



Worcester County IEEE

Newsletter

January

1998

Worcester County Section

The First GOLD Meeting for Boston/Worcester

Susan Foster, GOLD Chair for Boston and Worcester County Sections

Saturday, January 10, 1998 at 11 AM, Framingham State College

GOLD stands for Graduates Of the Last Decade. If you have received any degree in the last 10 years, you are considered a potential GOLD member. The program is designed to retain the recently graduated student members as members of the IEEE.

Worcester County Section and ASME

Can Solar Energy be Competitive in a Deregulated Energy Market

Dr. William A. Beckman, University of Wisconsin

Thursday, February 5, 1998, WPI, Worcester

The annual joint dinner meeting of the IEEE and ASME. There will be an optional dinner and social period before the presentation. See inside for details

Worcester County Section/PACE

Dancing Engineers?

Larry G. Nelson Sr., Section Chairman

Friday, March 13, 7 PM to 9 PM, Trinity Church, Northboro

An introduction to formal dancing with a professional dance instructor. \$15.00 per couple for IEEE members with guest and \$25.00 per couple for non members. If you are a member but your partner is not the cost is \$15.00 for both of you. We will be having Pizza and drinks available along with chips so the cost includes food.

Worcester Section Launches Web Site

Bob Hassinger

The Worcester Section has established a Web site. The new site will allow more timely communication of Worcester Section related information. It also provides an easily accessed source for information such as how to contact section officers, and links to other IEEE resources. We need your feedback on the new site, and your contributions. Take a look at:

<http://www.ultranet.com/~ieeeworc/>

and please pass on your feedback and input to me at HassingR@ma.ultranet.com.

<http://www.ultranet.com/~ieeeworc/>

THE PACE PAGE

Dancing Engineers?

Larry G. Nelson Sr., Section Chairman

Our Dancing Engineers sessions have been a great success so we are doing it again.

Our next session of dancing engineers is scheduled for Friday March 13 at the Trinity Church on Main street in Northboro. We are having an introduction to formal dancing. We have a professional dance instructor, Roxana Dumitriu, that will guide us through some basic dance steps for Waltz and Foxtrot. The cost for this will be \$15.00 per couple for IEEE members with guest and \$25.00 per couple for non members. If you are a member but your partner is not the cost is \$15.00 for both of you. We will be having Pizza and drinks available along with chips so the cost includes food. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to have fun. The lesson will last for 2 hours from 7 pm to 9 pm.

There is one more of these which we have scheduled for 5-8-98 so be sure to mark your calendar.

The Trinity Church is located at 23 Main Street in Northboro, Mass. (in Northboro, Main Street is also Route 20), one block east from Northboro Center. Northboro Center is at the intersections of Main Street, Route 135, and Church Street.

From Northboro Center, head east for one block and take the first left after the railroad tracks. This left will be between an Exxon gas station on the left and the "Trinity Church" on the right. Take your first right into the parking area of the Trinity Church and enter the church from the back door off the parking lot.

Northboro Center is centrally located:

From the north or Worcester: Take Route 290 to the "Church Street" exit and head south, follow church Street to Northboro Center. From the east, this is the second set of exits from Route 495 and a left turn at the bottom of the exit ramp. From the west, this is the exit after the Route 140 exits in Shrewsbury and a turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp. **From Marlboro:** Follow Route 20 East to Northboro Center. **From Westboro:** Take Route 9 to the "Route 135 North" exit and follow to Northboro Center. **From Shrewsbury:** Follow Route 20 East to Northboro Center.

I hope to see many of you there. Registration is not required but I really want to get some idea of how many of you will be attending so we can have sufficient refreshments. I want this to be a great time for all. If you know

how to dance please come since there will be something for everyone. This is for anyone at any level of skill, from none to instructor. If you do not have a partner come along and we will try to match you with someone so you too can learn to dance.

If you are interested in attending please contact: Larry G. Nelson Sr., L.Nelson@IEEE.ORG, 508-943-1075 phone 508-949-2914 FAX, PO Box 416, Webster MA 01570

There's GOLD In Them Thar Hills!!

Susan Foster, GOLD Chair

The first GOLD meeting for Boston and Worcester County Sections will be held this January!

What the dickens is GOLD? GOLD stands for Graduates Of the Last Decade, and it was created by the Membership Development Committee. It is pretty much an equivalent to PACE's YP (Young Professionals) program with the exception that, while both can target recent graduates, GOLD is indiscriminate of age - if you have received any degree in the last 10 years, you are considered a GOLD member!

Why is GOLD important? Both the GOLD and YP programs were designed to retain recently graduated Student Members as continuing and active members of the IEEE. Our GOLD meetings are open to anyone who cares to attend - and most especially, STUDENT members are encouraged to attend. What is interesting or applicable to a GOLD member is most likely interesting or applicable to anyone in any age group.

So what? Let me toss out an amazing statistic: only 17% of graduating Student Members are still members just a short four years after graduation!! There are several possible reasons for this severe decline, including full-member-priced-dues, financial burdens (like student loans) and the change of demands for time and on lifestyle commitments.

IEEE's Financial Advantage Program, the Graduated Dues program (available to graduating students), personal networking, and obtaining mentors (not to mention all of the world-class IEEE publications!), could help retain some of these recent graduates, but only if they are informed and supported by those of us who are willing to take the time and effort to include recent graduates of all ages.

The GOLD program was designed to facilitate this desire to help these recent graduates and second career individuals and demonstrate to them the great many benefits IEEE can offer.

Where and When: The meeting will be held on Saturday, January 10, 1998 at Framingham State College College Center 100 State Street Framingham, MA 01702 from 11 AM - 3 PM.

Refreshments and lunch will be served.

What: The topic for this first GOLD meeting will be contracting/consulting vs. permanent employment.

- A brief introduction of the GOLD program and IEEE will start off the agenda to acquaint attendees with the main sponsor of the meeting.
- Each of the speakers will briefly present (~10 min) how his/her career path decision was made and how things have progressed since.
- A question and answer session to follow the presentations.
- Questions relating to the presentations, personal networking, the GOLD program or IEEE in general are all welcome.

(My professors used to say: "The only stupid question is the one that's never asked.")

This meeting marks the start of our GOLD program in Massachusetts so bring your resumes and/or your business cards. There will be a tray at the entrance for resumes.

Confirmed Presenters To Date:

- Larry Nelson, Sr., President of Nelson Research based in Webster, MA (current Worcester County Section Chair) will be speaking on what his consulting work has been like.
- Jason Ford of Logix, Inc., a high-tech placement agency based in Waltham, MA, will speak on what companies are looking for in permanent position candidates.

Can Solar Energy be Competitive in a Deregulated Energy Market

**Dr. William A. Beckman
University of Wisconsin**

The annual joint dinner meeting of the IEEE and ASME will be held on February 5, 1998 on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The optional dinner will be at the Higgins House and the presentation will be at Perreault Lecture Hall.

A social period will precede dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the speaker will begin at 8 p.m. For further information and reservations, call: Annette Aubertine (508) 831-5425.

The presentation this year will relate to the viability of electric generation from solar energy. The sun is regarded as the ultimate clean and renewable source of energy. So, why hasn't solar energy played a more significant role in replacing our more traditional, non-renewable energy sources such as coal and natural gas? Dr. Beckman will discuss the basic technology for transforming solar energy into useful forms. The technology of heating and cooling with solar energy is conceptually simple and real breakthroughs are not expected. On the other hand, electricity production from solar energy is a high technology endeavor. The promising technologies are either direct conversion with photovoltaic devices, or solar-thermal with heat operated power plants. The question to be addressed is "Can Solar Energy be Competitive in a Deregulated Energy Market?"

Worcester Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Steve Bernacki

The Worcester Regional Science and Engineering Fair is held every March in Alden Hall, WPI. The Fair is open to all high school students in the Worcester and surrounding central Massachusetts towns. The top 40 winners of the Regional Fair advance to the Massachusetts State Science Fair in April at MIT, Cambridge.

The Fair is run by an all volunteer committee, supported by donations from local businesses and professional societies. Last year, support from the Worcester County Section of the IEEE helped fund two awards at the 42nd Annual Fair March 14, 1997. These went to Robin Abraham of the Bromfield School, Harvard, for "The Effects of Vitamins A, B-1, B-3, B-6, C and E Have on Hydroponically Grown Spinacea Oleracea", and Brian Elolampi, Wachusett Regional High School, Holden, for "Solar Water Heaters".

The WRSEF Committee is grateful to the Worcester County Section for your support. In addition, we are always interested in signing up judges for the next Fair, scheduled for Friday, March 6, 1998, again at Alden Hall at Worcester Tech. Judging generally lasts from 9AM to 2PM, with lunch provided in Morgan Hall.

For any further information, please contact the Fair Committee Chair, Nancy Degon, home (508) 832-3440, ngdegon@aol.com, or the Treasurer, Steve Bernacki, work (508) 440-2363, Steve_E_Bernacki@Raytheon.com or bernacki@alum.wpi.edu.