

# ANACONDA WIRE AND CABLE COMPANY

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HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, 6  
NEW YORK

VICE PRESIDENT-ENGINEERING

4.18.212

## AIEE-IRE MERGER

January 18, 1962

Mr. W. H. Chase  
President, AIEE

Dear Warren:

Re your letter of 1/15/62 to Past Presidents, asking what we have "seen or heard" so far about the proposed merger:

All that I have seen or heard has been disquieting.

## WHAT I HAVE SEEN

in addition to the material enclosed with your letter were press releases, principally reports in "Electronic News" of interviews with, or speeches by, IRE Presidents L. V. Berkner and P. E. Haggerty. Public announcements of the proposed merger last Fall contained many inaccuracies, all of which happened to be in IRE's favor. In the 1/15/62 issue of "Electronic News", Haggerty outlined the principal items in the proposed Constitution. Making public provisions prior to action on them by the Boards of Directors of AIEE and IRE was entirely out of order, in my opinion.

## WHAT I HAVE HEARD

are comments by disturbed AIEE members. These have all been similar in nature, and in essence may be summarized in a single sentence:

This is not a merger; it is absorption of AIEE by IRE.

Until now, I have worn the traditional Past President's cloak of passivity, and not taken part in the controversy. However, I do share the concern of these members.

A merger by choice rather than by force of circumstances can be expected to be advantageous to both participants. However, I have waited in vain for evidence that the interests of AIEE members are being well cared for in the negotiations with IRE. The proposed Constitution & Bylaws (Revision #1, 1/2/62) do not allay my apprehension.



The Constitution proposed is practically word-for-word IRE's current Constitution. The Bylaws are the present modus operandi of the present IRE organization. Is there nothing in our documents worth incorporating? I see no reflection of the philosophy of improvements made in AIEE operations as recently as during the last decade. Many of these advancements were results of study and recommendation by Stevenson, Jordan & Harrison, Management Consultants. If a departmental organization is desirable for a society of 50,000 members, it should be imperative for one of 150,000 members?

While I could take exception to paragraph after paragraph in the proposed Constitution & Bylaws, for the sake of brevity, I shall confine myself to 2 examples.

(1) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Attached is a table showing the composition of the proposed Board, and by whom each group of directors would be nominated and elected. Of a total of 25, 17 members and all of the officers would be nominated by Board members. This body would be inherently self-perpetuating. Is this desirable?

(2) REGIONAL DIRECTORS

A principal source of AIEE's strength lies in its Section and District organization. When Districts were first formed in 1921, the United States and Canada were divided into 10 Districts. At that time, there were 42 Sections, 65 Branches, and 13,215 members. By 1951, there were 89 Sections, 54 Subsections, 132 Branches, and 38,058 members, and it was evident that there were too many units for a District Vice President to visit, and also earn his bread and butter. A study initiated in Sept. 1952 led eventually to our present 15 Districts (119 Sections, 77 Subsections, 277 Technical Groups, 167 Branches, and 56,473 members).

To adopt the proposed 7 Regions (replacing our 15 Districts) would be to turn back the clock 40 years. Obviously, the proposal does not envision annual - or even biennial - visits to the Sections by the Regional Director (replacing our District Vice President), heretofore considered important by our Boards of Directors. See attached Resolution R13. Is this Resolution to be abrogated?

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CONCLUSION

Has AIEE once again been outmaneuvered in having agreed to something "in principle", the "details" to follow? Obviously, the IRE Board will act favorably on the proposed Constitution & Bylaws since they are



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AIEE-IRE MERGER

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essentially the same as those currently in effect. If the AIEE Board does not accept the documents, they will be the "bad guys" who upset the merger.

Nevertheless, having in mind what I believe to be the best interests of the present members of AIEE and the profession in general, if called upon to accept these proposed documents:

- 1.. If I were a member of the 1961-62 Board, I would vote a loud "NO".
- 2.. As an individual member, I would mark the ballot with a silent "no".

My recommendation is that approval of the proposed Constitution & Bylaws (Revision #1, 1/2/62) be tabled at the Board meeting on Feb. 2nd, and that our representatives be instructed to submit documents which incorporate the best features of both organizations.

Sincerely yours,



L. F. Hickernell  
Past President, AIEE

cc: Past Presidents  
Board of Directors

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attachments



Proposed  
SOCIETY OF RADIO AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS\*  
Eligible:- Fellows and Senior Members

<u>No.</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Nominated by:</u>	<u>Elected by:</u>
10	Directors-at-Large including:		Board Members <sup>§</sup>	Voting Members <sup>¶</sup>
	President	1 yr		
	Vice President	1 yr		
	Sr. Past President	1 yr		
	Jr. Past President	1 yr		
	6 Dir.-at-Large	3 yr		
8	Regional Directors	2 yr	Regional Committee	Regional Membership
18	Delegates to "ANNUAL "ASSEMBLY"			
7	Directors, including:		Board Members <sup>§</sup>	10 Directors-at-Large & 8 Regional Directors acting as Delegates to Annual Assembly
	Vice President	1 yr		
	Secretary	1 yr		
	Treasurer	1 yr		
	Editor	1 yr		
	3 Directors	1 yr		
25	Members of BOARD OF DIRECTORS			

\*Based on Proposed "Constitution & Bylaws for SREE" (Revision #1, 1/2/62)

<sup>§</sup>Acting as a "Nominating & Appointment Committee"

<sup>¶</sup>Honorary Members, Fellows, Senior Members, Members

Compiled by:  
L. F. Hickernell  
1/18/62



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

DUTIES OF VICE PRESIDENTS\*

**R13—Duties of AIEE Vice-Presidents**

(Adopted by the Board of Directors, June 30, 1955)

*Resolved*, It is the sense of the Board of Directors that:

(a) Attendance of the President at General Meetings, District Meetings, meetings of the Engineers Joint Council, and other intersociety obligations should take preference over visits to Sections and Branches.

(b) The District Vice-President shall be made fully responsible for the visits to Sections and Branches. It shall be the duty of the District Vice-President to receive all requests for visitations by Institute Officers and to coordinate these requests for all meetings in his area.

(c) It is essential to the growth and development of the Institute that an effective means of communication be established and maintained between the Board of Directors and the membership. The most effective means of accomplishing this objective is the personal visitations to the Sections and Branches by the District Vice-President.

(d) The Vice-President should endeavor to visit each Section and Branch in his District once each year.

(e) It is desirable that each visit include an informal discussion with Section and Branch officers.

(f) The Vice-President may request the co-operation and assistance of the Directors in making such visitations.

(g) When the formal visits to Sections are made by either the District Vice-President or by some other officer, the same expense allowance will be paid by the Institute as if the visits were all made by the Vice-President.

(h) At each Summer General Meeting, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Institute to call a special meeting of the hold-over and incoming Vice-Presidents at which they shall be informed of their duties in coordinating the work in the Districts.

(i) This resolution shall supersede previous expressions of policy as embodied in resolutions of April 27, 1950 and July 27, 1946.