

Toronto Section Life Member Newsletter

Chapter Formation

Toronto Section Life Members (LMs) now have their own chapter. The chapter was formed on Oct. 30, 2002 by a meeting of 21 life members plus Bob Hanna (section chair), Pelle Westlind (section secretary), and Ron Potts (life member coordinator for IEEE Canada). The meeting was arranged by Wallas Khella and Bob Alden, (chapter formation organizers) with a lot of help from Bob, Pelle and Ron (who have been so supportive).

All present enjoyed a tasty lunch which was very kindly sponsored by our section (thank you Bob Hanna). There were some opening remarks by Bob Hanna, Bob Alden, and Ron Potts; followed by a lively and productive discussion about future activities, and the election of your Chapter executive..

Proposed Activities

At the meeting, a consensus developed to focus initial efforts in four areas. If you would like to participate in any of these activities, please contact the activity chairs listed on the next page (by telephone or email). We look forward to hearing from you.

History - collecting and making available historical records of developments within IEEE's spheres of expertise with particular emphasis on our geographic area.

Energy policy - using our members' professional experience to provide factual information to the general public relating to energy production and environmental issues.

School outreach - using our members' experience to provide insights into engineering knowledge and skills to students enrolled in educational programs at Universities, Colleges, and High Schools in our geographic area.

Internet assistance - providing hands-on experience to LMs in using personal computers to access the Internet, send and receive email, use web browsers to view various web sites. IEEE related activities include, viewing chapter newsletters, renewing annually our IEEE membership, and updating our own information in the IEEE membership database (address, telephone number, email address, etc.).

More about activity plans later in this newsletter.

Method of Communication

Based on a survey of those present, we found that almost all of the LMs attending have Internet access and use e-mail and a web browser so that we could primarily communicate using the Internet in the same manner as our Section. However, we recognize that many life members prefer to read printed material rather than web pages. We will try to accommodate those members who can not use the Internet or would like help to learn how to do so comfortably.

This first newsletter is being mailed to all life members as well as being posted on our Section LM web page: <http://toronto.ieee.ca/lifemembers>

Our plan, future Section finances permitting, is to mail two printed newsletters per year - in the late summer and late winter ahead of the fall and spring seasons which appear the best times for LM meetings. Newsletters will also be posted on our Section web page and items for LMs included in the monthly electronic Section newsletter.

Your Contact Information/Status is Important

Keeping your contact information and membership status up to date and complete every year with IEEE is very important for two reasons. 1 - if your postal or email address, phone numbers, etc. are either missing or incorrectly stored in the IEEE database, we can not get in touch with you. 2 - if you do not respond to the annual letter from IEEE which asks you to renew your interest in remaining an IEEE life member, then you will be dropped from the list.

This year, your LM committee received information from IEEE that about 60 of our 220 life members did not respond and are now considered inactive. We are sending (we hope) this newsletter to all of the about 220 LMs on our old list (with any updates/corrections that we have) but in future we will be using updated lists from IEEE.

We ask (urge) everyone of you to check and correct (update) your contact information and your status as a continuing life member as soon as you receive this newsletter (while it is on your mind). You can use either the following toll-free telephone number (1 800 678 4333) or you can do it over the web (continue reading this newsletter to find out how to get help to use the Internet for various purposes).

Internet Help on Page 3

Please see page 3 for instructions on; (a) using the web to check your information on the IEEE data base and updating if needed, and (b) reading or printing items such as this newsletter on the web. These instructions assume you have a computer, can access the Internet, and can use a web browser. If you can not do these things and wish to learn, please let our Secretary know and we will try to arrange for some help to get you started.

Chapter Executive

Chapter Officers:

Chair: Bob Alden	905-828-2866
Vice-Chair: Wallas Khella	905-279-2976
Secretary: Ian Dutton	416-425-3392
Newsletter: Bob Alden	905-828-2866

Activity Chairs:

History: Gordon Slemon	416 444 6701
Energy Policy: John De Groot	416 431 9331
School Outreach: Joe Karnas	416-767-8876
Internet Assistance: Bob Alden	905-828-2866

Internet Contact Information

IEEE Toronto web site	http://toronto.ieee.ca
IEEE Canada web site	http://ieee.ca

Bob Alden	r.alden@ieee.org
Wallas Khella	wkhella@ieee.org
Ian Dutton	irdutton@ica.net
Gordon Slemon	g.slemon@utoronto.ca
John De Groot	jm.degroot@sympatico.ca
Joe Karnas	

Current/Planned Activities

Your committee met in mid-August to review past activities and plan for the future. We plan to schedule two general LM meetings each year - in the Spring and in the Fall. Unfortunately, our planned Spring 2003 meeting was cancelled before it was announced because of the SARS outbreak. Our Fall 2003 meeting will be combined with our Section centennial event on Saturday evening, October 4. The Spring 2004 meeting is tentatively scheduled for May - likely a luncheon meeting with an optional computer/Internet assistance session for those interested (for those with no or limited experience) - details will be provided in our next newsletter.

Next meeting - Centennial - this event will be held on October 4, 2003 at the Marriott Bloor Yorkville Hotel, 90 Bloor Street East, in the Forest Hill Ballroom, with a reception starting at 6:30 in the Yorkville Room, followed by a fine dinner, and a program of awards and recognitions to suitably mark the occasion. Look for the special life member area, where your committee hopes to meet and chat with you, and assist with any concerns you may have. This event should be of special significance to life members as we are celebrating the people and events that have shaped Toronto Section from its AIEE in 1903 (and IRE in 1925) beginnings and their merger into IEEE in 1963. Please plan to attend, and purchase your tickets at \$50 per person (special low rate for life members) from Pelle Westlind 416 234 0777 before September 15 at the latest - the seating is limited and tickets will be sold on a first-come first-served basis, so call early to avoid disappointment.

History - Gordon Slemon has written a history of his formation as a student of the first student branch (joint AIEE/IRE) at the University of Toronto. This is published on the IEEE Canada web site in the History section.

Bruni Di Stefano has provided a list of Toronto Section Chairs which is published on the IEEE Toronto Section web site in the History section. Most of the pre-IEEE entries are for the AIEE Section - if you can provide any corrections or additions, please contact Bob Alden

Gordon Slemon wishes to collect personal stories of historical interest - about electrical engineering developments in the extended Toronto area and about the early AIEE, IRE, and IEEE days. If you have information that may be of relevance or you wish to participate, please contact Gordon.

Energy Policy - John De Groot has written a proposal for LM activity in the area of energy policy which is included in this mailing as well as being posted on our web site. Please respond directly to John if you have a potential interest.

School Outreach - Joe Karnas would like any life members who are interested in joining his outreach program, contributing ideas, and so on, to contact him.

Internet Assistance - Bob Alden will be offering a simple workshop at the Spring 2004 meeting after the lunch and general get together for any member

who would like help in using the Internet or in using the Internet to access IEEE services - especially for updating IEEE membership information.

Your Input/Feedback - Our life member chapter should exist for your benefit and provide activities, services, and information that you need. Please help us (your chapter committee) to do this by letting us know what you need and want us to do. We have an Input/Feedback Form included with this newsletter. You can fill it in and mail or fax it back, or you can email your response to Wallas Khella - see details on the form.

Newsletter Contributions - We would really like to receive personal remembrances from you for future issues of this newsletter.

Annual Connection

The annual newsletter which is normally mailed to all Toronto Section members is a special centennial issue, and will arrive (if it has not already) in the centre of the IEEE Canadian Review.

The Internet and the IEEE Membership Database

Using the web to check and/or update your own details.

If you do not have an IEEE web account (this is a name and password to access information that is personal or otherwise restricted), start with step 1. If you have a web account, go to step 2.

1. log on to <http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts/> and click on the link "Register for an IEEE Web Account" and follow the instructions on the screen.
2. log on to <http://www.ieee.org/membership/> and click on the link "Update your Name, Address or Contact Information"
3. Click on the link "IEEE Web Contact Update" and go to the bottom of the page where you select the button "Next" for either "Secure" or "Not Secure" depending on whether your browser version has security features (one needs these security features for Internet banking)
4. Enter your user name and password (that is your Web Account information that prevents other folks looking up your personal file).
5. Follow instructions to correct/add information, and click on "Finish" when you are done.

Reading Newsletters in PDF format on the Web

Web pages are usually in one of two formats; HTML or PDF. HyperText Markup Language (HTML) is the standard file format read directly by your web browser (some common web browsers are Internet Explorer, Netscape Navigator, Mozilla). Portable Document Format (PDF) is used for items like newsletters to preserve the format of typical printed pages.

To read PDF files you need to obtain a special computer program called Adobe Reader. You can obtain this program over the Internet free of charge. After you have downloaded this reader, it will automatically be invoked by your browser so you can view the file in your browser window. If you have a printer installed with your computer, you can print the pages and read them at your leisure and away from your computer.

Here's how you install Adobe Reader.

1. log onto <http://www.adobe.com> and click on the icon "Get Adobe Reader"
2. On the new page, click on the same icon.
3. The next page has three steps - follow these instruction: step 1 to get the correct version for your language and your computer operating system, you can skip step 2, and step 3 is the "Download" button which you click to begin downloading.
4. Follow any subsequent instructions. The process is usually straight forward. After you reboot your computer, your browser should automatically use your new "reader" whenever you try to view a PDF file.

Attachments

In addition to this newsletter, your mailing should include:

- # your input/feedback form
- # 1-page list of Section Chairs (1903-2003)
- # 2-page handout from the inaugural meeting
- # 1-page IEEE Canadian Foundation report
- # 1-page energy policy proposal

Thanks for reading. We hope you find this mailing interesting and useful. We hope to see you on October 4, and please, provide your input/feedback.