

IEEE-USA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ACTIVITIES REPORT

January - December 2010
(Status as of 26 March 2010)

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COUNCIL

James Jefferies, Vice President and Chair
(Vacant), Vice Chair
Luke Maki, At-Large

Mission: To advance IEEE-USA's public policy goals and capabilities by assisting the Vice President in providing direction and oversight of IEEE-USA's government relations programs and committees. Functions include review and endorsement of position statements developed for consideration by the IEEE-USA Board of Directors.

Focus Issues:

- Jobs
- Innovation & Competitiveness
- Energy
- Broadband
- Immigration Reform
- Patent Reform
- Engineering Workforce
- E-Health
- Critical Infrastructure Protection

Activities:

- PTO Roundtable (Patent Applications and Commonly Used Terms), Washington, DC, 19 March.
- Career Fly-In (on STEM-Ed/Technical Literacy), Washington, DC, 8-9 Feb.
- Green Technology Conference, Dallas/Fort Worth, 15-16 April
- Engineering Public Policy Symposium, 20 April
- Science, Engineering, and Tech. Congressional Visits Day, Washington, DC, 28-29 April
- Energy Fly-In, Washington, DC, 17-18 May
- Technologies for Homeland Security Conference, 8-10 Nov.

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- Teleconference February 2
- Meeting March 26

CAREER AND WORKFORCE POLICY COMMITTEE

Henry Lindborg, Chair

Edward Perkins, Co-Vice Chair

Tarek Lahdhiri, Co-Vice Chair

Mission: To advance the career-related policy interests of electrical, electronics and computer engineers and related information technology professionals with a specific focus on the career needs of IEEE's U.S. members and the overall health of the U.S. engineering workforce.

Focus Issues:

- Innovation and Competitiveness
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Engineering Workforce Development
- Health Care and Retirement Income Security
- High Skills Immigration Reform
- Workforce Globalization (Offshoring)

Activities:

- CWPC will offer a career survival workshop for the Central Illinois Section in Champaign-Urbana in April. April 17.
- Letter to Rep. Ben Lujan endorsing the Community College Energy Training Act (HR 3731). February 22.
- Some members came to Washington, DC for the 2010 Career Fly-In Congressional Visits Day in spite of the snowstorm. February 8-9.
- IEEE-USA staff Vin O'Neill met with Alicia Jackson (Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee) and Jonathon Epstein (in Senator Bingaman's office) to discuss the outlook for prompt Senate action to re-authorize the *America COMPETES Act* and explore possible staff interest in a Congressional hearing or a staff briefing on energy workforce development issues later this year. January 27.
- Letters to Senator Gillibrand and Rep. Paul Tonko endorsing the Engineering Education for Innovation (E2) Act (S. 3043/H.R.4709) January 26.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

- Phased Retirement: **CWPC approved October 25, 2009; Editorial Review: Pending; GRC approved March 26.**
- Tax Incentives for Continuing Education: **CWPC approved October 25, 2009; Editorial Review: Pending; GRC approved March 26.**

Position Statements:

- The L-1 Visa for Intra-Company Transfers: **CWPC approved October 25, 2009; Editorial Review: Pending; GRC approved March 26.**
- Visa Processing: **CWPC approved October 25, 2009; Editorial Review: Pending; GRC approved March 26.**
- Offshore Outsourcing: **Drafting**
- Pensions and Retirement Security: **Reviewing.**
- Social Security Reform Guidelines: **Reviewing.**

E-Books Under Development:

- Educational and Employment-based Visas: **Reviewing.**
- 21st Century Engineering Workforce Trends: **Reviewing.**
- Ten Tax-Favored Ways to Save for Retirement: **Reviewing.**

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- Ensuring a Strong High Tech Workforce Through Educational and Employment-Based Immigration Reforms (June 2007)

Approved Position Statements:

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- April 30 - May 2 (Washington, DC)
- October TBD
- Teleconferences - Regular Intervals (Every 4-6 weeks)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS POLICY

Eric Burger, Chair

Vice Chair- TBA

Mission: To assist in the rational formulation of communications, computer and information technology legislation, regulation and policy in the U.S.

Focus Issues:

- New Technologies for Fostering Broadband Access
- Network Traffic Management
- Cybersecurity
- Security/ Privacy/Transparency in Cloud Computing
- FCC and the Spectrum Policy Reform
- Voice over Internet Protocol Services
- Online Authentication

Activities:

- Letter to FCC Chairman commending the proposed National Broadband Plan and offering assistance on implementation details. March 16.
- Jon Peha, Chief Technologist at the FCC, joined CCP on a conference call to discuss the recent FCC actions on public safety communications. This is background to the CCP writing a letter to the FCC in response to a number of recommendations to be contained in the FCC Broadband Report to Congress due out on March 17. March 11.
- At the IEEE-USA Annual Meeting in Nashville, John Richardson received the 2009 Award for Professional Achievement for "25 years of contributions and leadership in the development of IEEE-USA's positions on communications policy." To mention a few of John's many contributions and activities - - he led CCP's Broadband Deployment position statement and submittal to the FCC last year; he has been a chair of CCP; provided leadership in the development of major conferences on the role of the Internet in policy development and other issues, and he was pivotal to the CCP efforts to promote an agreement on HDTV digital standards. March 4.
- CCP met and discussed priority issue activities for the year including the resubmittal of the VOIP position statement to the Board. January 25.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

Position Statements:

- New Technologies for Fostering Broadband Access: **To be drafted**

White Papers:

- Network Traffic Management : **Drafting**
- Security/ Privacy/Transparency in Cloud Computing: **Drafting**

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- None

Approved Position Statements:

- Voice over Internet Protocol (February 2010)

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- January 25
- April 7

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND AEROSPACE POLICY

Doug Taggart, Chair

Vice Chair

Mission: To present views and develop positions on transportation and aerospace R&D policy and any aspect of governmental or private sector transportation and aerospace R&D policy and programs within its technical and professional competence.

Focus Issues:

- U.S. Aviation and Aeronautics R&D and Infrastructure Upgrade
- Intelligent Transportation/Transportation Technologies
- Shuttle Gap/Space Mission

Activities:

- The committee met and discussed priority issues for 2010 and several position statements. January 20.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

Position Statements:

White Papers:

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- National Aviation Safety Program (June 2007): **position being rewritten.**
- Surface Transportation Security (November 2007)
- Synthetic Aperture Radar (November 2007)
- The Use of Prizes and Awards to Foster Technology Innovation (June 2007)

Approved Position Statements:

- Restructuring Technology Export/Import Controls: ITAR (February 2010)
- U.S Economic Competitiveness and Intelligent Transportation Systems Technology (February 2010)

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- January 20
- March 31
- May 24
- July 21
- September 22
- November 17

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Marc Apter, Chair
Vice Chair (none)

Mission: To foster and assist policy initiatives on a wide range of critical infrastructure issues including the management of risk, i.e., deter threats, mitigate vulnerabilities and minimize consequences -- physical, cyber and people.

Focus Issues:

- Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

Activities:

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

Position Statements:

CIPC will review the following position statements with MTPC. MTPC will lead the drafting of these new position statements:

- Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Public Health System Against Terrorist Threats Through the Use of Information Technologies
- Homeland Security Operations and Use of Personally Identifiable Health Information

White Papers:

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- None.

Approved Position Statements:

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

ENERGY POLICY COMMITTEE

Mayer Sasson, Chair

John Ragan, Vice Chair

Mission: To develop and disseminate positions on issues in energy supply, transmission and end-use technologies.

Focus Issues:

- Increasing Energy Efficiency
- Breaking Our Addiction to Oil by Transforming Transportation
- Greening the Electric Power Supply

- Building a Stronger and Smarter Electrical Energy Infrastructure

Activities:

- The Energy Fly-In Congressional Visits Day will be held in Washington, DC. May 17-18.
- Letter sent to Rep. Ben Lujan endorsing the the [Community College Energy Training Act \(HR 3731\)](#). February 23.
- The committee held its first meeting of the New Year. January 28.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

- Assuring Engineering Manpower for Electric Utilities: **Drafting.**
- Coal: **Drafting.**
- Energy Storage: **Drafting.**
- Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Electric Transportation (2003): **Under review.**
- Information Security in Electric Power: **EPC approved; Editorial Review completed; GR reviewed, sent back to EPC; EPC re-writing.**
- Nuclear Power Expansion: **On hold.**
- Non-renewable Energy Technologies: **On hold.**
- Photovoltaic Technology Development (June 2002): **Being updated.**
- Renewable Energy Technologies: **Under review.**
- Smart Grid: **Drafting.**
- Solar and Other Renewable Technologies (June 2002): **Under review.**

Position Statements:

White Papers:

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (June 2007)

Approved Position Statements:

- National Energy Policy Recommendations backup statement: (February 2010)

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- January 28
- April 6

GOVERNMENT FELLOWS COMMITTEE

Chair (Committee to Elect)

Vice Chair (none)

Mission: Develop and maintain government fellowship program to provide timely advice and assistance to the U.S. government and to assist the education of the IEEE U.S. membership and the public on technology matters relating to public policy.

Focus Issues:

- Sponsors Fellowships for a one-year position to serve as advisers to the U.S. Congress and to key Executive Branch decision-makers.

Activities:

- The committee will hold a teleconference to discuss the applications and select candidates the committee would like to interview in person for the 2011 Government Fellowship Program. April 16
- Placement(s) and assignment(s) for Congressional Fellows Jean Camp and Jack Cederquist for 2010: Jean Camp will work in the office of Representative Bob Etheridge (D-2-NC) focusing on cyber security issues, and Jack Cederquist will work in the office of Senator Jon Tester (MT) focusing on energy and environment issues. Engineering and Diplomacy Fellow Norman Lerner will work with Clovis Baptista at Inter-American Telecommunications Commission/Organization of American States.

Issues/Position Statement Development:

- None.

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- April 16 (Teleconference)
- May 20 (GFC Dinner)
- May 20-21(Interviews and Selection)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Keith D. Grzelak, Chair

Glenn Tenney, Vice Chair

Mission: To develop, evaluate and propose to Congress and the Administration proposals for intellectual property protection of rapidly changing technology. To seek appropriate approval, and promulgate IEEE-USA policy on intellectual property matters of concern to IEEE members, ensure that patent reform proposals enhance U.S. competitiveness and innovation, and promote an environment in which U.S. inventors and small businesses can thrive and succeed.

Focus Issues:

- Patent Law Reform

Activities:

- Roundtable on Patent Applications & Commonly Used Terms: Can Standardized Dictionaries Enhance Patent Quality and Speed the Review Process. The goal of enhancing consistency and predictability of terms used to define inventions in US Patent Applications. March 19.
- The committee held its first meeting of the New Year. February 4.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- Closing the Off-Shore Patent Infringement Loophole (June 2007)
- Computer Industry Patents (June 2007)
- Digital Rights Management (June 2007)
- University Intellectual Property Policy Guidelines (June 2007)

Approved Position Statements:

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- February 4
- April 23

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY COMMITTEE

Thomas Jepsen, Chair (Interim)

Vice Chair - TBA

Mission: To assist in the rational formulation of health, wellness, and medical technology legislation, regulation, and policy in the U.S.

Focus Issues:

- Health Information Systems including Electronic Medical Records, Personal Health Records, NHIN
- Patient Safety/Reducing Medical Errors
- Security and Privacy of Electronic Health Information
- Continued collaboration with NIST, Steering Committee on Telehealth, AIMBE and Others
- Quality of Health Care Data

Activities:

- IEEE.tv will broadcast the MTPC-sponsored session on “Wireless and Mobile Technologies for Healthcare: Ensuring Privacy, Security and Availability,” delivered at the First American Medical Association - IEEE Medical Technology Conference, held in Washington, DC. March 21-23.
- At the IEEE-USA Annual Meeting in Nashville, MTPC Chair, Tom Jepsen, received a 2009 Citation of Honor Award for his "leadership in advancing the vital role of technology in medical policy and health care delivery." In addition to being MTPC Chair for the past two years, Tom has been active in NHIN activities nationally and in his local area in North Carolina, (he is chapter chair of EMBS) as well as his editor and writing work for IT Professional. March 4.

- Continue support for AIMBE as co-sponsor of its 19th Annual Meeting on “Balancing Risk, Benefit, and Ethics through Medical and Biological Engineering: Implications for Public Policy,” to be held in Washington, D.C. February 21-23.
- Chair Tom Jepsen continues to represent MTPC as a voting member of the Board of the Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP). January 25.
- IEEE-USA is a co-sponsor of the Steering Committee on Telehealth and Health Care Informatics conducting education sessions and technology demonstrations regarding telehealth, e-Health, and medical informatics on Capitol Hill. First briefing held January 27.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

Position Statements:

- Certification for Health Care Delivery of Health Information Technology Systems: **Drafting**
- Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Public Health System Against Terrorist Threats Through the Use of Information Technologies
- Homeland Security Operations and Use of Personally Identifiable Health Information
- National Health Information Network with Emphasis on Security and Privacy Issues
- Voluntary Health Care Identifier
- Wireless Applications in Health Care

White Papers:

- Integration of Prevention and Chronic Care Services from a Health Information Technology Perspective: **Drafting**
- Interoperability for the National Health Information Network: **Drafting**
- Modernization of Electronic Health Records Systems: **Drafting**

Position Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010:

- None

Approved Position Statements:

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- March 2 (teleconference)
- June 4

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Martin Sokoloski, Chair

James Barbera, Vice Chair

Mission: To develop and disseminate positions on engineering R&D policies and programs concentrating on the programs and policies of Federal agencies, such as, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, Department of Commerce's Technology Administration (including the National Institute of Standards and Technology), Office of Science and Technology Policy, NASA, Department of Energy Basic Science Research and the Department of State.

Focus Issues:

- Innovation and Competitiveness - Appropriations for America COMPETES Act
- R&D funding for energy sustainability
- Permanent extension of the R&D Tax Credit
- Engineering Education Reforms
- Science and Technology Research Funding at NSF, NASA, DOC, and NIST
- Support for Congressional R&D Caucus and Robotics Caucus
- Revitalization of federal civilian and defense science and technology workforce and laboratories
- STEM Education

Activities:

- R&DPC discussed the committee's annual plan and its ongoing activities including suggestions for a follow-up workshop on STEM in 2011. Additionally, the committee worked on several position statements that needed updating. March 24.
- Coalition for National Security Research Statement to Congress on FY2011 DoD R&D Budget appropriations. February 25.
- Letter to Senate Leadership and Chair and Ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee urging Senate action on the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act (H.R. 4061) February 17.
- The committee met to discuss their priority issues for the year and several position statements that require review this year. R&D approved two draft positions: *Small Business Innovation Research* and *Cybersecurity R&D*. January 19.

Issues/Position Statement/White Paper Development:

- Permanent Extension of R&D Tax Credit: **Drafting.**

Approved Position Statements:

- Small Business Innovation Research (February 2010)
- Cyber Security Research and Development (February 2010)

White Papers:

Positions Statements Under Review - Sunsetting December 2010

- Department of Defense Science & Technology (November 2007)
- Federal Support for Basic Research (February 2007)
- Optimized Use of Federal Laboratories (November 2007)

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

- January 19
- March 24
- July 28
- September 10
- December 1

WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP FOR STUDENTS OF ENGINEERING (WISE)

Tom Fagan, IEEE-USA Representative

Mission: A summer internship program in engineering and public policy that includes up to sixteen third-year engineering students selected in a nationwide competition to spend 10 weeks during the summer in Washington, DC, learning how engineers contribute to public policy decisions on complex technology issues. IEEE sponsors 2-4 U.S. student members.

Focus Issues:

Activities:

- IEEE has selected two engineering students to sponsor this year; Kristie Chin from Brown University and Levi Lyons from the University of Kansas. February 24.
- Applications for the 2010 program have been coming and still waiting on their transcripts and other documentation. January 6.

Issues/Position Statement Development:

- None.

2010 Meetings & Teleconferences:

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STAFF

Chris Brantley, Acting Director, Gov't Relations

Bernadette Concepcion, Administrative Assistant, Government Relations
Russ Harrison, Senior Legislative Representative, Grassroots Activities
Vin O'Neill, Senior Legislative Representative, Career Policy Activities
Marjorie Springer, Staff Assistant, Government Relations
Deborah Rudolph, Technology Policy Activities Manager
Bill Williams, Senior Legislative Representative, Technology Policy Activities
Erica Wissolik, Program Manager, Government Activities