



Worcester County IEEE

Newsletter

October

2002

Worcester County Section IEEE

Annual Meeting and Christmas Banquet

Friday, December 13, 2002, 6:30 PM, Bergson's, Westboro

The Worcester County Section Annual Meeting and Christmas Banquet is scheduled for Friday, December 13, 2002 at the Bergson's 1790 House, Route 9 (Eastbound Side), in Westboro, Massachusetts. We will meet for cocktails at 6:30 PM and be seated in the banquet room at 7:00 PM.

If you are planning to attend, reservations are required. Please notify Jim Jensen, email or phone, with the number of people you will be bringing. Jim can be reached at:

Jim Jensen
Phone: 508-841-4214
Email: j.jensen@ieee.org

There will be a cash bar and we will have a selection of three entrees (beef, chicken, or fish) of which you can decide at the banquet. The cost of the dinner is set at \$20.00 per adult and \$10 per student/child.

During the banquet, we will be having our Annual Election of Officers. See inside for details.

Chairman's Remarks

Larry G. Nelson Sr. - l.nelson@ieee.org

As I'm sure many of you have noticed, it has been a long time between newsletters. This is not because your executive committee has been doing nothing. Unfortunately in the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks, our industry has gone through many changes. Some of these changes have made it very difficult for us to obtain meeting room space. Speakers have also been more difficult to obtain and coordinate.

The good news is we've made arrangements with the student chapter of IEEE at WPI and we will be able to hold some meetings at their facilities on campus in Worcester. We have some very interesting speakers lined up and as we get dates we will be notifying everyone by future newsletters. Some of the topics of upcoming meet-

ings include solar energy and solar power inverters, microprocessors and explosives in the areas of fireworks, and a talk about Nikolai Tessela.

You will notice under my name I have given my e-mail address. If you have any comments or suggestions on things that the section can do please send me a message. If you'd like to be notified of meetings and events via e-mail please send me a message and let me know so I can add your e-mail address to my mailing list. I do have a list of e-mail addresses from Piscataway, but this is the type of thing that I want your explicit request for me to add you in.

We've also included a short questionnaire regarding the usefulness of the reflector. The reflector is the CNEC newsletter sent out monthly from Boston which our section subsidizes. Please let us know your thoughts so we, your executive committee, can act in your best interests.

Our Christmas party is coming up and the details are here in this newsletter. This should be a good time for all and I hope you will be able to attend. Please respond early because we are limited in the number of guests that will be able to attend.

Larry G. Nelson Sr.

mailto:L.Nelson@ieee.org

http://www.mchipguru.com

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During the banquet, we will be having our Annual Election of Officers. The slate of Officers for Worcester County Section, IEEE for the 2003 term of office are:

Section Chair:	Larry Nelson
Section Vice-Chair:	Al Rinehart
Section Secretary/Treasurer	James Jensen
Section Education Chair:	Richard Fahey
Section Computer Society Co-Chair:	Richard Perron
Section Computer Society Co-Chair:	Jim Perry
Section Power Society Chair:	Richard Kane
Section PACE Chair:	Stanley Tanenholtz
Section Newsletter Editor:	Robert Hassinger
Section Membership Development:	Vernon Gaw
Section GOLD Representative:	Vishnu Pandey

If you would like to run or nominate someone for an office, nominations are accepted from the floor at this meeting. Alternately, contact our secretary/treasurer who will ensure that you will be on the ballot: Jim Jensen; Secretary/Treasurer Worcester County Section IEEE; 82 Edgewood Road; Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

The Bergson's 1790 House is located in Westboro, Route 9 eastbound side just after the Westmeadow Plaza. If you are coming from the east, you will have to use the Route 135 intersection to change direction.

Member Communications Questionnaire

Enclosed with this edition of the Newsletter you will find a pull out page with a member questionnaire. It is intended to help the Executive Committee identify and evaluate alternative approaches for communicating with the Worcester Section Members.

Please complete and return it using the address on the reverse side.

Section Website Address Change

Please note that with the RCN takeover of Ultranet the URL for the section website has changed to <http://users.rcn.com/ieeeworc/>.

Worcester County Section future engineers and inventors club

With the new school year we've kicked off the future engineers and inventors club with a brainstorming session at the Anthony J. Sitkowski school in Webster Massachusetts. The club has been designed by Worcester County section to bring engineering into the school for the sixth grade level. This year started off as a phenomenal success. For the first session we had 54 students and two teachers in attendance. The club is an after school program and has many planned activities for the year. They meet one time per month for one-hour every month. At the next meeting the students will break up into groups and work on the assembly and programming of a Lego Mindstorms robot. In future sessions we will have activities to assist them in selecting and creating their science fair projects. In past years the students have also participated in various design contests sponsored by major corporations. Please visit to Worcester County section web site to see pictures of some of the prototypes the sixth grade future engineers conceived of, designed, and built.

Larry G. Nelson Sr.
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In-service training program offered to Worcester County school districts

A new program that was piloted in Florida brings the engineering experience to teachers. Engineers from various sections across the country have come together to create educational, interesting, and fun activities for teachers to present in the classroom. Unlike simply going into the classroom and providing a single class with an engineering activity, this program is designed to show the teachers how they can present this material. All teachers must complete in-service training as part of their ongoing certification process. Various local school districts often provide workshops and seminars at their schools for the teachers. Some of these workshops and seminars are presented at no cost to the district by various vendors of educational products. There are also some programs are presented by the state especially in areas of special education. With this program IEEE volunteers will present a workshop on various topics of engineering in the classroom. One topic presented in Florida followed through on the design process of creating fingernail clippers. The project ended with the construction of a model of fingernail clippers built out of foam board. I have completed a half-day workshop on bringing low-cost, no cost engineering activities into the classroom. If anyone knows of a school district in the Worcester County area that would like to have meet one on this in-service training session please contact me or pass my information on to those in charge of setting up the in-service training at that school district.

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Webster Massachusetts 01570-0416

IEEE Worcester Section Member Questionnaire

The Worcester Section Executive Committee is in the process of identifying and evaluating alternative approaches to improving our communication with Worcester Section members. This questionnaire is intended to solicit your input with respect to your preferences for receiving information concerning local IEEE meetings and events of interest to you. This includes the information you currently receive via the Worcester Section Newsletter, the Reflector, and direct mailings.

How would you prefer to receive the information you currently receive in the Worcester Section newsletter?

Hard copy, regular mail
 The Internet, by: email web site other _____

How would you prefer to receive the information you currently receive in the Reflector?

Hard copy, regular mail
 The Internet, by: email web site other _____

Do you have Internet access at work? Yes No

Do you have Internet access at home? No Access Dial Up Cable Other _____

Do you send / receive Internet email? Yes No

Do you have access to the World Wide Web (WWW)? Yes No

What browser do you use? Microsoft's Internet Explorer Netscape Other _____

How often do you access the Internet?

Daily Weekly Monthly Other

Do you subscribe to Internet based publications / email notices? Yes No

Do you use the Internet (WWW) to obtain information about meetings and activities? Yes No

Do you prefer to obtain information about meetings /activities via the Internet? Yes No

Do you prefer to receive reminders about meetings / activities vie email? Yes No

Would you prefer to receive information concerning local IEEE meetings / activities via the Internet?

Yes No

Would you prefer receiving information about local IEEE meetings / activities personalized to your interests?

Yes No

Would you like to interact with other Section members via the Internet? Yes No

Newsgroups Chat Rooms Mailing Lists Other _____

Approximately how many IEEE meetings / events do you attend each year: _____

Have you received your degree in the last ten years? Yes No

If yes, would you like to be contacted by the Worcester Section GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade) Group?

If yes, please provide contact information (phone or email) _____

Please add your comments, recommendations and suggestions on the back of this page. Thank you.

Al Reinhart
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