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Official Publication of the Chicago Section • Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers • DECEMBER 1993

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For reservations please call IEEE Office at (312) 236-4333 before the stated deadline
The meeting details are stated in their relevant announcements inside

December 1 Wednesday	EMC Society	Current Issues of EMF	AT&T Bell Labs 2000 N. Naperville Rd. Naperville, Il.	Social: 7:15 PM Meeting: 7:30 PM
December 1 Wednesday	PE/IA/IE Chapters	A NEW Switched Reluctance Starter/ Generator	Motorola Center 1301 Algonquin Rd. Schaumburg, Il.	Social: 6:00 PM Meeting: 7:00 PM
December 8 Wednesday	Power Engineering Society	Chicago 9-1-1 System An Overview	Chicago Bar Association 321 S. Plymouth Court Chicago, Il.	Social: 11:30 AM Lunch: noon Meeting: 12:30 PM
December 8 Wednesday	Fox Valley Subsection/ Power Engineering/ LEOS Societies	Repairing the Hubble Telescope in Flight	Sharko's Restaurant 2225 Ogden Ave. Lisle, Il.	Social: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM Meeting: 8:00 PM
December 14 Tuesday	Chicago Section	Executive Committee	DeVry-DuPage 1221 N. Swift Rd. Addison, Il.	Food Service: optional Meeting: 7:15 PM
January 11 Tuesday	Chicago Section	Executive Committee	DeVry-DuPage 1221 N. Swift Rd. Addison, Il.	Food Service: optional Meeting: 7:15 PM
January 12 Wednesday	Communications Society/ Computer Society/ Fox Valley Subsection	The Advance Project	Sharko's Restaurant 2225 Ogden Ave. Lisle, Il.	Social: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM Meeting: 8:00 PM

The IEEE Chicago Section Welcomes New Members

Welcome Members:

George E. Adderson	Betty L. Bajana	David Brearley	Alvin T. Brinkman	Steven Chaput
Patricia L. Credle	V. Durga	Marilyn R. Escue	Hugo J. Fernandes	Paul H. Gailus
David A. Hasto	Richard L. Hoppel	Martin J. Janowak	Sherry L. Johnson	Robert W. Lanham
Joseph P. Link	Robert K. McDonald	Rajesh B. Patel	Jocelyn M. Parker	John R. Ross
Mohammad A. Raza	Gregory S. Russell	N. R. Shah	George J. Schaffer Jr	James J. Soper
Damir Stasic	James J. Stroming	Van-Ban L. Wu		

Also, welcome to 25 Provisional Members awaiting accreditation and to 36 Affiliate Members for the Computer Society.

SCANFAX, (Publication) number (ISSN 0018-1297), Dec., 1993 Volume 46, Number 4, SCANFAX is published monthly, except July and August by the Chicago Section Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for the information of its members. Business Office is at IEEE Message Center—30 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 508, Chicago, IL 60602-3404 (312) 236-4333 and Fax (312) 372-8738. Subscription rate for IEEE members collected in dues. \$1.50. Third class postage paid at Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

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Send change of address to Roseann Schulz, Member Services, IEEE Service Center, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854-4150. Include your SCANFAX mailing label if possible or phone direct to: 1-800-678-4333. We cannot forward this information for you, so please do not send it to the local office.

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ISSUE	COPY DUE	MAILED ON
JAN 94	NOV 25	DEC 15
FEB	DEC 21	JAN 15
MAR	JAN 26	FEB 15
APR	FEB 25	MAR 15
MAY	MAR 25	APR 15
JUNE	APR 28	MAY 15

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For further information regarding following two courses, please contact: Ms. Faith Kancauski, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, (312) 567-3403 (voice), (312) 567-8976 (fax)

- Cellular Mobile Communication Systems, December 17, 18, 20, 21, 1993
- Wireless Digital Communications: Cellular and Personal Communication, January 12-15, 1994

For further information regarding following five courses, please contact: Ms. Janis Jawny, Computer Science Department, (312) 567-5156 (voice), (312) 567-5067 (fax)

- Object Oriented Database Design, January 5-8, 1994
- Script Writing for Multimedia, January 6 & 7, 1994
- Middleware, January 10 & 11, 1994
- User Interface Design, January 16 & 17, 1994
- Fundamentals for Graduate Computer Science Study, January 3-6 & 10-13, 1994

POWER ENGINEERING SOCIETY Joint Meeting with Communication Society



SPEAKER: Mr. Bill Johnson, P.E.
Engineering Manager
Fluor Daniel

TOPIC: Chicago 9-1-1 System - An Overview

ABSTRACT: The Chicago Police and Fire Department's existing 9-1-1 communication system, dates back to the early 1960's. Although it has served the City well, it is currently out of date, out of production, difficult to maintain, and not able to support current City demands. The new system will be the largest, most sophisticated 9-1-1 public safety communicating system in the country. It includes the following main subsystems:

- New 160,000 sq. ft. command and control facility
- Backup/Alternate Response Center
- 180 mile, private fiber optic SONET network
- Computer Aided Dispatch System
- Records Management System
- Automatic Vehicle Location System
- Mobile/Portable Data Radio System
- New S-911 System
- Other Support Systems at over 200 City locations

BACKGROUND: Mr. Johnson holds a BSEE degree from the University of Florida. He has worked with Fluor Daniel as Project Manager on similar public safety communications systems for Los Angeles County and other public safety agencies. Prior to working with Fluor Daniel, Mr. Johnson worked in the communications department of Los Angeles Water and Power.

PLACE: Chicago Bar Association
321 S. Plymouth Court
(near Jackson and Dearborn)
Purchase lunch tickets in lobby (\$7.50)

DATE: December 8, 1993

TIME: 11:30 Social 12:00 Lunch 12:30 Presentation

Reservation must be made by noon, Monday, December 6, 1993 by calling 312-236-4333. Please leave name(s) and company name.

The Power Engineering Society of IEEE presents



**1994 IEEE/PES
Transmission and Distribution
Conference and Exposition**

⇒ April 10 - 15, 1994 ⇐
McCormick Place - Chicago, Illinois

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call 1-800-PES-IEEE (1-800-737-4333).

Look in SCANFAX early next year for more details.

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We need approximately 100 volunteers per day during the week of the conference (April 10 -15, 1994). Assignments range from staffing ticket booths to monitoring the technical session meeting rooms.

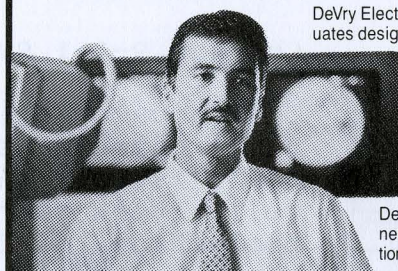
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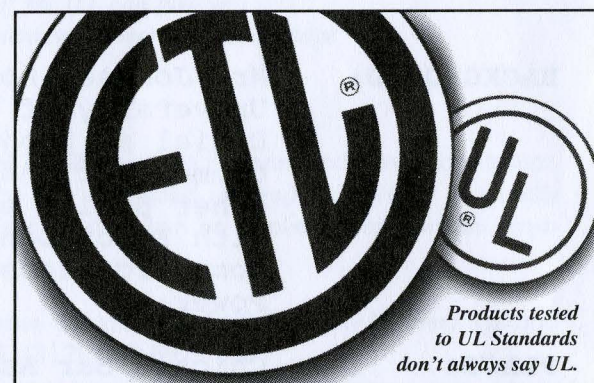
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JOINT MEETING

POWER ELECTRONICS and INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS/ INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS CHAPTERS

A New Switched Reluctance Starter/Generator

Caio A. Ferreira, Principal Engineer
Applied Research, Sundstrand Aerospace

Switched reluctance, variable speed drives offer the advantages of simple machines capable of operating at very high speeds driven from simple converters. A new switched reluctance starter/generator (SR S/G) is being developed for an aircraft engine application. The system consists of a SR machine directly coupled to a gas turbine engine, an inverter/converter unit, and an electronic controller. As a generator the system is rated at 30KW, 270 V DC, **52,000 RPM** maximum operating speed. The system also provides 17 HP peak power to start the engine. The system is designed to meet unique requirements such as power quality per MIL-STD-740E, 30% (9KW) step loads, and -51 to +121 degrees C temperature range. The presentation discusses the design and analysis of the system, the test results, and some of the lessons learned during testing. Photographs of the hardware will also be presented.

Mr. Ferreira is a senior member of the IEEE and has a BSEE from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a MS in Systems Engineering from Case Western Reserve. His industrial experience includes work at both General Electric and Sundstrand and encompasses a wide range of solid state power conversion systems, motor drives, electrical generating systems, and magnetic bearings. He holds two patents and has presented technical papers at IAS, APEC, and SAE conferences. Mr. Ferreira is Section Chairman of the IEEE Rock River Valley Section and is also chairman of the IAS Chapter which has been chosen to receive the IEEE/IAS Outstanding Small Chapter Award for 1993.

Meeting Information December 1 -- Motorola Schaumburg Campus, corner of Algonquin and Meacham roads (directions below) -- Social hour (coffee and donuts) 6:00 to 7:00 PM -- Meeting 7:00 - 8:00 PM - Dinner may be purchased at low cost in cafeteria starting at 5:30 PM if desired. -- Please register by calling the IEEE Message Center by noon, November 29 - (312) 236-4333. -- Call George Studtmann with any questions - (708) 392-7189.

Directions Use westmost gate labelled "A GATE, VISITORS" on Algonquin road. Push button at entry gate and tell guard "IEEE meeting in building 1301". Park in first lot on your left and enter door 13 (under MOTOROLA sign) of the 6 story building adjacent to parking lot. A guide will be at the reception desk in the lobby.

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WHEN

Wednesday, December 15, 1993

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE

**Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel
9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont, IL 60018**

REGISTRATION

1 800 631-8790

"First-come, first-served" policy due to limited session seating. Please call today.

Knowledge Fair Topics

Keynote

- Impact of Technology on People and the Work Environment, Helene Roos, Ph.D.

Case Studies

- Reengineering the Information Systems Architecture (GROWMARK)
- Delivering on the Promise of Technology (John Nuveen Inc.)

Strategies, Tools and Techniques

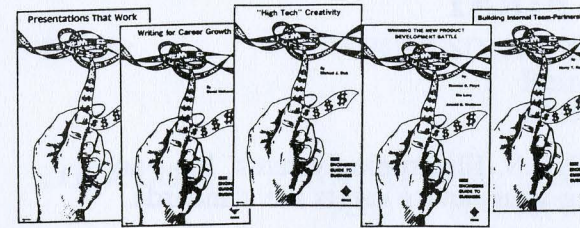
- Business Process Reengineering Management (Andersen Consulting)
- Manufacturing Executions Systems on the Shop Floor (MESA)
- Network Management in an Open Systems Environment (HP)
- Reengineering Engineering (Product Development Consulting)
- "Rightsizing" HP's Open Systems Programs (HP)
- Application Program Development (Texas Instruments)
- Electronic Data Interchange (Sterling Software)
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IEEE MEETING NOTICE

CHICAGO CHAPTER - IEEE EMC SOCIETY

DATE: WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 1, 1993
Refreshments 7:15 P.M.
Meeting 7:30 P.M.

LOCATION: AT&T BELL LABORATORIES
2000 N. NAPERVILLE ROAD
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS

SPEAKER: MARK LEWANDOWSKI
COMMONWEALTH EDISON

TOPIC: CURRENT ISSUES OF EMF

This presentation will discuss the current issue of EMF (electro magnetic force), its history, its science and how it has been impacting the utility industry and how Commonwealth Edison is responding.

FOR RESERVATIONS & DIRECTIONS: CALL IEEE OFFICE 312-236-4333

STUDENT ACTIVITIES UPDATES

FROM: Betty Bajaan
Student Activities

The Student Branches are currently preparing for their IEEE career day. The IEEE UIC Student Branch will be hosting Career day on October 28, 1993 and IEEE IIT Student Branch will host their career day on the following week, November 2, 1993. These days will be filled with company representatives from Commonwealth Edison, Motorola, Hewlett Packard, and Ameritech answering questions on electrical engineering to tips on interviewing skills. Towards the end of the day, students will have a chance to participate and practice these tips in mock interviews. We wish them the best of luck on their career day!

It's time for the Chicago Section Student Branch Kick-off meeting! Students, advisors, IEEE members are invited to attend Sunday, November 14, 1993, 12:00 noon, at Giordano's Restaurant (Van Buren and Halsted) to the annual luncheon meeting. RSVP by November 10, 1993. This meeting will concentrate on the individual branches and their ideas and activities for a most promising year ahead. Exchange of wealthy ideas will fill the room on this day.

Activities for Future City Competition during National Engineering Week are progressing. Janine Moederndorfer from Commonwealth Edison and Angela Spoden from Motorola are actively preparing for this exciting competition. Volunteers are still needed!

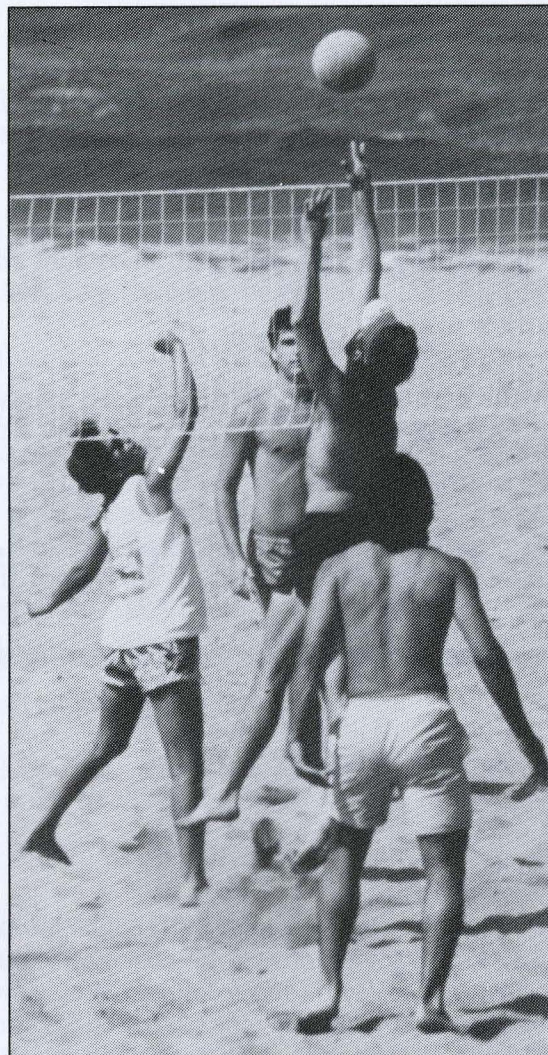
Feel free to contact me at (312) 394-3766 at Commonwealth Edison with any questions, comments, suggestions in making this year's student activities another successful year.

Heads above the best

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RF/Analog IC Design Engineer

Will be responsible for designing Wireless Digital Cellular Mixed Mode ASIC's. Minimum of 4 years Bipolar/CMOS/BiCMOS experience in the complete ASIC design process. Experience in the development of Synthesizers, Mixers, A/D's, D/A's, S/H's, and Amplifiers. Knowledge of circuit design techniques in the frequency range from DC to 3 GHz, and top down design methodology using the latest in CAD tools. Experience designing for low power and low voltage highly desired, plus a record of successful design accomplishments. Respond to dept. RF/IC/B.

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Joint with
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Invite You to The JANUARY MEETING

The ADVANCE Project Presented by Dr. Peter C. Nelson

DATE:	Wednesday, January 12, 1994
GUEST SPEAKER:	Peter C. Nelson, Ph.D. Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science University of Illinois at Chicago
TOPIC:	The ADVANCE Project: Helping Motorists to Overcome Traffic Congestion
PLACE:	Sharko's Restaurant, 2225 Ogden Avenue, Lisle, IL
TIME/COST:	Social: 6:00 PM - Cash Bar Dinner: 7:00 PM - \$14.00 Speaker: 8:00 PM - FREE
RESERVATIONS:	Please call (312) 236-4333 to make dinner reservations no later than Monday, January 10, 1994

THE PRESENTATION:

The research and development of intelligent vehicle highway systems (IVHS) technology is receiving high priority, by both the public and private sector. ADVANCE (Advanced Driver and Vehicle Advisory Navigation ConcEpt) is currently one of the largest and most comprehensive intelligent vehicle highway system projects in the world. The project was officially announced in July of 1991 by the (former) U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Sam Skinner. ADVANCE will involve equipping 5000 vehicles in the northwest Chicago area with on-board computers for route planning and navigation. The demonstration vehicles will receive up to the minute traffic information via RF communications from a traffic information center, allowing them to plan optimal routes using dynamic traffic information. The traffic information center will receive its traffic information from numerous sources including using the vehicles acting as roving traffic probes, existing in-loop detectors, video imaging systems, and reliable voice reports. This talk will provide a brief overview of IVHS before describing the ADVANCE system.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Peter Nelson holds the academic rank of Assistant Professor and is currently Director of the Intelligent Vehicle Highway Systems Laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Nelson is the principal investigator and project director for the research and development of the ADVANCE Traffic Information Center. Additionally, he has also helped develop the ADVANCE system architecture, performed research on in-vehicle route planning algorithms, and collaborated with his civil engineering colleagues in the research and development of traffic data fusion techniques.

For more information contact Rushdi Muammar at (708)713-1603.



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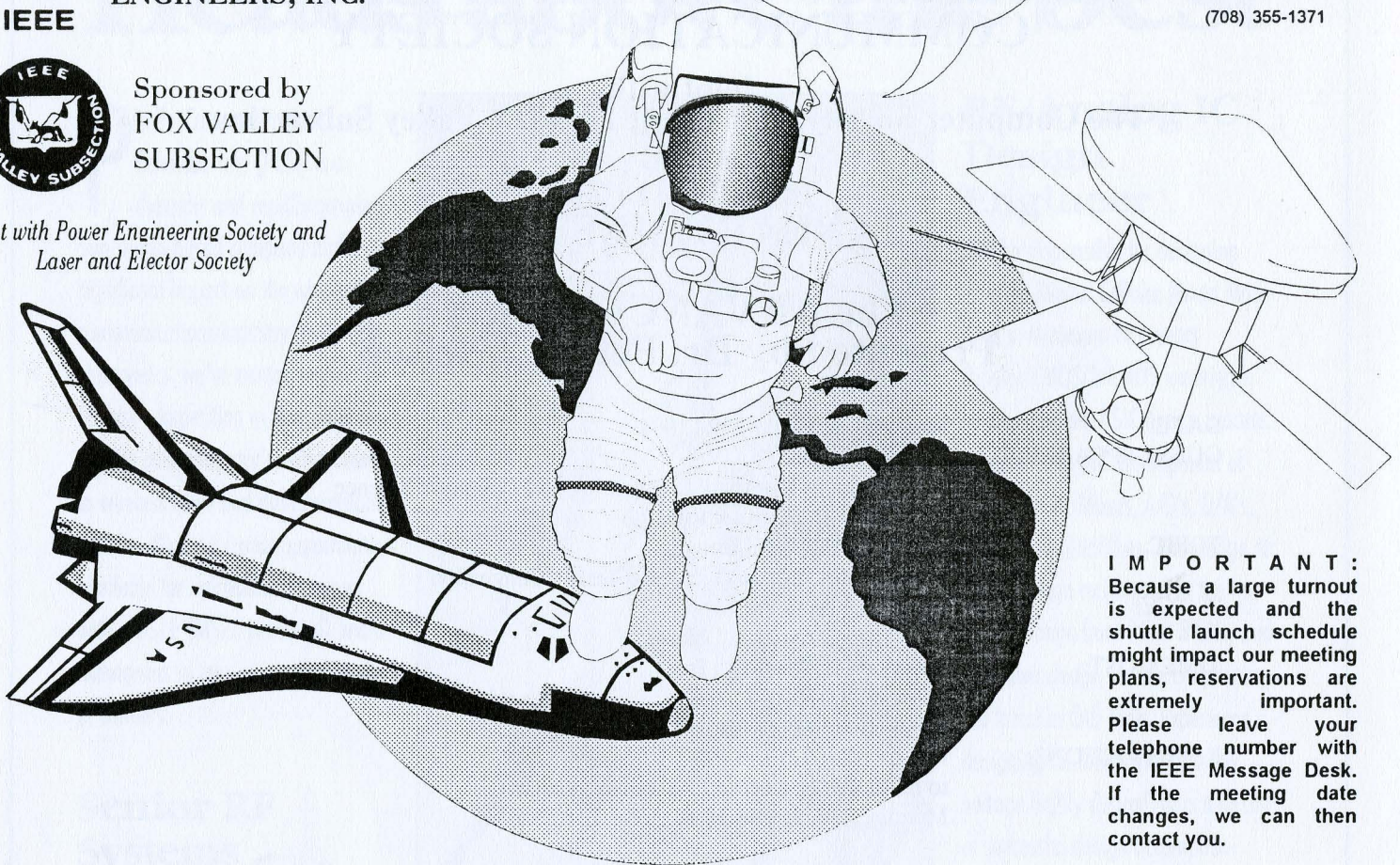


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might impact our meeting
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If the meeting date
changes, we can then
contact you.

REPAIRING THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE IN FLIGHT

Presented by Dr. Douglas Duncan, Director of Adler Planetarium

Wednesday, December 8, 1993

The Hubble Space Telescope represents one of the most ambitious space projects of the Apollo era. When the telescope was safely ensconced in its intended orbit, most of the astronomical and space communities breathed sighs of relief - until it was discovered that a combination of a construction error and faulty measurements had introduced significant aberrations into the telescope's main mirror. While a surfeit of investigations looked for someone to blame, the intended users of the telescope searched instead for a means to recapture the full potential of the instrument. At length, they chose an even more ambitious approach: an unprecedented repair in space, accomplished by human members of a Space Shuttle crew.

Dr. Douglas Duncan, Director of Adler Planetarium in Chicago and a professor at the University of Chicago, has been associated with the Hubble Project for several years, and remains a consultant to the repair mission.

Fox Valley Subsection is doubly fortunate, in both obtaining someone closely connected with the project, and having this meeting near the eve of the scheduled launch date!

6:00 PM
7:00 PM

Social Hour
Dinner / \$15.00*

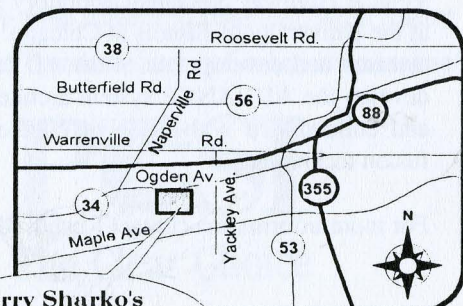
Medallions of Veal Entree with

Soup of the Day, Dinner Rolls, Coffee, and Dessert
Dietary and Vegetarian Meals can be requested
at the time of making your reservation

* Includes Complimentary Cocktails 6:30 to 7:00 PM

8:00 PM

Presentation / Free



Jerry Sharko's
2225 Ogden Ave.
Lisle, IL

YOUR SGAC CTE LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Advocate

October, 1993

Page 2

ICJL Advocate

October 1993

Illinois' Largest and Smallest Unite In Tort Reform Effort

Membership in the Illinois Civil Justice League — formally launched only seven months ago — continues to grow following a state-wide information mailing to business and civic leaders in Illinois. ICJL Members include some of Illinois' largest corporations and associations, as well as some of the state's smallest businesses and individual citizens.

In fact, despite trial lawyer claims that tort reform efforts typically are supported by the insurance industry and by major manufacturers, it is small business and private citizens who will dominate the ICJL membership if the current recruitment trend continues.

One of the largest organizations to join ICJL represents some of the smallest businesses in the state. The National Federation of Independent Business, with more than 20,000 Illinois members, includes many service oriented establishments with two or three employees, as well as small manufacturers and distributors.

In addition to NFIB, other organizations and associations that have joined the ICJL include the Illinois Business Roundtable, the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, the Illinois Petroleum Council, the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois, the Southwest Illinois Industrial Association and the Management Association of Illinois.

Numerous other organizations, both state-wide and regional or specific industry associations, are considering ICJL membership with several groups awaiting board of directors approval of proposals to join.

Information concerning ICJL membership is available from the ICJL Office at 200 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60606, or by telephone at 312-263-0817.



Legislative Efforts Build Momentum To 1994 Spring Session

Legislative activity to reform Illinois' tort liability laws is building momentum to the 1994 session of the Illinois General Assembly.

For the first time in many years, bills which would have placed a cap on non-economic damages and would have repealed the Illinois Structural Work Act were passed by the Illinois Senate during the 1993 session of the General Assembly. As expected, the bills failed in the House Judiciary Committee, losing in 7-5 votes.

Illinois Senate President James "Pate" Philip has made tort liability reform one of his top priorities and wants to keep the issue alive in 1994, particularly as legislative elections move into the forefront. Governor Jim Edgar also has made tort reform a priority and he has pledged to sign reform legislation that gets to his desk.

With that support, the League can now focus its efforts primarily on the House, where we expect many members will be supportive of tort reform once our education efforts are fully in gear.

ICJL Will Conduct Forums On Tort Liability Reform

A series of public forums on the need for tort liability reform in Illinois will be held throughout Illinois, beginning December 2 in Collinsville.

Purpose of the forums is to provide local business, professional and civic leaders — as well as local residents — with a better understanding of how Illinois tort liability laws affect them.

A panel of experts from the manufacturing, insurance, legal and medical professions will discuss the problem as it relates to their business, and representatives of municipalities, educational institutions and other tax-payer supported entities will discuss the impact on public services and taxes.

Proposed remedies and corrective actions will be discussed by the Illinois Civil Justice League and representatives of other Illinois organizations.

Local residents will have an opportunity to discuss specific liability problems which they have faced.

Invitations to the forums are being sent to members of local Chambers of Commerce and other organizations in the geographic area of the forum. Registration or information concerning the forums may be obtained by calling the ICJL at 312-263-0817.

The forum in Collinsville is being cosponsored by the Southwestern Illinois Industrial Association. It will be held at the Holiday Inn in Collinsville between 9 and 11 a.m. on December 2. Additional information may be obtained from the SIIA at 618-254-0676.

Details concerning other forums will be announced later.

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Trial Lawyers Pay Big Bucks To Block Illinois Tort Reform

It's no secret that the members of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association are opposed to any reform of the Illinois tort liability system.

But the degree of the trial bar's fervor may have surprised even the most sophisticated observers of the legislative process in Illinois when it was revealed that plaintiff's attorneys had contributed more than \$650,000 to the campaign fund of Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan in 1992.

Speaker Madigan, who has been the primary opponent of tort reform in the Illinois General Assembly, disburses campaign funds to Democratic candidates for the Illinois House of Representatives, in an effort at assuring their loyalty to him and the trial attorneys who are the source of the funds.

In an Associated Press article in mid-September, Illinois Trial Lawyers Association Executive Director James Collins explained, "Madigan has always supported our issues. Compared to the other leaders, he's the best of what any of them could be."

James T. Demos, a successful Chicago trial lawyer who contributed \$35,000 to the Madigan campaign fund, said, "Michael Madigan is anti-caps, anti-tort reform. Michael Madigan doesn't come to us, we come to him."

One of the state's most prominent trial attorneys, Chicagoan Philip Corboy, who is general counsel to the Illinois Democratic Party, said he helps Madigan by soliciting donations from attorneys who have won large personal-injury claims for clients, according to the Associated Press article.

Advocate

The Advocate is the monthly newsletter of the Illinois Civil Justice League. It is sent to members and contributors. Information is available from Illinois Civil Justice League office, Suite 2902, 200 West Adams, Chicago, IL 60606. Telephone 312-263-0817; Fax 312-263-1633.

Northwestern University Will Help ICJL In Research Activities

A Northwestern University graduate class in corporate public relations has adopted the Illinois Civil Justice League and its tort reform efforts as the class "client" for the autumn semester.

Twenty-four graduate students, all with at least some experience in the corporate world during internships or summer employment, will work under the direction of Professor Clarke Caywood, director of the Graduate Corporate Public Relations Program, and Ray Ewing, former corporate communications and issues manager at Allstate Insurance. Ewing was a consultant to the Illinois Insurance Information Service during the 1986 tort reform campaign in Illinois.

The Northwestern students will conduct research and assist in developing public relations strategies for possible use in the ICJL's tort reform efforts.

ICJL President Edward Mumane briefed the students on the League's goals and objectives in late September. Additional meetings between the faculty, students and ICJL directors will be held periodically through December.

"Northwestern University's graduate corporate public relations program has an outstanding reputation and has worked with many of the nation's most prominent corporations and organizations," Mumane said. "I am sure the effort they put forth for us will be very useful and worthwhile."

Did You Know?

* The Illinois Municipal League estimates the liability cost to municipalities represents — on the average — 5% of a municipality's payroll.

* The tort liability system in the United States is by far the most expensive in the industrialized world. U.S. tort costs are 2.3% of Gross Domestic Product, two and a half times the average.

* The direct cost of the litigation explosion is \$132 billion annually, yet less than 50 cents of each dollar awarded is paid to victims.

* Nationally, 288 personal injury cases returned verdicts of a million dollar or more in 1991, compared to only one such verdict in 1962.

Be A Recruiter; Help Build ICJL

One of the major differences between previous tort reform efforts in Illinois, and the current effort led by the Illinois Civil Justice League, is the development of a large, grass-roots organization of tort reform advocates.

The way to achieve reform in Illinois is by convincing the members of the Illinois General Assembly that the current tort liability system is so onerous to all residents of the state that it needs to be reformed.

And the way to accomplish that is by generating enough grass roots support for reform that every member of the Illinois House and every member of the Illinois Senate hears from his or her constituents that the system needs to be changed.

The General Assembly is adjourned right now (except for the mid-October veto session). But they'll be back in session in early 1994, and that will be the time to put the pressure on them — and the only way there will be enough pressure is if there are thousands ... tens of thousands ... of Illinois residents who are letting their Senators and their Representatives know that they want some changes.

As a member of the Illinois Civil Justice League, you will receive periodic updates and information that will suggest when and how you should contact your Legislators on behalf of our program.

But to be truly effective, we need to continue to build a strong grass roots base. As a member, you can help strengthen our efforts by encouraging your suppliers, customers, employees — even your competitors — to join.

Call or write the Illinois Civil Justice League (200 West Adams Street, Chicago, 60606; 312-263-0817) if you wish to have information about the League sent to prospective members.

Only by making tort liability reform a major issue in the Legislative chambers in Springfield will we realize the reforms we are seeking, and only if we have a broad base of support will we be able to get Illinois Legislators to listen.



ICJL Members Relate Liability Horror Stories

Illinois businesses and individuals are not reluctant to talk about their tort liability "horror stories." Representatives of dozens of large and small Illinois businesses, schools, physicians and individuals have responded to the ICJL's request for information concerning liability problems.

Here, in condensed form, are two of those stories. (Company and individual names are not included).

* A Western Illinois Engineering Firm. "In 1964, this office designed and supervised the construction of a 4,000 acre recreational facility consisting of a 1,500 acre lake, water and sewage facilities, access roads, graded area for a swimming beach (but the facilities were not constructed) and other usual amenities. The work was completed four years later and finished in 1968.

"Approximately 20 years after design, in or about 1984, we were notified that a trespasser had dived into the lake, at a point never definitely identified, and broke his neck. He became a paraplegic.

"We were sued for \$15,000,000 on the grounds that we left the lake bed unsafe for diving, did not keep the area posted (the perimeter was approximately 39 miles) and further, did not keep the board of directors advised as to the inherent danger of the lake. (Three of the original board members had passed away during the 20 year period.)

"The case was settled out of court from \$250,000 from our firm, \$250,000 from the contractor who built the dam, and an equal amount from the then existing owner.

"Our insurance company was afraid that if the plaintiff as a paraplegic was wheeled in before a jury, the jury would award greater damages than \$750,000."

A Suburban Chicago-area Machine Tool Distributor. "We have spent more than \$20,000 in legal defense costs over a \$57 clutch part, which a customer ordered from us and which we in turn ordered from the manufacturer. It was shipped direct from the manufacturer to the end user and was installed by the end user. It allegedly broke, causing damage to the operator's fingers. We did not design, manufacture, install, or even see the part. It merely passed through our account books because we were one of the distributors for this manufacturer. A warning plate was on the machine warning operators not to put their hands into the die working area when the machine was running. Almost all of the other product liability suits have been of an equally frivolous nature — but very expensive and very time-consuming."

Out of Court Settlements Don't Come Cheaply

Opponents of tort reform, primarily plaintiffs' attorneys, argue that reform isn't needed because (they claim) fewer than half of the cases that go to trial are won by the plaintiff.

What they don't discuss are the cases that don't go to trial and are settled out of court because the defendant (in many cases) is forced to settle rather than wage a long and costly court fight that he can't afford to fight, win or lose.

The Cook County Jury Verdict Reporter lists the number and amount of settlements. Here are the figures for July, 1993:

CATEGORY	NUMBER	AVERAGE
Auto Collisions	29	\$ 434,970
Pedestrians	17	\$ 492,412
Work Injuries	55	\$ 978,040
Invitees (hotels, public, transit, etc.)	35	\$ 236,171
Street Hazards	8	\$ 138,438
Product Liability	35	\$1,766,814
Medical Malpractice	123	\$1,021,102