IEEE CoNNectioNS

The Newsletter of the IEEE Neural Networks Society

"I can learn on my own. I don't need your help anymore."

Asim Roy

Andrez Perez Uribe, 1998

President-Elect's Message

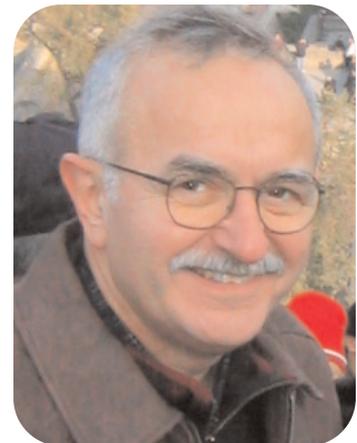**Jacek M. Zurada**
University of Louisville

Call for Volunteers

As the IEEE Neural Networks Society becomes an independent technical community and establishes its membership base, it also begins to fulfill the vision of its founders. The founders have envisaged for the Society to offer a home to a community of engineers, scientists, and other professionals working or studying in the field of computational intelligence. This field encompasses quickly maturing technologies of neural networks, fuzzy systems, evolutionary computations, and other biologically and linguistically motivated computational paradigms. As a part of this mission and scope, the Society is also promoting activities in emerging fields such as data mining, bio-informatics, computational neuroscience and other related areas.

The NNS offers to its members a broad range of technical activities. It publishes three Transactions and this Newsletter, organizes three Conferences and when need arises, it offers specialized symposia and workshops. It also supports educational opportunities through its multimedia tutorial program, and student travel grant and summer research programs. Other activities include sponsorship of the Distinguished Lecturer Program, Technical Field Awards, Best Paper Awards, Pioneer Awards, and Meritorious Service Award. The Society's newest project offers special opportunities for women in computational intelligence. All our members are invited to take full advantage of these attractive opportunities.

Yet, in order to sustain and, preferably, broaden its activities, the Society needs the involvement of its members. I have the pleasure of inviting NNS members to become active as volunteers. The Society

NNS

IEEE

President-Elect's Message (cont.)

encourages its members to participate in its technical committees. Technical committees are the grass root forum for exchange of valuable technical information, dissemination of ideas and initiation of new topical trends. It is at the level of technical committees where special sessions of conferences, innovative topics of new workshops and seminars, or special issues of our journals are incubated. Our existing technical committees would benefit from new members and new initiatives. Moreover, NNS encourages its members to build strengths in related emerging technical areas and lead efforts towards the creation of new technical committees.

New activities can also be undertaken within local territorial entities of our Society called chapters. All our members need to do to become involved is to contact the existing Chapter Chair. If no chapter has yet been founded in your area, you may choose to assist the Society, branch out, collect 12 signatures of other NNS members and contact our V-P for Membership to make a new Chapter a reality.

Apart from encouraging of its members to get involved in technical activities within the technical and other committees or in chapters, the Society needs new elected volunteers to run its business. As is the case of other IEEE entities, the Neural Networks Society also elects its governing body called Administrative Committee (ADCOM). This year's election to the ADCOM, the first in its history, will be held in September. I strongly encourage you to vote in the elections. The ballot will include names of candidates put forward by the Nomination Committee. However, your name can also be added to the voting ballot after a petition with 15 supporting signatures of NNS members is submitted to the President by August 1 this year.

As you can see, the Society offers all its members a great chance of becoming involved, active and participating at the technical level or in our self-governance. We need your support, time and talent. I strongly hope you will respond to this call in order to advance the field and to benefit our Society and the society as a whole. For more information, please check our website at www.ieee-nns.org or contact knowledgeable officers or committee/chapter chairs.

Editor's Remarks

Gary G. Yen
Oklahoma State University

Welcome back to your second issue of Neural Networks Society Newsletter, IEEE coNNectionS. The response to the first issue has been overwhelmingly positive. I want to personally thank everyone who emails me his/her support, encouragement and, more importantly, suggestions for further improvement in specific areas.

This issue features a vision of our veteran researcher, Asim Roy, in making neural network an autonomous learning machine. In follow up with feature article from the previous issue, Carlos A. Coello Coello outlines the history and future plans for the EMOO repository. In bridging the gap between the society officers and its members, the "call for volunteers" by President-Elect and "technically speaking" by Vice President-Technical Activities along with several committee reports present an opportunity to share their dreams and plans. I would like to close my few remarks soliciting your active contribution to this Newsletter by providing successful stories of real-world computational intelligence applications, promoting emerging research disciplines within the scope of society, getting involved in book reviews of interest to our members, and by sending me your feedback and comment through email (gyen@okstate.edu).