History of the Northern Virginia Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers on the Occasion of its Decennium: 1977 to 1987
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Northern Virginia Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers wishes to thank the following for the assistance they provided in preparing this history:

Vernon E. Gardner for compiling the history

William P. LaPlant, Jr. James F. Strother Malcolm R. Uffelman for editing and publishing the history

History of the
Northern Virginia Section
of the
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
on the Occasion of its
Decennium: 1977 to 1987

The Northern Virginia Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers takes pleasure in reporting its ten-year history as a chronological series of events. The history is organized into the following four periods:

I. Events Leading to the Formation of the Northern Virginia Section of the IEEE: October 1, 1972 through December 31, 1976.

II. The Formative Years: January 1, 1977 through December 31, 1979.

III. The Growth Years: January 1, 1980 through December 31, 1983.


Summary of Elected Officers: A compilation of all elected officers of the Northern Virginia Subsection and Section is contained at the conclusion of this history.

I. Events Leading to the Formation of the Northern Virginia Section of the IEEE:

October 1, 1972: Orest A. Meykar initiated a petition to form the Northern Virginia Subsection and with the assistance of Dr. Jenny Bramley soon obtained the required number of signatures.

November 13, 1972: The Administrative Committee (AdCom) meeting of the Washington Section with Forrest G. Hogg, Chairman, presiding. The minutes state that "The petition to form a Northern Virginia Subsection was presented, approved and forwarded to the National Headquarters, IEEE."

December 11, 1972: AdCom meeting of the Washington Section with Stuart H. Bouche, Vice Chairman, presiding. The minutes report that Dr. Thomas F. Curry was appointed Interim Chairman of the Northern Virginia Subsection although the Subsection had not yet been approved by IEEE Headquarters. This approval followed a short time later.

May 14, 1973: AdCom meeting of the Washington Section with Forrest G. Hogg, Chairman, presiding. The minutes state that "It was moved and approved that a $300.00 budget be allocated for the use of the Northern Virginia Subsection through the end of the fiscal year."

June 19, 1973: Organizational meeting of the Northern Virginia Subsection at Computer Sciences Corp., 6565 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia, with Forrest G. Hogg presiding. Dr. Thomas F. Curry was elected Chairman and L. Douglas Ballard was elected Vice Chairman. Mr. Vernon E. Gardner was asked to prepare Bylaws for the Subsection.
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September 12, 1973: The first regular general meeting of the Northern Virginia Subsection was held at Tysons Corner, McLean, Virginia, with Edward F. Mitchell, Engineering Vice President of Poto- mac Electric Power Company, speaking on “Environment versus Energy.”

February 19, 1974: At a general meeting of the Northern Virginia Subsection the members unanimously approved the Subsection Bylaws.


September 21, 1974: The Subsection had a tour of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory near Green Bank, West Virginia. (On October 16, 1982, the tour was repeated, this time joint with the West Virginia Section.)

December 4, 1974: L. Douglas Ballard, Chairman of the Subsection, established an Ad Hoc Committee to study the feasibility of transitioning the Subsection to full Section status. The Committee reported favorably and proceeded to obtain the required number of signatures on a petition.

June 2, 1975: AdCom meeting of the Washington Section. There follows a quotation from the June/August 1975 issue of the Washington Bulletin: “By majority votes by both the AdCom and the Execu- tive Committee (ExCom) of the Washington Section (on June 2, 1975), the request of the Northern Virginia Subsection for full Section status was denied. It was the general consensus that the Subsection would fare better both administratively and financially in its present status.” Notwithstanding the above, the Northern Virginia Subsection submitted its request to the Regional Activities Board.

December, 1976: The following was reported in the December 1976 issue of the Washington Bulletin: “The Regional Activities Board of the IEEE approved, subject to certain conditions, the Northern Virginia Subsection’s petition to become a full Section. The conditions to be met were written agreements between the Sections on several items including financial operations, student affairs, operation of technical chapters and societies, operation of a joint local office and publication of a joint monthly bulletin.”

The memorandum of understanding between the two Sections that followed called for the following:

1. The division of expenses for the Washington Section Office. (Northern Virginia subsequently withdrew from this agreement effective March 1, 1978.)

2. Financial arrangements for a bulletin, serving both Sections. (See February, 1978 below.)

3. The Washington Section to provide the Northern Virginia Section with $6,500 as the latter’s share of the reserve fund. This was accomplished in January of 1977.

November 15, 1976: At a special meeting of the Washington Section ExCom, Alvin Reiner, Chairman, presiding, it was decided to petition the Regional Activities Board for the formation of a Council encompassing the Washington Section and the proposed Northern Virginia Section.

II. The Formative Years.

January 1, 1977: The IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB) approved the establishment of the Northern Virginia Section and of the National Capital Area Council.

February 9, 1977: William W. Middleton, the immediate past Region 2 Director, was present at a general Section meeting and presented Dr. Billy D. Davis, Chairman, with the certificate of formation of the Section.

The proposed Bylaws for the Northern Virginia Section, as prepared by James F. Strother, and V. E. Gardner, were unanimously adopted at the general meeting.

July 1, 1977: The National Capital Area Council was formally constituted. The publication of “The National Capital Area Council Bulletin” began with the July/August 1977 issue.

October 3 - 5, 1977: Northern Virginia lost little time in initiating action to sponsor a symposium. Mainly through the efforts of Dr. Joseph F. Martino, the Northern Virginia Section became one of the sponsors of the First Annual Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care held on October 3 - 5, 1977. This sponsorship has continued during the years that followed.

1977: The greatest obstacle to overcome by the new Section during 1977 was the matter of finances. The Section’s share of the Washington Section reserve fund, $6,500, was received. However, no rebate money was received in 1977.

The IEEE guidelines concerning the upgrading of a Subsection to a Section were not at that time very clear as to when the rebates to the new Section would begin. The “IEEE Rebate Schedule” applicable at that time included the following limited statements.

"Basic Allowance: $200.00 for each Section established as of December 31. Section Member Rebate: $1.50 for each member (all grades) and Affiliates.”

No mention was made regarding the upgrade of Subsections to Sections. It had been assumed by the Northern Virginia Section officers that when a new Section was formed by a split portion of an existing Section, a pro rata portion of the existing Section’s rebate would automatically be allocated to the new Section. The 1976 records were used by IEEE Headquarters to determine the rebate which was paid in 1977. The Northern Virginia Section had no record by this definition and thus did not receive a rebate in its first year of operation.

It is of interest to note that the 1980 Section Rebate Schedule” had the following expanded information:

"Basic Allowance: $200.00 for each section established as of December 31.

"New Section Establishment:
"For new Sections established after December 31 of the prior year, an annual rebate shall be allowed, prorated based on the number of days from the date of establishment until December 31 of the current year.

"Upgrading Subsections to Sections:
"Sections formed after December 31 of the prior year from Subsections, the current year rebate for the new Section shall be based upon terms of a written agree-
ment between the officers of the parent Section and the new Section, consistent with the preceding policy and in consultation with the Regional Director and IEEE Headquarters. Such agreement shall be concluded prior to establishment of the new Section."

Hopefully, future newly-formed Sections will experience an easier birth.

Beginning in 1977, the Northern Virginia Section and the Washington Section have sponsored a joint Awards Banquet each spring to honor the newly-elected Fellows and others deserving recognition.

February, 1978: In the February 1978, issue of the Washington Bulletin there appeared the statement:

"Commencing with this issue of the Bulletin, only those members who belong to the Washington Section, and those members of either the Washington Section or Northern Virginia Section who belong to Chapters/Societies will continue to receive this Bulletin."

The above restriction meant that immediate action was required to service those Northern Virginia Section members who did not belong to Group/Society Chapters. Dr. Beverly Bowen Moeller came to the rescue. On learning of our plight, she joined the IEEE as a Member, arranged with E-Systems, Melpar Division, for printing a monthly bulletin, scheduled addressing and sorting "parties" at her residence and delivered the packages to the Postal Facility in Merrifield, Virginia.

April, 1978: The first issue of the Northern Virginia Bulletin appeared in April 1978 and the publication continued through the June-July-August 1983 issue. After about two years of E-Systems' invaluable help, the Section was financially able to arrange for bulletin printing to be done by Associations International, Inc., McLean, Virginia. Relations with the Postal Facility in Merrifield, Virginia, proved to be so favorable that a letter of appreciation was sent to the facility on May 10, 1979. An appropriate letter of appreciation was also sent to E-Systems, Melpar Division, on June 12, 1979.


September 13, 1978: Virginia State Senator Clive L. DuVal, 2nd, addressed the Section at Tyson's Corner, McLean, Virginia, on the subject of "Risks of Nuclear Plants in Virginia."

May 19, 1979: The Tellers checked and rechecked only to confirm that there had been a tie vote (our only tie vote ever) for the office of Vice Chairman. Dr. Bernhard E. Keiser and Dr. E. D. Oran Brigham had run a dead heat! Dr. Brigham, however, had recently been promoted at E-Systems, Melpar Division and generously deferred to Dr. Keiser.

III. The Growth Years:

1980-82: During this period the Northern Virginia Section organized several Chapters and assumed responsibility as their managing entity. These Chapters are discussed below:

- On April 3, 1980 the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing Society was established with Dr. Ronald E. Higginbotham as the Interim Chairman. Donald J. Marsh spoke at the first meeting on April 17, 1980, on the subject, "Integrated Services Digital Networks."

- On September 29, 1980 the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Control Systems Society was established with Vernon E. Gardner as the Interim Chairman. The first general meeting took place on March 11, 1981 in the form of a tour of the Defense Communications Agency Facility in Reston, Virginia. In the early days of this Chapter substantial support was provided by Dr. Stephen Kahne, President of the Control Systems Society and at that time with the National Science Foundation, Major General John H. Jacobsmeier, Jr., and Spyros A. Varchanas.

- On June 18, 1981 the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Computer Society was established with Wayne B. Bloomquist as the Interim Chairman. The first meeting was a joint effort with the Washington Chapter of the Computer Society on February 17, 1982. At this meeting Marve Gordon spoke on "Policy Implementation Impacting Computer Systems Usage in the Department of Transportation."

- On May 8, 1982 the Northern Virginia/Baltimore/Washington Chapter of the Society on Social Implications of Technology was established with the Northern Virginia Section as the managing entity and Susan A. Thomas as the Interim Chairman. This was the first Chapter established in this Society. The Chapter was preceded by a Working Group which had been active while Social Implications of Technology was still in the Committee stage. Rosemary Chalk had addressed the group in Washington, D.C., October 29, 1980 on the subject, "Ethical Dilemmas in Modern Engineering" and Dr. Joseph Patton had addressed a joint Committee/Northern Virginia Section meeting in Falls Church, Virginia, on November 16, 1981 on the subject, "The Electronic Future and Us."

- In 1983 an IEEE Student Branch at the George Mason University was established within the Northern Virginia Section area with Prof. W. Murray Black as the organizer and Faculty Advisor. On September 8, 1982 the new Student Branch and the Northern Virginia Section held a joint meeting on the University campus.

Action was initiated late in 1981 by Chairman Richard J. Backe of the Washington Section and Chairman Charles R. Ammerman of the Northern Virginia Section to officially make these Chapters joint. Following Dr. Ammerman's death, his successor, John J. Kelleher, continued this effort with Chairman Backe and in early 1982 after many drafts a joint Washington/Northern Virginia proposal was submitted to IEEE Headquarters.
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Word was received from IEEE Headquarters on July 22, 1982, that eighteen Society Presidents had agreed to the proposed Joint Chapters. Two more Society Presidents agreed a short time later. An adjusted payment of $1,746 was received on August 3, 1982, to cover the Northern Virginia Chapter members previously omitted from the 1980/1981 and the 1981/1982 rebates' calculations.

February, 1981: Dr. Beverley Bowen Moeller was succeeded as the editor of the Northern Virginia Bulletin by Charles DeVore, a member of the Advisory Board of the magazine Signal. Mr. DeVore served for the remaining two and half year life of the Bulletin and then served a year as the editor of its successor publication, the Joint Sections Bulletin.

December 2, 1981: Chairman Charles R. Ammerman, presiding at his last Northern Virginia AdCom meeting, stated that the Washington Section would like to reopen the subject of an area council. It was agreed that the Northern Virginia Section would advise the Washington Section of interest in studying the possibility.

January 2, 1982: The Section was shocked by the sudden death of its Chairman, Dr. Charles R. Ammerman, in mid-term. Vice Chairman John J. Kelleher served as the Acting Chairman for the remainder of the term after which he served as the elected Chairman for a full term.

January 8, 1982: Dr. Jenny Bramley, Dr. Arvid G. Larson and Hardy Svenson volunteered to work with the Washington Section members, Milton M. Baltas, Thomas W. Doeppner and Dr. Gideon Kantor, to study the possibility of an area council.

March 12, 1982: The Washington/Northern Virginia annual awards banquet was held at the Patton Hall Officers Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. It was the first time in many years that this banquet had been held in Virginia. Special recognition must be given to William E. Peugh who served for many years as either the Chairman or Co-Chairman of these impressive events. Likewise, special recognition must be given to Ralph L. Cole who served for many years as the Co-Chairman of the Joint Washington/Northern Virginia Awards Committee which was responsible for nomination of many of those to be honored at these events.

March 30, 1982: The Northern Virginia Section received word that it was among the ten largest Sections in the six Regions encompassed by the United States.

November 3, 1982: As is the case for most Sections, by far the largest Section expense was that of preparation and mailing of a Section bulletin. To alleviate this condition, the Northern Virginia Section AdCom appointed Robert Lane, Charles DeVore, Harold R. Richman, Neal Ishman and John J. Kelleher to serve as an ad hoc "Balance the Budget" Committee. A corresponding committee was established by the Washington Section. The ad hoc committees were chaired by the Treasurers of the respective sections, Tom Doeppner for Washington and Robert Lane for Northern Virginia. The committees were charged with studying expenses; cost sharing; advertising and editorial policies; and the selection of a printing firm.

April 6, 1983: A proposed memorandum of agreement concerning the publication of a joint Sections Bulletin was developed as a result of the deliberations of the two ad hoc committees. Area printing firms were contacted and several proposals were received. Associates International, Inc. was selected from the nine printing firms responding.

May 11, 1983: The Northern Virginia Section became a member of the Washington Academy of Sciences. Much credit for this event is due to Northern Virginia's member, Ralph L. Cole.

June, 1983: The AdComs of the two Sections ratified the memorandum of agreement regarding the publication of a joint Sections Bulletin. Melvin N. Abramovich was appointed the first editor of the new joint publication, replacing the two bulletins, "The Washington Section Bulletin" and "The Northern Virginia Section Bulletin." He served until his death in March, 1984, when Charles DeVore was appointed to the position. A name was sought for the new publication. Vernon E. Gardner suggested the selected name, "The Washington/Northern Virginia SCANNER."

June 14, 1983: A joint meeting of the Northern Virginia Section and the Chapter on Social Implications of Technology was held in McLean, Virginia, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Subsection. Hans C. Cherney, a candidate for the office of IEEE President-elect, addressed the group. At a brief business meeting prior to the address, the members voted unanimously to increase the number of directors from six to eight. A Bylaw change considered advisable because of the great increase in size of the Section since its organization.

July, 1983: A joint ad hoc committee was established for the administration of the combined bulletin for the Washington and Northern Virginia Sections. It was chaired during the initial year by Morgan Roderick of the Northern Virginia Section, with the responsibility for appointment to be rotated between the Sections each year. In the first year of operation, publication costs were reduced by 50% when compared to those of the earlier publications.

September, 1983: The first issue of The Washington/Northern Virginia SCANNER was published.
IV. The Years of Maturity and Further Growth:

1984. The IEEE Centennial Year: Nineteen hundred and eighty-four Centennial Medals were awarded. The recipients were honored for extraordinary achievement deserving of special recognition by the IEEE. The following recipients were nominated by the Northern Virginia Section:

- Jenny Bramley
- Thomas F. Curry
- Charles deVore
- Vernon E. Gardner
- Forrest G. Hogg
- Neal H. Ishman
- Bernhard E. Keiser
- Arvid G. Larson
- Beverley B. Moeller
- Orest A. Meykar
- Harold R. Richman
- Hardy Svenson

The following members of the Northern Virginia Section were also recipients based on nominations by Societies, Boards and other IEEE Sections and entities:

- Walter L. Anderson
- Marc T. Apter
- Hans Chemey
- D.C. Cook
- Ralph L. Cole
- Russell C. Drew
- William C. Dean
- Anthony Eiler
- Charles W. Flint
- Arthur Goldsmith
- James S. Hill
- Grace M. Hopper
- John J. Kelleher
- David C. Lewis
- V. A. Moore, Jr.
- Raymond L. Pickholz
- Alan O. Plait
- Oscar Reed, Jr.
- James F. Strother
- William C. von Alven

During the year the Section won the growth award for Region 2 as did the Student Branch at George Mason University.

October 15, 1984: We were shocked at the death of Charles deVore, Editor at the Washington/Northern Virginia SCANNER.

February 20, 1986: The National Capital Area Council Bylaws were approved by the Regional Activities Board.

July 1, 1986: The National Capital Area Council was formed. On this date the following assumed office:

Chairman: Thomas W. Doeppner
Vice Chairman: John J. Kelleher
Treasurer: James C. Arnold, Jr.
Secretary: Hardy C. Svenson
Chairman, Publications Committee: Morgan D. Roderick

Participation in the IEEE: This history covers only those activities of its members sponsored by or in support of the National Capital Section. However, many members have been involved in various other IEEE organizations and have held numerous elected and appointed offices throughout the IEEE.

The Section is pleased to have Dr. Russell C. Drew, 1987 IEEE President-elect, as a member.

Acknowledgements: During the early years the Northern Virginia Subsection and Section had the good fortune to enjoy the use of meeting room facilities provided by four area companies: Computer Sciences Corporation; E-Systems, Melpar Division; Planning Research Corporation; and the General Research Corporation, Subsidiary of Flow General, Inc.; and the following Fairfax County Public Libraries: the Fairfax City Regional Library, the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library and the Thomas Jefferson Community Library.

The Northern Virginia Section is indebted to these companies and libraries for their support over the years.

The Northern Virginia Section expresses its appreciation to the following officers who kindly allowed the AdCom, ExCom and special meetings to be held in their residences:

- L. Douglas Ballard
- Dr. Jenny Bramley
- Dr. Beverly B. Moeller
- Dr. Leonard M. Schwab

The Northern Virginia Section has no official repository for its certificates, honors, and awards recognizing the outstanding activities and growth of the Section and it's various Chapters. John J. Kelleher serves as the Section's unofficial archivist for the purpose of retaining this and related material.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to list the many unsung members in the Section who have contributed so greatly to the benefit the membership of the Northern Virginia Section.

January 1, 1987: With a membership of over 5,300, the Northern Virginia Section of the IEEE embarks on its second decennium with great optimism!
### Past Elected Officers Of The Northern Virginia Section & Subsection - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Beginning On:</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Vice Chairman</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Executive Committee: (Two-Year Term)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1974</td>
<td>L. Douglas Ballard</td>
<td>Leonard M. Schwab</td>
<td>Harold E. Logsdon</td>
<td>Billy D. Davis</td>
<td>Joseph F. Martin, Vernon E. Gardner and Thomas F. Curry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1976 Subsection Ends — December 31, 1976</td>
<td>Billy D. Davis</td>
<td>Jenny Bramley</td>
<td>Vernon E. Gardner appointed to replace Jenny Bramley</td>
<td>Joseph F. Martin appointed to replace Vernon E. Gardner</td>
<td>Charles D. Ammerman, Berhard E. Keiser and James F. Strother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1977</td>
<td>Jenny Bramley</td>
<td>Vernon E. Gardner</td>
<td>Richard J. Boyd appointed to replace Joseph F. Martin</td>
<td>E. Oran Brigham appointed to replace Richard J. Boyd</td>
<td>Robert B. Moeller, Jr., Ralph I. Cole and John J. Kelleher</td>
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### Past Elected Officers Of The Northern Virginia Section, Beginning July 1, 1979 — Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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<tr>
<th>Term Beginning On:</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Vice Chairman</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Directors: (Two-Year Term)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1980</td>
<td>Bernhard E. Keiser</td>
<td>Charles R. Ammerman</td>
<td>Raymond F. Irby</td>
<td>Hardy C. Svenson</td>
<td>Beverly B. Moeller, John D.S. Muhlenberg and Harold Richman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 1982</td>
<td>John J. Kelleher</td>
<td>Neal H. Ishman</td>
<td>Wayne B. Bloomquist</td>
<td>Robert A. C. Lane</td>
<td>Marc T. Apter, Wm G. Duff and Randall V. Greissing and Morgan D. Roderick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Northern Virginia Section Territory

- Arlington County
- Falls Church
- Alexandria
- Fairfax County
- Loudoun County
- Prince William County
- Clark County
- Frederick County