

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Clinton J. Andrews

Hi. Want to Participate?

We've met before. From time to time I've had the privilege of writing a "Policy Perspectives" column for this magazine. This year I am honored to be president of your society and I will communicate instead through the President's Message.

First I want to thank my predecessor, Karl Perusich, for leading the society unscathed through a tumultuous year. During 2001, unwanted dramas played out on the world stage as well as within IEEE, where a financial crisis threatened the organization and led to squabbles among some of its various entities. Karl and his management team got us past those challenges and left us in good shape for the future.

This year, our vice president is Brian O'Connell, our treasurer is Karl Stephan, and our secretary is Bradley Kjell. These talented volunteers play important roles in the society's operations, and I rely on them for advice. Welcome to the newly elected members of the Board of Governors: past president Gerald Engel, Jennifer Fischer, and Michael Loui. They join your other representatives on the society's decision-making body. Thanks to outgoing secretary David

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Morton for his efforts over the past two years.

These traditional thanks to my predecessors show how the society really works. Individuals step forward and volunteer some time for a little while. Eventually, other volunteers replace them. Individuals come and go but our society persists. This cycle of renewal depends on willing individuals, and I invite you to participate in our society's activities. Participation carries relatively minor costs in time, and it conveys a variety of personal and more widespread benefits.

There are many ways to participate. Whatever your particular talents are, there is a role for you. Attend our annual conference, the International Symposium on Technology and Society, in Raleigh, North Carolina, on June 6-8, 2002. Host a future conference. Send a letter to the editor of this magazine, or submit a manuscript. Join or start a local chapter. Volunteer for the society's membership development committee, chapters committee, conference committee, awards committee, technology and policy committee, ethics committee, nominations committee, and others. Become the student representative on the Board of Governors. Spiff up our web site.

More pointedly, I encourage you to start participating now! As a first step, I urge you to visit the society's web site before May 31, 2002. While browsing there please fill out a brief online survey about our society, its strengths and weaknesses, and where it should go in the future. The URL is <http://radburn.rutgers.edu/andrews/projects/ssit/default.htm>.

Throughout this year I hope that you will share your views directly with me. Good representatives know their constituents, and I look forward to getting to know many of you.



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