

The B E E E T

The Bulletin of Electrical & Electronics Engineers of Tucson

IEEE TUCSON SECTION MEETING

PIMA COUNTY ELECTRONIC VOTE COUNTING PROCEDURES AND SAFEGUARDS

Date: Tuesday, April 6, 2004

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Speaker: Tom Ryan

Place: AME S202 at the U of A

(BACK TO THE USUAL LOCATION)

In the past year, attention has been focused on electronic voting and questions have been raised as to the vulnerability of the vote tally to software bugs and tampering. Several studies in the past year have concluded that voting software produced by the largest vendors are highly susceptible to errors and there are recent cases where election results are suspect because of apparent equipment failure.

This talk will review the processes in place to test and certify voting equipment, summarize the recent studies, and discuss alternatives to current voting technology. The discussion will provide detail on election issues in Arizona and at the Federal level as well as the role of IEEE in setting standards.

Tom Ryan received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1980. Since then, he has worked for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in Tucson. He is currently a Senior Scientist and part time Consulting Employee. While at SAIC, Dr. Ryan worked on a variety of image analysis and signal exploitation projects that involved the development and delivery of algorithms and software.

In the past year, Dr. Ryan volunteered to participate in a study of the election system used by Pima County. This, together with the various studies on voting equipment, has led to proposed legislation that would, among other things, require a voter-verified paper ballot and sample hand counting of ballots under election conditions. He has recently formed Arizona Citizens for Fair Elections (see azfairelections.org).

Conferences Coming to Tucson

The 30th Annual Reliability Testing Institute Conference will be held April 19-22, 2004 at the Hilton Tucson East Hotel. For information, email: dimitri@u.arizona.edu or check out the website at www.u.arizona.edu/~dimitri.

Also, the IEEE Power Switchgear meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 19-24, 2004 at the Westin La Paloma here in Tucson. Anyone interested should contact Ted Burse at tburse@ieee.org for more information. Check out the website at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/soc/pes/switchgear/MEET.htm>

Feedback and Volunteering

We need to hear from you! We want to know what we can provide to make IEEE a better organization. If you have any ideas for meetings, any activities that promote engineering and the IEEE, let us know! We'd like to hear from you. Also, remember that we run this as a set of volunteers. If you put something into this organization, you can get much more out of it! We need you to help out! Contact us! Help out! Contact us!

Standing Committees

The Tucson Section has standing committees whose chairperson is not elected, but is appointed by the Section Chairman. If you are interested in any of these positions or are interested in having a say in what the Tucson Section does, please notify Joseph Wu at joewu@ieee.org or at 519-0904.

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Do you want to become a senior member of the IEEE? The IEEE wants to promote qualified candidates to senior membership! If you have 10 years of professional experience of which five years of *significant professional performance*, you are qualified for a senior member upgrade. Educational experience such as a bachelor's degree in an IEEE-designated field counts 4 years to that number, a master's degree counts 5 years and a doctorate counts 6 years. In order to find out more, point your web browser to www.ieee.org and search for senior membership!

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Tucson Section Questions

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Website:

<http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/tucson>

**Tucson Section Meeting
Tuesday, April 6, 2004
6:00 PM, at the U of A
AME S202**

**(NE corner of Speedway and Mountain – Parking
available east of the building after 5 P.M.)**

Refreshments Provided

Remember

?? We're always looking for topics for general meetings, if
you have an idea or a speaker in mind let us know!

?? Also, check out the website at:

<http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/tucson>

**There is an email mailing list for the Tucson Section. If you
want email notices, you can put yourself on the list. Just find
the link through our website and follow the directions.**

