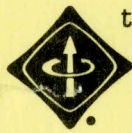


Rma
3/11



the INSTITUTE OF
ELECTRICAL AND
ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERS, INC.

RECEIVED
MAR 13 1978
C. F. STEWART
IEEE
EUGENE KONE
IEEE
Reply to:

IEEE's poll: a mandate at last

In the five years since the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers started trying to set up a professional activities program, a constant complaint from critics has been that neither its goals nor the projects aimed at reaching those goals represent the desires of the members. Now, with the carefully prepared and circulated survey of members being analyzed this month, the institute has such a guide.

The points on which the members agree are clear enough. For one, members favor the public stands on national issues such as energy and R&D spending that the IEEE has taken in the past. A heavy majority is willing to be polled again to express their views as guidance on future positions.

For another, most members want the institute to get behind programs, such as registration, that will upgrade the status of engineers. Also, they want the IEEE to set up a legal fund to aid engineers involved in cases dealing with ethical conduct. And the majority favors various actions to curtail age discriminations as well as enhance the professional standing of engineers past 40.

Altogether, the U.S. Activities Board survey looks to have come back as an endorsement of professional activities, even though most of the members stated that they actually joined the IEEE for the technical publications. Now the question is, what will become of the results of the survey?

With a change in the leadership due next month, the fate of this survey is at present in limbo. The first step, therefore, is to get the results of the survey into general circulation—a step the institute has already taken. The more that people concerned with U.S. professional activities know about the findings, the more surely will the survey be remembered in the coming year.

The next step would be to convert the research data into a plan of action. Here is where the going will get tricky, for some of the moves approved by the survey respondents would certainly jar the corporate interests represented in IEEE. For instance, publicizing the names of companies that have consistently ignored the standards recommended by IEEE in employing engineers might arouse the resistance of members who are also company executives.

It is therefore, important for the activists to remember that the IEEE is not going to move overnight to implement the wishes indicated in the survey. By the same token, it is important for the "reluctants" in the organization to realize that the survey will not be forgotten. For it is clearly the case that any IEEE office holder who claims to serve the wishes of the working members simply must view the survey as a mandate for professional activities.

Dear Member,

A few days ago we mailed you the January-February issue of IMPACT, with the editorial from a recent ELECTRONICS magazine. Because we believe it is a fairminded assessment by a respected trade journal, we asked and received permission to have it reprinted by you in your IEEE newsletter - e.g. Section News, Group or Society Newsletter, etc. The only requirement is to include the copyright and credit line as shown.* We hope you'll decide to use it.

IMPACT's prime purpose is to encourage information sharing and reprinting items (with source credit) is desirable and recommended. Incidentally, if you republish the Opinion Survey results from the above issue, please correct the returned total percentage from the 63.58% shown to 61.58% (or approximately 62%).

Sincerely,

Herb H³ Heller

Herbert H. Heller
Internal Communications

* The above editorial by Gerald Walker is reprinted in its entirety with permission from ELECTRONICS magazine.
Copyright 1977 McGraw-Hill, Inc.