

IEEE MEMBERSHIP AN ASSET FOR POWER ENGINEERS AND EMPLOYERS ALIKE

By Tania Henvey

In his career, which has spanned about 30 years, Joe Bailey, senior vice-president, asset management, Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited, and Executive Chair of the Toronto 2003 IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.) PES (Power Engineering Society) General Meeting Local Organizing Committee, says being a member of IEEE has been an effective business and networking medium.

The benefits of membership in IEEE, which aids not only employees but employers as well, has helped keep Bailey up-to-date with changing technologies in the power engineering industry and therefore enhance his ability to positively impact the business.

A volunteer organization that has about 380,000 members in 150 countries, IEEE is considered the leading authority in technical areas covering computer engineering, biomedical technology, telecommunications, electric power, aerospace, and consumer electronics, among other things.

"The IEEE does a lot of technical publishing, runs many conferences, and has a consensus-based standards forum that it's well known for," said Bailey. "The IEEE produces about 1/3 of the global literature in electrical engineering, computers and control technology. They also host about 300 major conferences annually."

IEEE is comprised of 37 societies and Bailey is associated with the Power Engineering Society (PES).

"The Power Engineering Society is the world's largest forum for sharing the latest in technological developments in the electrical power industry," said Bailey. "They also provide a forum for developing a broad range of standards for application in the electric power industry."

IEEE PES First General Meeting in Toronto, Ontario

The IEEE PES used to hold two conference meetings each year — a

"winter" and a "summer" meeting. Through some society restructuring and "industry needs" forums, they decided it would be better to hold one general meeting. This year, the IEEE PES is holding its first general meeting and technical conference in Toronto, Ontario from July 13 to 17, 2003. This meeting will bring together practicing power engineers and academics from 40 to 50 countries.

"The meeting has a large agenda of technical sessions, as well as a wide variety of workshops and tutorials. It addresses key issues facing our industry

today. Many of the technical sessions involve the delivery of technical papers that have been previously approved by the IEEE."

The Benefits of IEEE Membership

"Many experts attend and participate in the technical sessions and tutorials at IEEE conferences. These meetings are important forums because so many technical people gather together in one place, thus producing a collection of experts like no other forum. In any given utility or any given province or state, it's

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JOSEPH BAILEY
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT, ASSET MANAGEMENT
TORONTO HYDRO-ELECTRIC SYSTEM LIMITED

Joseph Bailey was appointed Senior Vice-President, Asset Management of Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited on May 7, 2001 as part of Toronto Hydro Corporation's restructuring. In 1997, he participated in planning the amalgamation of Metro Toronto's six municipal electric utilities and subsequently joined Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited as Vice-President, Infrastructure Management.

Bailey has more than 30 years experience in the electric utility industry having spent time at Westinghouse Canada Limited, Ontario Hydro and Scarborough Public Utilities Commission prior to joining Toronto Hydro. Mr. Bailey brings relevant experience in strategic planning, change management and a variety of distribution utility processes.

He is a director of the Electricity Distributor's Association and the Municipal Electric Association Reciprocal Insurance Exchange.

Bailey is active in a number of corporate and industry associations. He is currently a member of the CEA Standards Management Committee, the CSA Strategic Steering Committee on Power Engineering and Electromagnetic Compatibility, the IEC TC78 Committee on Live Working, Chair of the CEA Electrical Safety Task Group, and Executive Chair of the Toronto 2003 IEEE PES 2003 General Meeting Local Organizing Committee.

Incorporated in 1999, Toronto Hydro Corporation operates four affiliate companies — Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited, Toronto Hydro Energy Services Inc., Toronto Hydro Telecom Inc., and Toronto Hydro Street Lighting Inc. Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited, the regulated electricity distribution affiliate, has annual sales of approximately \$2 billion and serves almost 25 per cent of Ontario's commercial, industrial and residential electricity markets. Toronto Hydro Energy Services Inc. is a wholesaler and retailer of electricity, natural gas and energy efficiency products and services and is licensed to serve customers across Ontario. Toronto Hydro Telecom provides fibre optic services to commercial customers. Toronto Hydro Corporation is wholly owned by the City of Toronto.

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very difficult to get a lot of technical expertise together.”

According to Bailey, employers and employees both benefit from IEEE membership. For employees, it is a good way to stay up-to-date with the latest technological advances. Members have access to a broad range of information dealing with issues pertaining to the electric power industry.

“The issues that face different utilities are fundamentally the same. It has to do with constructing, operating and maintaining systems to generate, transmit, and distribute power to consumers. That’s generally done with the same technology worldwide. They may be dif-

ferent in terms of the type of regulations, operating environment, etc., however, ultimately the same technologies solve the same problems.”

For employers, membership means access to cost-effective information on technology for the industry through participation in meetings, standards activities, local chapter activities, publications, etc. It also gives employers the opportunity, through their employees, to influence industry standards and obtain top-notch training and education. When employees are able to develop professionally, employers benefit.

“The networking opportunity avails participants opportunities to learn about the electric power industry from a num-

ber of different perspectives. From an employer’s point of view, it broadens people’s knowledge and gives them a better understanding of the issues facing our industry. And they can take that back to their job and be more effective.”

The Most Current Information

In order for IEEE to keep members up-to-date on the changing technologies facing the industry, it is important that they get the message out. One of the ways IEEE informs its members about what is happening is through publications such as the bi-monthly magazine, Power and Energy and a bi-weekly electronic newsletter. In addition, the local chapters create electronic newsletters to give more specific information pertaining to their areas. According to Bailey, the publications and conferences are the main sources of providing technical information.

“They hold conferences all around the world, such as the General Meeting we’re having here in Toronto, where experts make presentations on industry technologies and standards. IEEE provides conference proceedings for all the attendees and also makes them available through the IEEE publications after the conference. The local chapters frequently bring in experts for presentations and discussion of technical topics that are pertinent to local needs.”

How Tightened Budgets Affect The Industry

“In utilities, there is that continuing pressure to reduce costs, however I think through teleconferencing and the Internet, there are far more opportunities to exchange information and get access to information than ever before. Through organizations like IEEE, CEA, CSA, and IEC etc. there are adequate forums to exchange information in a meaningful and effective manner.”

New Players In The Marketplace

According to the Canadian Electricity Association, the restructuring of the electrical industry will require market-based finance, risk management, customer service and marketing skills. So how do engineers keep up with these changes?

“Today’s IEEE conferences and meetings have people who represent those market-based finance, risk management, customer service and market-

DON'T MISS THE IEEE/PES GENERAL MEETING THIS SUMMER IN TORONTO!



With more than 20,000 members worldwide, the IEEE Power Engineering Society (PES) is the largest forum for sharing the latest in technological developments in the electric power industry and for developing standards that guide the development and construction of equipment and systems.

This year’s IEEE PES Annual General Meeting is one of the power industry’s most significant and prestigious events. Come to the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, Canada July 13-17th, 2003 and you can:

- Enjoy full-day tutorials, technical sessions and special soft skills seminars
- Participate in innovative and informative technical tours
- Hear from industry leaders like Courtney Pratt (President & CEO, Toronto Hydro Corporation), Paul Steece (VP Electrical Products, 3M) and Jim Balsillie (Chairman & Co-CEO RIM Ltd.)
- Network with utility executives, industry leaders and academics from around the world
- See new and upcoming products at our Showcase of Innovation.

Don’t miss this premier event!

Register on line - www.ieee.org/pegmtoronto2003.com.

High impact sponsorship opportunities are still available! For information on how your company can sponsor this meeting, please contact Tony Carreira at email: carreira@k-line.net or telephone, 416.292.8036 ext 304



ing skills aspects. Efforts are also underway to bring the power-systems basics to people who operate in the finance, risk management, customer service and marketing areas.”

Challenges Faced By Power Engineers

“I think there is a concern that there’s dwindling support for some activities by employers... The IEEE is aware of that and they’ve done some work over the last year including documenting a *What’s In It For Me?* brochure. The brochure is directed at helping employers understand the benefits of PES membership and related activities both from the perspective of an employer and an employee.”

PES president, John Estey, has also been conducting focus groups with executives in the industry to get feedback on how the society can better serve the interest of employers.

Women In Engineering

IEEE undertakes many initiatives to

support women in the engineering field. They have a very active “women in engineering committee.” There is also a “women in engineering” column in *The Institute*, a bi-monthly IEEE publication.

“IEEE has taken steps to encourage young women to enter the profession and to increase the participation of women within IEEE.” They have an educational outreach program promoting involvement of society members with high schools to create a positive and realistic image about an engineering career. It also focuses on encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in this area.

New Kids On The Block

Bringing students and recent graduates aboard is also an important part of IEEE. There is a student branch at most universities. A program has also been introduced highlighting the achievements of the last decade’s graduates.

Students are offered reduced conference and publication subscription fees to encourage membership.

“IEEE also provides a one-year free membership to students including the magazine and the newsletter subscription thus facilitating exposure to the IEEE. The IEEE allows student members who go to full membership phased-in dues to soften the increase for them.”

Reflections

So how has Bailey’s membership in IEEE influenced his own career?

“The IEEE is a great forum for networking with other industry professionals. Networking is growth. You take from those exchanges and bring back to your co-workers, allowing all to be more effective in pursuing the business goals. In addition, the involvement in standards writing has been very helpful as it has been an opportunity to influence the development of standards to the benefit of the industry and the Canadian business sector.

All in all, IEEE and other industry association involvement has been very rewarding both from a business and personal perspective.” **ET**

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