



**I** NSTITUTE OF  
**E** LECTRICAL AND  
**E** LECTRONICS  
**E** NGINEERS, Inc.

*The Baton Rouge Section*

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. May, 2005

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Monty LaCour

### Student Liaison

Vacant

### Student Activities

#### Co-Chairman

LSU- Dr. Ahmed El-Amawy  
SU-Dr. Pradeep Bhattacharya

## Chairman's Message

The last meeting was in April and we had seventeen people in attendance including four non-members. The presentation was titled the future of substations. The presenter was Mr. Roy Cosse' and he is the Technical Director for Powell Apparatus Service Division. It was a very good presentation and he discussed the evolution of substations and the "hardened" microprocessors. The smart substation is a best fit integration of traditional and modern devices with local/remote HMI's, pagers, and cell phones. He also handed out a copy of his presentation.

We have a new web master for the Baton Rouge Section Web Page. He is just obtaining the information and downloads required to be the web master. His name is Al Jolissaint and he is also the web master for the ISA Section. I appreciate his volunteering (you all know what I mean), anyway many thanks for the help I had in finding someone willing to do this for the Section. He may be able to get it updated by this weekend. Wish him luck and many thanks for helping.

I found out that the ISA section has a presentation on ethics every year at their last meeting in May. Quite a few of us attended the meeting and enjoyed the meeting. It was their annual awards meeting and election of officers for the next year. I will get more information on this and will place it in our newsletter a few months prior to the ethics presentation.

Well, this will be the last meeting until September. Any suggestions for future presentations are very welcome. Contact me at the meeting or via email.

See attached pdf on student activities for the Region 5 meeting in Denver, Co.



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I had heard that the LSU Student Section had done well in the Robotics competition, but have not been able to confirm this. The contest was different than the past few years and was enjoyed by all in attendance. Hope to have more later on.

Also, there is good information concerning student members and activities that you can get by contacting [L.Durrett@iee.org](mailto:L.Durrett@iee.org) and requesting a link to Region 5 Student Newsletter.

## UPCOMING AGENDA

- May 26, 2005 ABB presentation subject to be confirmed.
- September 22, 2005 Open and in planning (suggestions welcome)
- October 27, 2005 Open see above
- January 26, 2006 Open ditto

Your input is still/always needed for future programs. Please contact any Section Officer or email me at [o.j.brouillette@iee.org](mailto:o.j.brouillette@iee.org). You may call or drop a line to me (see RSVP phone number or return address) with a topic and a potential presenter or point of contact, and we will try to arrange a meeting, which will be of interest to you. We will try to give plenty of advance notice of the meetings so that you can arrange your schedule to attend the meeting(s) that interest you. Remember to attend the meeting and receive a Certificate of Completion for Professional Development Hours (PDH's).

**"Your attendance promotes our voluntary efforts."**

**O. J.  
Section Chairman**

# MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2005  
Place: Drusilla's Restaurant  
3482 Drusilla Lane

Time: Social.....6:00 P.M.  
Dinner (\$15.00 members/  
\$18.00 non-members)....6:30 P.M  
Speaker Presentation .....6:30 P.M.

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### *Joint meeting IAS & IEEE Professional Presentation* **Power Quality for Industry and Utilities: Reactive Power Compensation**

#### **ABSTRACT of PRESENTATION**

- Overview of Common Power Quality issues: Both sides of the meter
- Reactive Power compensation applications
- Advanced dynamic VAR compensation: the STATCOM (static synchronous compensator)
- Case studies of dynamic VAR compensation
  - Distribution: Voltage support for long radial feeds
  - Mining
  - Ports
  - Wind power
- Q & A

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA of PRESENTER**

Mr. Chris Larsen is the Power Quality Product Manager for ABB's Advanced Power Electronics group in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to the MINICOMP STATCOM, this group develops converter systems for distributed generation, frequency conversion, voltage sag ride through, and specialty power supply applications the North American market.

Prior to his current roll with the company, Chris was a Principal Consulting R&D Engineer in ABB's corporate research center focused on distributed resources and renewable

energy. Before joining ABB, he was the Director of Policy Programs at North Carolina State University's Energy Center where he specialized in distributed generation interconnection issues. He is the author of a number of papers in distributed generation and power quality.

Chris received a masters degree in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University and a bachelors degree in economics with high honors from Princeton University.

#### **VISIT THE BR SECTION WEBSITE**

[http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/baton\\_rouge/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r5/baton_rouge/)

**Remember...meeting is at Drusilla's Restaurant....**

See you there.

**The 2005- 06 Officers of the IEEE LSU Branch.**

Chair:

Vice-Chair:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Counselor: Dr. Ahmed El-Amawy

Robotics Committee Co-Chairs:

**The 2005- 06 Officers of the IEEE SU Branch.**

Chair:

Vice-Chair:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Counselor: Dr. Pradeep Bhattacharya

Robotics Committee Co-Chairs:

**RSVP to 225- 618-4423 or email by May, 25, 2005**

**IEEE JOB SITE\***

[www.ieee.org/jobs](http://www.ieee.org/jobs)

NEWS from IEEE-USA

1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 1202, Washington, D.C. 20036-5104

Electrotechnology Consultants Fees Rise, Incomes Drop,  
IEEE-USA Survey Shows

WASHINGTON (13 May 2005) -- Consultants have bucked the trend in hourly rates, seeing increases at a time when salaried electrotechnologists are losing ground. However, the 2004 IEEE-USA Consultants Fee Survey shows that a slight increase in rates did not prevent a drop in annual median income for these same contract engineers.

Although median fees increased an average of \$10 to \$110 per hour since the last survey in 2002, median income dropped \$20,000 to \$100,000 in 2004. That's much larger than the \$1,500 median income decrease reported in the 2004 IEEE-USA Salary & Fringe Benefits Survey (<http://www.ieeeusa.org/communications/releases/2004/122204pr.asp>).

"The drop in consulting income fits the trend of engineering salaries in general," said Bob Gauger, consultants survey director. "Engineering income is down, and our survey fits in with that, even though the fee is up \$10 an hour."

Consulting incomes fluctuate because hours vary widely, with nearly half working 20 hours or less. Most consultants, 57 per cent, make more than \$75,000, with 22 per cent making between \$75,000 and \$125,000.

A majority of consultants, 58 per cent, charge between \$75 and \$150 per hour. That rate is substantially higher than engineering wage rates because consultants cover many expenses such as health care. About 15 per cent charge more than \$175 per hour, about the same as the percentage who charge \$75 or less. Hourly rates are a key factor of the study, conducted in even-numbered years.

"There are many ways to set fees, but all of them involve knowing what your competition is charging," Gauger said.

About three fourths of consultant charge by the hour, with a few using daily rates or fixed project pricing.

High wages are justified in part by experience. Seventy two per cent have more than 20 years experience, and 40 per cent have an M.S. or Ph.D. The majority, 61 per cent, have been consultants for less than 10 years, suggesting that many retired salaried engineers become consultants.

"Consulting is a tremendous way to cap off a career. You've learned a lot and it's great to get paid for it on your schedule," Gauger said.

Companies appear willing to pay dearly for some experience. More than 10 per cent charge more than \$200 per hour, with half of them charging in excess of \$275 per hour. Expert witnesses/forensic experts charge the highest hourly rate, \$217.

The survey of 756 independent consultants was conducted by the Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks. You can view the survey report at

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/business/files/Consultant's%20Network%20Webinar.pdf>

IEEE-USA is an organizational unit of the IEEE. It was created in 1973 to advance the public good and promote the careers and public policy interests of the more than 220,000 technology professionals who are U.S. members of the IEEE.

The IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society. For more information, go to <http://www.ieeeusa.org>.

Here's your report on news around the IEEE, from the editors of The Institute. The most current version of The Institute can always be found at <http://www.ieee.org/theinstitute>

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#### 1. Focus on Hot New Technologies

Wanting to keep abreast of new technologies that will be hot in the next few years, members asked the IEEE to improve coverage in its publications and conferences of so-called emerging technologies. The IEEE Technical Activities Board took on the task of deciding what to cover in an initiative called the IEEE Focus on Technologies. Find out which new technologies the IEEE will be concentrating on at

<http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/162/01381052>

2. **IEEE Xplore Streamlines Its Tools**  
Members have always enjoyed unparalleled access to IEEE publications through the IEEE Xplore online delivery system. Now, an upgrade to the system—version 2.0 -- offers members and other IEEE Xplore subscribers more convenience than ever, including search enhancements. Read more at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/163/01381052>
3. **College Seniors Get Schooled in How to Search for a Job** With all that college students have to worry about in their last semester, searching for a job can seem overwhelming. However, knowing that you're looking for not just a job but a career can make the process run more smoothly, according to Senior Member Fred Seelig, chair of the Northern Virginia Section Student Activities. Read more at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/164/01381052>
4. **Marketplace of Ideas: Tailoring Science**  
More than 10 percent of British scientists surveyed said they were pressured by the sponsor of their research to tailor their findings to suit the sponsor's interest or were asked not to publish the results. Have you ever faced a similar situation, and how did you handle it? Weigh in at [<mailto:institute@ieee.org>](mailto:institute@ieee.org)
5. **Early Radio Transmission Recognized as Milestone** It was in 1895 that Alexander Popov first demonstrated the principle that irks so many of us today in restaurants and movie theaters: that a wireless device can detect an electromagnetic signal flowing through the air and ring a bell. In recognition of that experiment with wireless communication, which less than 100 years later brought us the cell phone, the IEEE Board of Directors named Popov's demonstration an IEEE Milestone in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Find out more at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/165/01381052>
6. **2006 IEEE Medal and Award Nominations Due** Do you know someone whose work qualifies him or her for an IEEE medal, honorary membership, service award, or prize for a paper? If so, you have until 1 July to make your nominations for an award. For nomination forms, visit the IEEE Awards Web site at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/166/01381052> or contact IEEE Awards Activities at [<mailto:awards@ieee.org>](mailto:awards@ieee.org).
7. **New Credit Cards Earn Travel and Cash Rewards** The IEEE Financial Advantage Program has three new low-interest platinum Visa credit cards for members in the United States. Two cards offer rewards. The cash-back card earns up to 1 percent cash back on all purchases. The travel-rewards card earns points that can be redeemed for airline tickets, cash, gift certificates, or merchandise. For those who would rather have just a low interest rate on any unpaid balance, there's a basic platinum Visa card. Find out more at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/168/01381052>
8. **IEEE Computer Society Partners with Samsung** The IEEE Computer Society and Samsung's Stable Data Services in Seoul, South Korea, have signed a memorandum of understanding, the first step toward developing a partnership. The IEEE Computer Society will offer Samsung its Certified Software Development Professional Program, an exam that covers all areas of software engineering. Approximately 30 Samsung software developers are expected to take the certification exam. Find out more at <http://boldfish.ieee.org:80/u/169/01381052>

Dear IEEE Voting Member:

The 2005 IEEE Annual Election process is underway - candidates' names have been announced and statements of candidacy and election websites will soon be available.

As an eligible voting member, your participation in the annual election is extremely important to the IEEE. To help you make informed decisions about the candidates, you have been added to an election e-mail list that will be managed by staff, not the candidates themselves. The use of this list will be limited to scheduled messages on behalf of all of the candidates on the ballot. Your contact information will not be shared with any candidates, who are prohibited by the IEEE e-mail policy from using e-mail aliases for electioneering. This process has been established to address members' concerns about unsolicited email.

If you would NOT like to be a part of this e-mail list, please click the following URL <https://myieemembership.ieee.org/cop/login.do> to update your member profile to be UNsubscribed. You will need an IEEE Web Account to access the page\*.

In mid-August all list members will receive a reminder to vote with a short message from each of the candidates as well as the link to their personal candidate information website if one is available. Information about the candidates will soon be available on the IEEE Annual Election web page at <http://www.ieee.org/elections>.

Your vote helps select tomorrow's leaders of the IEEE. I encourage you to stay informed about the election and learn about the candidates so you will be ready to make your voice heard during the balloting period.

If you have any questions about the 2005 IEEE annual election, please contact [corp-election@ieee.org](mailto:corp-election@ieee.org).

(Please do NOT reply to the address at the top of this message.)

Sincerely,

W. Cleon Anderson  
President and CEO, IEEE

\*To obtain a Web account or recover your username/password, go to: <http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts> or contact IEEE Member Services at [www.ieee.org/memberservices](http://www.ieee.org/memberservices).