IEEE-USA PROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE
Promoting Professional Careers and Technology Policy Interests of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineers
An IEEE UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES Supplement to THE INSTITUTE

How IEEE-USA Serves U.S. Members

Supported by members residing in U.S. Regions 1-6, IEEE United States Activities (IEEE-USA) supports the Institute’s professional goal, advancing the standing of members of the professions that the IEEE serves. IEEE-USA’s efforts to achieve this goal include conducting and publishing surveys and reports on matters of professional concern, collaborating with public bodies and other societies for the benefit of all engineering professions, and establishing standards of qualification and ethical conduct.

Influencing policymaking on career and technology policy issues affecting the electrical, electronics and computer engineering professions, IEEE-USA also provides products and services to help U.S. members understand and deal with these issues. By describing positions on policy issues, IEEE-USA communicates members’ concerns to government, industry and other organizations.

Professional Careers Of U.S. IEEE Members
IEEE-USA committees handling career concerns inform and educate U.S. IEEE members about trends, issues and concerns affecting their professional careers. The committees prepare positions and recommend appropriate actions to communicate IEEE-USA’s views to public and private decision-makers, and respond to member requests for information and assistance.

Engineering Employment Benefits Committee (EEBC)
This committee tracks developments in the public and private sectors, makes policy recommendations to the United States Activities Board (USAB), and educates U.S. members on pensions and other retirement savings issues. EEBC promotes legislation to improve pension portability and increase individual savings for retirement, as well as assists in developing and marketing retirement planning software.

Intellectual Property Committee (IPC)
IPC encourages the establishment of appropriate incentives and protection for the development and disclosure of inventions. The committee also seeks to strengthen intellectual property rights in patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, maskworks and trade secrets.

Committee activities include advising federal policymakers on intellectual property issues and the government’s role in protecting technology, developing, evaluating, and proposing alternative forms of protection for rapidly changing technology, and recommending guidelines for university intellectual property rights policy.

Licensure & Registration Committee (L&R)
L&R represents U.S. members’ interests in engineer credentialing by providing policy perspectives on developing, administering, and evaluating the Professional Engineering Exam, offered by the National Council of Examiners in Engineering and Surveying. The committee recommends procedures that will protect the public without imposing unreasonable restrictions on engineering practice.

Work Force Committee (WFC)
This committee monitors trends, issues and developments affecting members’ employment opportunities. WFC prepares analyses and reports, makes policy recommendations, and gives testimony to Congress and government agencies on employment issues. Committee activities include analyzing and reporting on major economic, educational, immigration, and trade policy issues affecting employment and educational opportunities.

Career Maintenance and Development Committee (CM&D)
CM&D’s mission is to improve career development and satisfaction, ensure lifelong careers, and increase members’ effectiveness as a vital component of the nation’s productivity. Committee activities include organizing conferences, sponsoring workshops, making presentations, and preparing educational materials.

Career Equality Committee (CEC)
CEC develops and communicates public policy positions on federal regulations involving discrimination against women, minorities, the disabled, and older engineers in matters of employment, utilization, compensation and career advancement. The committee advises Congress and disseminates information to U.S. IEEE members.

Public Policy Issues Involving Technology
The technology policy committees develop policy and position statements and track legislative and regulatory activities in Washington, D.C. They also present annual sympoias on timely policy issues affecting U.S. technology research, development and implementation. Such meetings educate participants about U.S. technology policy needs and provide insights on how IEEE-USA can promote effective policy through contact with policymakers and agency officials. Volunteers give testimony to policymakers providing officials with technology experts who offer objective insights.

Energy Policy Committee (EPC)
EPC presents technical information and policy views on key energy issues. The committee specifically focuses on national energy policy legislation, energy transmission technology development, and energy efficiency.

Committee On Communications and Information Policy (CCIP)
CCIP promotes formulation of sound legislation, regulation and policies relating to communications, computer and information technology development. Committee members have focused on such issues as electromagnetic spectrum efficiency, high-performance computing, digital high-resolution systems, personal communications systems, the national information infrastructure and spectrum license competitive bidding and utilization.

Aerospace Policy Committee (APC)
APC presents views on government and private sector aerospace R&D policy programs. Committee activities focus on the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite demonstration, Earth Observing and Data Information Systems implementation, and realizing the economic promise of space.

Research and Development Policy Committee (R&DPC)
R&DPC disseminates positions on engineering R&D policies and programs, specifically those of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Commerce’s (DOC) Technology Administration, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The committee focuses on MIST standards and technology programs, NSF engineering programs and reauthorization, and DOC’s role in technology commercialization.

U.S. Competitiveness Policy Committee (USPCPC)
Working with IEEE-USA’s other policy committees, USPCPC develops programs and advocates policies that promote the economic well-being of U.S. members and global competitiveness. The committee has developed a proposal to encourage capital investment in manufacturing.

Linking Engineers With Government
As part of a multi-association program, the Government Fellows Committee (GFC) recruits and sup-

Continued on p. 80
The following pictures provide a review of some of IEEE-USA’s major 1994 activities:

IEEE-USA Supports Industry Cooperation: On April 11, in Washington, D.C., IEEE Chairman Charles K. Alexander Jr. spoke to a capacity gathering of 75 electronics/technology executives at a special meeting on supporting development of the information superhighway. The U.S. Vice President’s chief of staff and head of the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. also participated in the event.

IEEE-USA Entitles Congressional Support for Portable Pension Legislation: On April 12, IEEE President Elect James T. Can (left) and Alexander (right) visited Rep. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), seeking support for portable pensions legislation, while the Institute Executive Committee met in Washington.

IEEE-USA Promotes Technology to Provide Efficient Health Care: On April 12, in Washington, D.C., Alexander and 1994 IEEE President H. Troy Nagle (right) record a radio interview broadcast on 320 stations nationwide emphasizing how technology can help to contain health care costs and improve services.

Later, from April 27 to 29, the division co-sponsored a forum on technology’s role in reducing health care costs. Magle (right) appears with Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.), who announced initiatives to promote the development of promising health-care technologies, including legislation to establish a Presidential Commission on Biomedical.

IEEE-USA sponsors Only National Conference Devoted Entirely to Engineering Careers: On April 14-15, in Fort Worth, IEEE-USA’s Career Maintenance and Development Committee sponsored the 8th Biennial Careers Conference. The meeting, attended by some 125 professionals, explored such topics as engineering leadership, how to create a learning organization in the engineering community, and organizational practices that build leadership in the technical ranks.
Promoting Professional Careers and Technology Policy Interests of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineers

IEEE-USA Promotes Professional Activities Outside the United States: On May 27, Alexander met in Copenhagen, Denmark, with Region 8 members to describe U.S. professional activities and how they might be applied as a model in other countries. Representatives of the region, which includes the former Soviet Union, Europe and Africa, shared similar concerns about job security with their U.S. counterparts. Later, on Sept. 19 in Budapest, Hungary, Alexander (left) talks with members of IEEE's Hungarian Section.

IEEE-USA Recognizes Professional Achievement: Former IEEE President Charles A. Eden accepts USA's highest award for distinguished contributions to engineering professionalism, announced at the division's Labor Day PAC Conference. Eden, on a visiting fellowship, was recognized for his leadership in establishing IEEE-USA's Government Fellows program and for improving ties between the organization and other groups.

IEEE-USA Promotes Retirement Security: On Oct. 3, in the U.S. Capitol, Alexander presents USA's Distinguished Public Service Award to Rep. Sam M. Gibbons (D-Fla.), acting chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. Alexander praised Gibbons "for his sponsorship of legislation to increase the portability of pension benefits for mobile American workers, including engineers and scientists in each of the last two Congresses.

IEEE-USA Briefs Clinton Administration Science Officials: A combined volunteer and staff delegation gathers outside the White House Conference Center, after meeting with senior officials of the Administration's Office of Science and Technology Policy on Oct. 4. They discussed such topics as manufacturing technology, small business access to government information, space policy, information security, retaining assistance and the federal laboratories.

IEEE-USA Establishes Alliance of IEEE Consultants' Network (ACN) At the ACN East Coast Conference, on Oct. 15 in Newark, N.J., Peter Schulte, a Garden State member consultant, discuses Profiting from Your Inventions. Sessions covered marketing, contracts, tax and intellectual property laws, and fee setting.

IEEE-USA Celebrates Stamps For Information Interests: On May 10-11, in Arlington, Va., IEEE-USA co-sponsored a workshop on advanced digital video in the National Information Infrastructure (NII). A month later, on June 29-30, in McLean, Va., approximately 250 people attended a symposium on the role of the Internet. What Will It Be? How Will It Be Used? Michael Nelson (left) speaks on behalf of the National Office of Science and Technology Policy.


IEEE-USA Staff Photographer: Steven Evans
Helping Self-Employed Members
The Alliance of Self-Employed Consultants' Networks (AICN) coordinates the activities of a growing number of local networks of members in private practice. AICN's Coordinating Committee produces a newsletter for private practitioners and is developing new forms of assistance for self-employed members, including a national client referral service.

Precollege Education Commission (PEC)
PEC increases U.S. members' awareness of a crisis in U.S. precollege math and science education and facilitates members' participation in community activities designed to enrich math and science teaching. The committee has published a Directory of Volunteer Opportunities in Precollege Mathematics and Science Education for Engineers and Scientists, listing enrichment programs that depend heavily on volunteer participation. PEC also urges state school boards to revise certification requirements to enable hiring engineers as math or science teachers.

Communicating With Members and the Public
Through IEEE-USA's internal and external communications programs, the enormous task of informing the Institute's 240,000 U.S. members and the public-at-large is achieved.

Today's Students - The Future of the Profession
Through programs for engineering students, IEEE-USA fosters awareness of professional activities. This division promotes a technologically literate society above all other professional needs.

Promoting IEEE-USA Issues Outside the Institute
IEEE-USA Communications pursues media relations as well as marketing and advertising programs promoting professional careers and technology policy issues. It also coordinates the IEEE's participation in National Engineers Week. Coordinating programs that call attention to engineers' achievements and their impact on society, current information services (202) 785-2180, provides an overview of the division's activities.

The 1995 IEE USA Salary and Fringe Benefit Survey offers detailed information on salaries and benefits of electrical, electronics, and computer engineers, as well as employment data and demographic and occupational characteristics. Questionnaires were sent to nearly 21,000 randomly selected U.S. members. The 1995 Survey is restructured to address key issues, such as economic effects on engineering employment, salaries and benefits.

The publication date for the Survey is May 15. Members can order it now through IEEE-USA Hot Lines, a one-page, camera-ready news sheet circulated to the IEEE's Section and Society newsletter editors.

Keeping Active Volunteers Up to Date
Impact is an eight-page newsletter issued eight times a year to enhance professional awareness among IEEE volunteer leaders throughout the United States.

Informing Members Of Career and Technology Policy Issues
Professional Perspectives is IEEE-USA's four-page centerfold insert in The Institute or two-page spread in Spectrum. Its purpose is to inform members about professional activities programs being implemented in the United States, as well as available IEEE-USA services and products. The division also releases regular information bulletins and publishes the bimonthly IEEE-USA Legislative Report newsletter to highlight important public policy issues and developments in Washington, D.C.