U.S. National Committee of the International Electrotechnical Commission

A Snapshot of 2011 Activities and Accomplishments

From broad public outreach to program-specific workshops and resources, USNC constituents have worked to promote awareness of and drive participation in electrotechnical standards and compliance activities.

The USNC Council established the office of 3rd USNC Vice President – Membership Development and Recruitment. Kevin J. Lippert, Manager, Codes and Standards, Eaton Corporation, was elected to the position. His goals are to expand USNC membership, particularly to under-represented segments of the electrotechnical constituency, and to grow membership on USNC Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs).

The 5th USNC TAG Leadership Workshop was held at the headquarters of the Consumer Electronic Association in Arlington, VA, on September 13, 2011. Approximately 45 TAG Leaders took part in a program designed to share good practices and answer questions on administering TAGs.

The USNC Council established a Distinguished Service Award to recognize individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to voluntary standards and conformity assessment and have enabled the USNC/IEC to attain its objectives. It is anticipated that the first awards will be presented in 2012.

The Forum of the IEC National Committees of the Americas (FINCA) held its plenary meeting in Mexico City in September 2011. The USNC, as a founding member, welcomed the IEC National Committee of Colombia to FINCA, bringing FINCA’s membership to seven countries, all Full Members of IEC: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States. Tony Zertuche gave a presentation on the USNC to representatives from Mexican industry, research and development centers, and universities participating in the Mexican Young Professionals Program.

The USNC was well represented at the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT) annual assembly in Santiago, Chile, May 11–13, 2011. IEC General Secretary Aharon Amit and IEC Vice President and Standardization Management Board (SMB) Chair James E. Matthews, III, attended and gave presentations.

The USNC continues to hold leadership roles in IEC technical work. Currently, the USNC serves as International Secretariat for 19 IEC Technical Committees (TCs) and 11 Subcommittees (SCs). In addition, 19 TC and 10 SC Chairmen are from the U.S. The USNC currently holds Participating Membership in 89 TCs and 71 SCs; the USNC is a Non-Member of only 16 total TCs and SCs. The IEC SMB established 3 new standards committees this year: IEC/TC 117, Solar Thermal Electric Plants; IEC/PC 118, Smart Grid User Interface (1st IEC Project Committee); and IEC/TC 119, Printed Electronics.

It gives the USNC great pleasure to recognize the USNC recipients of ANSI Awards for 2011, presented at the ANSI Awards Banquet on October 12 in Washington, DC. The USNC congratulates:

- John Abbott, Ph.D., Phillips Healthcare, Meritorious Service Award
- Jean Baronas, Sony Electronics, Meritorious Service Award
- Tony Zertuche, Underwriters Laboratories, Meritorious Service Award
- Richard DeBlasio, NREL, Finegan Standards Medal
- Mary Johnson, USNC/IEC Voting Coordinator
- Debra Negron, USNC/IEC Meetings Coordinator
- Elizabeth Pomales, USNC/IEC Expert Appointments Coordinator
- American National Standards Institute

The USNC congratulates: Jean Baronas, IEC TC 100, Sony Electronics
Donald Barta, IEC TC 55, Rea Magnet Wire
Christine Blair, IEC TC 47, STMicroelectronics
Steven A. Brown, IEC TC 66, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Jim R. Conrad, IEC TC 62, Conrad EMC Cons.
Chris Diorio, ISO/IEC JTC 1, Impini
Bob Griffin, IEC TC 108, IBM
David Hess, IEC TC 46, Nexans

Finally, the USNC has issued three of the four installments of its quarterly newsletter, News and Notes. We are always looking for contributions to this popular periodical, distributed to over 2,300 of our constituents. The fourth 2011 issue will focus on “Standards of Value to Government.” The themes for next year will be:

- Q1: Medical Devices;
- Q2: Explosive Atmospheres;
- Q3: System Standardization – Networking that Works;
- Q4: Focus on China/India