



Worcester County IEEE

Newsletter

March

2000

Worcester Section IEEE and ASME
Annual Joint Meeting with ASME
Thursday, April 6, 2000, Higgins House, WPI
6:30 PM - Social Period, 7:00 PM - Dinner (Chicken or Fish)
8:00 PM - Presentation

Cost: Talk free, optional dinner at \$15.00 per person. Reservations are required.
Call Janice at the WPI Mechanical Engineering Department: 508-831-5425.
This year's presentation will be "The First Year Experiences of Shrewsbury-High-School/Compaq Participation in the US FIRST Robot Challenge"

Worcester County Section
IEEE Annual Awards Meeting and Election of Officers
Wednesday, May 10, 2000, 6:30 PM, Ground Round, Shrewsbury

We will be meeting for cocktails at 6:30 PM, and be seated in the banquet room at 7:00 PM. The cost will be \$10 for each adults and \$5 for each child. There will be a cash bar.

Prior to the banquet, we will be giving out some awards and then have our Annual Election of Officers. If you are planning to attend, please notify Jim Jensen by email or phone with the number of people you will be bringing. This is important so that we can plan the menu.

Invention Club

Worcester County section IEEE creates Junior Engineering club.

Larry G. Nelson Sr., Chairman

Worcester County section of the IEEE has created the first affiliated junior engineering club for pre-college students. The pilot program was created at Anthony J. Sitcowski Middle School in Webster Massachusetts. This was created as after school program, aimed at sixth grade students. The initial meetings drew over 30 students interested in engineering and technology. After we were organized, the first activity that we participated in was the Duracell invention contest. In this contest the students work either individually or in teams of 2 to create an invention that utilizes batteries. With a close deadline, we ended up with over ten designs that were submitted to the contest. The section Web site has links showing many pictures of the designs the students came up with. These designs range from light up bike helmets, light up mailboxes that announce when your mail

has been delivered, to fireman turnout coats that light up when a fireman falls.

The next activity was to work with and encourage all members of the club to participate in the annual science fair. All those students who submitted designs, in some of the students were unable to submit their designs but had worked on designs prepared projects for the science fair.

The third activity which the students are just started on is to work on designing robotics using the Lego Mindstorms robotic invention system. In the first session we have a small group of five students who assembled a simple sensor less robot and then proceeded to learn programming for the robot. By the end of this first 45 minutes session, they had a functioning robot and had written a half-dozen programs controlling motion and sound for the robot. In our next session will be adding sensors annual continue in their learning of programming.

Next year this program will be expanded. The section has applied for and will be receiving additional funds from the region to purchase more equipment materials to provide these types of hands-on activities for more students.

Arthur Winston for president

Larry G. Nelson Sr.

The race is on

The IEEE has created the nominated slate for the next presidential elections. There are other candidates who wish the opportunity to run for this position. Believing that these upcoming candidates have the right to be listed on the ballot and be voted on by the membership at large, the board of the Worcester County section IEEE has voted to endorse Arthur Winston in his petition drive to be placed on the ballot. For more information please visit our Web site.

The Annual Joint Meeting of the Worcester Section of the IEEE and the ASME

Mark your calendars for the Annual IEEE - ASME Joint Meeting. It is scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2000

Time: 6:30 PM - Social Period

7:00 PM - Dinner (Chicken or Fish)

8:00 PM - Presentation

Place: Higgins House

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Salisbury Street

Worcester, Mass

Cost: Talk free, optional dinner at \$15.00 per person

Reservations are required. Call Janice at the WPI Mechanical Engineering Department: 508-831-5425.

The Annual Joint Dinner Meeting of the Worcester Section of the IEEE and the ASME will be held at the Higgins House, on to campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, on Thursday, April 6, 2000. The optional dinner at 7 p.m. will be preceded by a social period at 6:30 p.m. The choices for dinner are chicken or fish at \$15. The presentation will begin at 8 p.m. For further information and reservations, call (508) 831-5425.

This year's presentation will be "The First Year Experiences of Shrewsbury-High-School/Compaq Participation in the US FIRST Robot Challenge". A team of Shrewsbury High School students and teachers, local

parents, and engineers from Compaq Computer Corporation Alpha Development Group designed and built a robot that was entered into U. S. FIRST Robotics Competition, a 130 pound robot that collects large balls and deposits them into a 6 foot goal. Several members of the design team will come talk about what this project was, what they learned, what they hope for in the future. They will also demonstrate the robot. And they will also present their entry into the Robot Animation Contest, the results of students using "3D Studio Max" animation software to create a 30 second video presentation. This promises to be a very entertaining and informative presentation.

Higgins House is located on the northwest part of the WPI campus, off Salisbury Street. There is no parking at Higgins House, so please park on West Street, or in the area parking lots.

Directions:

From I-290 northbound, take the Belmont Street/Lincoln Square exit (exit 17), and turn left, follow through WPI campus. At the intersection with Salisbury Street, turn left, the first left is the entrance to Higgins House. From I-290 southbound, take exit 18, bear right at the end of the ramp, then take the next right, and proceed straight, merging with Salisbury Street. Continue west on Salisbury Street until the WPI campus is on the left. Parking may be found on Salisbury Street or on West Street. The entrance to Higgins House is the first left after West Street.

Engineering Education

Passed on by Larry G. Nelson Sr.

The Top Ten Things Engineering School didn't teach

10. There are at least 10 types of capacitors.
9. Theory tells you how a circuit works, not why it does not work.
8. Not everything works according to the specs in the databook.
7. Anything practical you learn will be obsolete before you use it, except the complex math, which you will never use.
6. Always try to fix the hardware with software.
5. Engineering is like having an 8 a.m. class and a late afternoon lab every day for the rest of your life.
4. Overtime pay? What overtime pay?
3. Managers, not engineers, rule the world.
2. If you like junk food, caffeine, and all-nighters, go into software.

And the number one thing Engineering School didn't teach:

1. Dilbert is a documentary.

Worcester County Section, IEEE Annual Awards Meeting and Election of Officers

Jim Jensen

Mark your calendars. The Worcester County Section, IEEE is planning their Annual Awards Meeting and Election of Officers. This event is scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Ground Round

Route 9 (westbound side near Spags)

Shrewsbury, Mass.

Cost: \$10 per adult (bring with you to the meeting)
\$5 per child

We will be meeting for cocktails at 6:30 PM, and be seated in the banquet room at 7:00 PM. There will be a cash bar.

Prior to the banquet, we will be giving out some awards and then have our Annual Election of Officers. The slate of Officers for Worcester County Section IEEE for the 2000-2001 term of office are:

Section Chair:	Larry Nelson
Section Vice-Chair:	Al Reinhart
Section Secretary/Treasurer:	Jim Jensen
Section Professional	
Activities Chair:	Stan Tanenholtz
Section Education Chair:	Rich Fahey
Section Membership	
Development Chair:	Vern Gaw
Section Newsletter Editor:	Bob Hassinger
Section Computer Society Co-Chair:	Richard Perron
Section Computer Society Co-Chair:	Jim Perry
Section Power Society Chair:	Richard Kane

Please show your support and enjoy a great meal. Any IEEE member and their guests are heartily welcomed. If you are planning to attend, please notify Jim Jensen by email or phone with the number of people you will be bringing. This is important so that we can plan the menu. He can be reached at:

Jim Jensen

Home: 508-842-0675

Work: 508-831-3137

Email: j.jensen@ieee.org

Hope to see you there ...

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