standards are strategic weapons. The processes, procedures, and activities for the development of IEEE standards provide the battlefield for engagements and victorious conclusions.

The military comparison, however, shouldn't be taken too far, or too literally, but it does emphasize the importance being placed on

standards by vendors, users, governments, and other stakeholders. For me, the role of the IEEE-SA and the Standards Board in this comparison cannot be overplayed. We have a huge opportunity and a responsibility to help the stakeholders successfully attain their strategic standards objectives. To be useful, our standards must be of the highest quality, must be available in the marketplace when needed, and must truly address user needs. By continuing to improve our use of electronic processing, increasing our continuous processing procedures, and working more closely with the IEEE technical societies sponsoring standards projects, we will turn opportunity into reality and success.

The corollary to "information rules" is, "he who has the information makes the rules." As volunteers and staff we are challenged to do our best to ensure that the rules have a positive and productive effect on the information, i.e., both the content of IEEE standards and ensuring that consensus and due process are maintained. Shapiro and Varian note that "standards change competition for a market to competition within a market." I believe we will increasingly become an even more integral part of that change and the marketplace it serves.

Highlights of 18–19 January 1999 IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting

At the 18–19 January 1999 meeting of the IEEE-SA BoG, the following actions were taken:

- As part of the overall strategic plan, it was agreed that the goal of the Globalization Ad Hoc Committee would be to concentrate on proactively soliciting recognition of IEEE's value as an international standards developer in the field of electrotechnology from IEEE members, customers, and key external organizations.
- The Nominations and Appointments Committee was asked to review the current election procedures and to recommend

refinements, as needed.

- The BoG agreed to continue to explore areas of mutual common interest with the National Electric Reliability Commission (NERC).
- The 1999 Standards Board Bylaws were approved as submitted.
- The meeting schedule for the balance of the year will be 17–18 May and 8–9 November; both meetings to be held at the IEEE Operations Center in Piscataway, NJ.

Y2K Standards Available On The Web at No Charge

IEEE Std 2000.1-1998, IEEE Standard for Year 2000 Terminology, and IEEE Draft Standard P2000.2, IEEE Draft Recommended Practice for Information Technology Year 2000 Test Methods are available on the Web at no charge at <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/2000/>.

"We understand the global technology impact of the Year 2000 faced by all industries. We see both of these documents as valuable resources to all those working on

Year 2000 readiness and believe that by making them available to the public via our Web site at no charge will benefit industry and its Year 2000 efforts," stated Judith Gorman, Managing Director of IEEE Standards Activities.

IEEE ESSC Web Forum Open

The IEEE Electronic Services Steering Committee (ESSC) has an interactive Web site at <http://www.ieee.org/committee/essc/aug98>. At the Web site is a list of topics

that the ESSC is addressing and about which IEEE customer, volunteer, and member input is requested. The role of ESSC is to take a fresh look at the IEEE's future offerings in electronic services, particularly those offered over the Web. The intent is to develop a plan for the Institute that maps what customers (members, companies, libraries, etc.) want from the IEEE two to five years in the future into a coherent strategy that addresses the policies, processes, and computing/communications/information infrastructure requirements needed to implement the services.

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ITS—Critical Standards for the 21st Century

by Thomas M. Kurihara

The Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) provision in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) emphasizes the development of the ITS National Architecture and an ITS body of standards. TEA-21 includes general provisions for:

1. The US Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop, implement, and maintain a national architecture and body of standards for ITS;
2. The national architecture to promote ITS interoperability and efficiency;
3. Standards-setting organizations to use the national architecture and body of standards as appropriate. [The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) is one of five standards developing organizations tasked to develop ITS standards.]

Significantly, TEA-21 requires additional actions by the DOT to identify “critical” standards and to then tie federal funding for ITS projects to their adherence to those standards. In a Report to Congress on 1 June 1999, the DOT is mandated to identify and to give the status of standards “critical to interoperability” or to the development of other standards. Further, the DOT is empowered to establish “provisional standards” that are essential to the “timely achievement” of general goals for establishing a national architecture and a body of standards for ITS.

A “critical” standard is defined by TEA-21 as one that either ensures national interoperability or is necessary for the development of other standards. In addition, TEA-21 charges the DOT Secretary to “...ensure that the intelligent transportation systems projects...conform to the national architecture, appropriate standards or provisional standards, and protocols....” The principal emphasis of the conformity requirements promoting interoperability of ITS appears to be the requirement to facilitate the movement of travelers and commercial vehicles across jurisdictional boundaries, to ensure the “interoperability” of electronic tags and in-vehicle devices with roadside devices, and to provide infrastructure-related safety and traveler information.

The TEA-21 Critical Standards: Proposed Criteria and List of Standards, issued by the ITS Joint Program Office (JPO), US DOT, 29 October 1998, concludes that, “...only ITS that interface with and provide services to mobile systems, especially vehicles, require national interoperability. Only the Interface to the vehicle is important in this criterion. The vehicular components may or may not be standardized; they are only required to support a standardized communica-

tions interface to the roadside.” The two categories of ITS are classified, broadly, as those of traveler information systems and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications.

Foundation standards, as defined by the JPO, are those standards that are essential for developing other standards that cross multiple ITS functions. Examples given are:

- The National Transportation Communications for ITS Protocol (NTCIP) family of standards being developed jointly by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), and National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA); and
- IEEE Draft Standard Data Dictionaries for ITS (P1489) and IEEE Draft Standard for Message Set Template for ITS (P1488).

Listed as critical standards are:

- IEEE Draft Standard for Message Sets for Incident Management (P1512) and
- IEEE Draft Standard for Message Sets for Vehicle/Roadside Communications (P1455),

which are being developed cooperatively with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) committee responsible for specifications for DSRC Layers 1 and 2. The criteria and the list of standards were published in the Federal Register, Vol. 63, No. 245, 22 December 1998, pp. 70836–70841. The comment period closed on 21 January 1999. There were no major objections to the proposed rule-making provisions.

Separate from the issues of criticality and interoperability is the concern about “testing of standards” to assure that their use will achieve the goals for interoperability and permit the exchange of data among ITS economically and efficiently. An ITS program initiative for the testing and appraisal of ITS standards is being started. IEEE supports the effort and is acting cooperatively to help the program succeed. The testing will be conducted at the field level, at the sites of actual ITS deployment. Toni Wilbur of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) JPO, is designated as the Program Manager. Subsequent updates on ITS will cover the unfolding of the standards testing program.

For more information about ITS standards development, contact Robert Gottschalk (r.l.gottschalk@ieee.org), chair of the IEEE-SA Standards Board Standards Coordinating Committee 32 or Tom Kurihara (t.kurihara@ieee.org).

Thomas M. Kurihara is the IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Standards Program Manager.

IEEE Standards IT Services—1998 Highlights

by Jay Iorio

IEEE Standards information-technology services and capabilities progressed in a number of areas in 1998. For the first time, in July, we logged more than one million monthly hits on our Web server—that’s about double the number of hits over the previous 12 months. This number continues to grow and is now approaching two million. Other, more revealing numbers (data transferred, number of users, etc.), substantiate this encouraging growth pattern.

Visitors to our Web site can now find the

entire collection of active IEEE Standards documents for sale, individually and as subscription packages. Our search engine allows users to search dozens of IEEE Web sites from one location. New working groups and committees are setting up presences on our site every month—we are now serving hundreds of committees with everything from e-mail reflectors to full-blown Web sites. Furthermore, behind the scenes, our publishing systems have evolved into the information-processing backbone that holds all of these

activities together.

This is the first year in which all three aspects of IEEE Standards computerization efforts—standards development, internal information processing, and delivery of the finished information to end users—have achieved the goal of coalescing into a unified, end-to-end standards-development system.

Jay Iorio is the Technology Advisor for IEEE Standards Activities.