IEEE UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES ANNUAL REPORT

A Year in Pictures

Throughout 1995, IEEE-USA increased its efforts to enhance career opportunities for U.S. members. We expanded our Internet Job Listing Service; negotiated agreements with resume referral services; facilitated several dozen local job fairs and career and consulting workshops; and published the IEEE-USA 1996 National Directory of Electrotechnology Consultants, as well as our IEEE U.S. Membership 1995 Salary and Fringe Benefit Survey. And we led changes in the Professional Engineering Exam to include a wider variety of disciplines.

IEEE-USA continued to be a recognized lobbying force on Capitol Hill in 1995, expressing U.S. members' professional and technology policy concerns to policy-makers. We supported federal R&D funding, pension simplification legislation, increased energy research, retirement savings education programs, improved data security, intellectual property rights and stricter immigration regulation. On Nov. 29, IEEE-USA spearheaded a news conference with other high-tech organizations endorsing the Immigration Reform Act of 1995 (S.1394), which would prohibit employers from replacing U.S. workers with lower-paid foreign nationals and require that foreign professionals be paid a competitive wage.

Additional IEEE-USA programs included promotion of National Engineers Week, management of the Institute's career counseling and precollege education programs, and support of 31 Student Professional Awareness Conferences. We also held a symposium to discuss new policies to safeguard intellectual property in cyberspace; furthered government Fellowship programs; lobbied member of the staffs of Washington policy-makers and integrated policy into the legislative process, with recognition by the American Society of Association Executives. We also unveiled our home page site on the World Wide Web: http://www.ieee.org/usab. And IEEE-USA's annual Labor Day PACE Conference and Workshop drew a record number of attendees.

The Institute's plans for Organizational Improvement (OI) were hotly debated throughout the year. IEEE-USA volunteers recommended that OI not weaken U.S. Activities and that IEEE-USA retain stable funding. At the year-end Board of Directors' (BOD) meeting in Monterey, Mexico, the BOD continued lengthy debates on reorganization proposals.

IEEE-USA Supports Expansion of Tax-Deductible IRA, IEEE-USA Board Chair Joel B. Snyder (above and below left) testified before the House Ways and Means Committee on Jan. 31 during hearings on savings incentives. Snyder told the Committee that an expanded, tax-deductible Individual Retirement Account would boost personal savings and stimulate private domestic investment. IEEE-USA Career Policy Council Chair George F. McClure (above right) joined Snyder for the presentation.

We were recognized for our Government Fellowship program, which places senior-level engineers in government and executive staffs and brings technical and industry expertise into the policy-making process. 1995 Fellow Donald M. Wilberg (right) completed his Fellowship in the office of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

Energy Funding in a Priority: IEEE-USA Energy Committee Chair Ned R. Sanfodoff supported funding of fusion-energy research during April 25 meeting of the U.S. Secretary of Energy's Advisory Board. Participants included (from left) William R. Ellis, Raytheon vice president for advanced technology; N. Anna Davis, associate director for fusion energy, Office of Energy Research, U.S. Dept. of Energy; Ned Sanford, head of the Plasma Science and Technology Department, Princeton Plasma Physics Lab; and John Lindal, chair of the Fusion Industrial Council-U.S. Sanford also testified on fusion research on March 28 before the House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

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BOD Discusses Reorganization: At a series of year-end IEEE meetings, Dec. 9-14, in Monterrey, Mexico, the Institute's plans for organizational improvement were evaluated. PACF Chair Charles S. Lendar (left) and Joel S. Snyder attended the meetings. Snyder was presented a crystal replica of the U.S. Capitol for his efforts as 1995 IEEE-USA Board Chair.

Consultants' Networks Take Off: In light of downsizing by major corporate employers, many U.S. members have refocused their careers and become private practitioners. Founded in January 1994, the Alliance of IEEE Consultants' Networks (AICN) held four national workshops in 1995 aimed at helping both experienced and novice consultants. AICN also published a directory of electronic technology consultants for employers, available in hard copy and on the World Wide Web, as well as a free quarterly newsletter for individual consultants.

We Lobby for Immigration Reform: During a break in the markup of the 1995 Immigration Reform Act (S.1394) in Washington, IEEE-USA Board Chair Joel B. Snyder (left) meets with Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., (center), Linda Rilkowski, a former employee of AIG in New York who was displaced by a foreign worker (far right); and Julie Caira-Rubin, a former employee of Sealand Corporation in Elizabeth, N.J., who was displaced by a foreign worker. Prior to the markup, we held a news conference in support of the Simpson bill. Snyder delivered a joint statement endorsing provisions of S.1394, which would safeguard employment opportunities, wages and working conditions for citizens and foreign nationals who are legally admitted to work in the United States.

Reorganization Elicits Emotional Response: A hot topic this year was the Institute's proposed restructuring. IEEE-USA members were concerned that potential organizational improvements would washout or even eliminate U.S. Activities. IEEE President James T. Cain and other Institute leaders held a panel discussion on the issue at our Labor Day PACF Conference.

On Dec. 9, IEEE-USA Senior Career Policy Administrator Vin O'Neill (far right) debated immigration reform with his counterpart from the National Association of Manufacturers on National Empowerment Television, a Washington-based political cable network.

We Join Labor Department Campaign: IEEE-USA Board Chair Joel B. Snyder (left) speaks with U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Robert B. Reich after a July 19 Washington news conference kicking off a new retirement-savings education campaign. IEEE-USA's partnership in DOL's campaign is part of our effort to expand individual savings incentives and help U.S. members plan for retirement.

U.S. Members Receive Top Honors: At an Oct. 18 White House ceremony, President Clinton presented IEEE Senior Members: Jerome I. Cuomo (left) and Richard V. Gambino (middle) with National Medals of Technology. IEEE Life Fellow Hermann A. Haus (right) received the National Medal of Science. Cuomo and Gambino were honored for their work as members of an IBM team that helped develop the magneto-optic disk, while Haus was recognized for his contributions to the field of quantum electronics.

Intellectual Property Protection Debated at IEEE-USA Symposium: Administration officials proposed new policies to safeguard intellectual property in cyberspace at the second IEEE-USA Intellectual Property Symposium held in Washington on Sept. 7. U.S. Patent and Trademark Commissioner Bruce A. Lehman told the gathering of U.S. IEEE members and media that the current system needs only fine tuning to adapt to the new cyberspace environment.

KGO-TV, an ABC affiliate in San Francisco, interviewed IEEE-USA Career Policy Council Chair George F. McHugh about S.1394 at the ABC News studio in Washington.

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