

# Division Director's Message

from Virginia Sulzberger, IEEE Division VII director



**T**hank you to the Power Engineering Society for its support and confidence in me to serve as Division VII director on the IEEE Board of Directors during 2002 and 2003.

As Division VII director-elect, I attended the November 2001 meetings of the IEEE Technical Activities Board (TAB) and the IEEE Board of Directors (BOD) as an observer. These meetings provided useful insights into serving you and the rest of the IEEE community through 2003. I especially want to thank Don Russell, the outgoing Division VII director, for his guidance and assistance at the November meetings. Don, as expected, was an effective contributor at both the TAB and BOD meetings. I also wish to thank Bob Dent, the immediate past-chair of TAB, for his advice and counsel.

At the Mexico City series of IEEE Board and related meetings, I learned that the IEEE has a very complex organizational structure, even more so than I envisioned. I plan to understand and master this structure over the next few weeks to be an effective board representative.

The first official activities of my term are the 12-17 February 2002 series of meetings, which culminates in the IEEE Board of Directors meeting on 17 February. This meeting will be my first Board meeting as a Division VII Director, the results of which will be included in a followup report. Therefore, please read the remainder of this report in the context of it being a mid-January status report.

One thing that was stressed during my orientation in Mexico City in November is that, as a board member, I am accountable to the IEEE members as a whole, not just the members who elected me. However, I am grateful to the PES membership for its confidence in electing me, and I will certainly strive to benefit all members, including PES. I look forward to your suggestions for the benefit of IEEE.

As Division VII director, I am also a voting member, not only of the IEEE Board but also of the Technical Activities Board. On TAB, I'll be serving alongside John Estey, the new PES president. Hopefully, John and I will be an effective team in continuing to improve IEEE services and operations for the benefit of all members.

Some PES-related items, among others, approved at the November 2001 TAB meeting included:

- Selection of candidates (Benjamin Wah and Ralph Wyndrum) for the slate of the 2003 TAB vice president-elect
- Reductions in the TAB budget through reductions in a number of TAB Committee memberships
- Request to the IEEE Executive Committee and IEEE Finance Committee to create a balanced budget for 2002 that does not rely on reserves for operations
- Combining *IEEE Power Engineering Review* and *IEEE Computer Applications in Power* magazines into one publication, beginning 2003
- Revisions to the IEEE PES Award for Excellence in Power Distribution Engineering, effective 2001
- Establishment of the IEEE PES Cyril Veinott Electromechanical Energy Conversion Award, effective 2001
- Formation of an IEEE Neural Networks Society and an IEEE Nanotechnology Council.

Other TAB actions are summarized in the *Society Sentinel*, dated 28 November 2001, vol. 6, no. 22.

Key items of possible interest to PES that were acted upon by the Board in November 2001 included:

- Agreement to appoint an ad hoc committee to move forward with the development of a Request for Proposal for consultant companies to review the overall

costs of the IEEE with an eye toward reducing infrastructure and duplicative services

- Approval of a number of IEEE By-law changes related, among others, to a member's voting limitation, minimum quorum requirements for all organizational units, revisions allowing for special meetings of the Executive Committee, and the elimination of several committees
- Request to the 2002 IEEE president to appoint an advisory group to review the Presidential Blue Ribbon Committee Report and recommend an implementation plan for consideration by the BOD, and to facilitate the BOD's evaluation of possible improvements to the governance of the organization
- Approval of the 2002 Capital Budget and the approval of the 2002 Operating Budget as an interim budget to cover the period through February 2002 (A final version of the Operating Budget is to be presented to the BOD for approval in February 2002 based on a number of outlined principles.).

Clearly, the financial well-being of the IEEE is a critical issue to be addressed by the BOD in the near term. As a board member, I will make every effort to assist in maintaining the financial integrity of the IEEE.

I plan to periodically report to you on the state of the IEEE over the next 2 years. These reports will be based on the issues before the IEEE Board and its subsequent actions. Meetings of the Board in 2002 are scheduled for 12-17 February in Phoenix, Arizona, USA; 18-23 June in Toronto, Ontario, Canada; and 12-17 November in Chicago.

As indicated in my platform, I will work on the IEEE Board of Directors to make the IEEE work better for you.