



TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE



February 6, 2008

Dear Committee Members and Guests:

You and your spouse or companion are cordially invited to attend the Spring 2008 Meeting of the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee to be held **March 16-20, 2008** in Charlotte, North Carolina. It is my pleasure, and the pleasure Shaw Energy Delivery Services to be your host for this meeting.

The location for all our meetings is **The Charlotte Westin Hotel**, 601 South College Street, situated at the southern edge of Charlotte's beautiful uptown area. The Westin Charlotte is just a short trolley-ride away from wonderful choices for dining and entertainment, both in the uptown area (financial district) and in the South End district away from uptown. The group rate for traditional guest rooms is US\$159 (single and double occupancy). Guest rooms are reserved under the group name "IEEE Transformers" and can be reserved at (704) 375-2600, or toll-free from the US and Canada at 1-866-837-4148. A link to the Westin on-line reservation system is included in the Committee's website (see "Next Meeting" page). The room-block cut-off date is February 22. After that date, remaining rooms will be released to the public.

Those of you arriving by air will be landing at Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (airport code "CLT"), which is the major hub for US Air. A "Queens Transportation" shuttle bus to downtown Charlotte will cost you \$23, or the taxi fare is \$22. The taxi is recommended as it will take you directly to your hotel (the shuttle follows a route covering downtown hotels as needed, with The Westin being the last stop).

For those driving in, or renting a car, the hotel offers self-parking for \$16 per day, or \$22 per day for valet service. Charlotte and surrounding areas offer a unique blend of old fashioned southern charm and modern vistas to tease the eye. While the uptown district of Charlotte has been literally reborn over the past several decades, the surrounding residential and commercial areas remain largely untouched by the passing of time. Charlotte is a city of trees, with many beautiful neighborhoods with tree branches completely arching the street. The ambiance of these areas of Charlotte has been carefully preserved over the years, while the homes have grown more beautiful over time. For more information, you may want to visit website www.visitcharlotte.com.

The weather in Charlotte can be somewhat unpredictable during March (our greatest accumulation of snow tends to be during March). Daily temperatures range from an average high of 64°F (18°C), to nightly lows of 42°F (6°C). I suggest you pack for pleasant weather, but don't forget to include a warm coat for evenings. March also tends to be one of our wettest months in Charlotte, so plan for possibility of rain.

ON-LINE REGISTRATION

We have intentionally planned a busy schedule of opportunities, to allow you to maximize your experience in Charlotte. Use the on-line registration system to register for all tours and events. The on-line registration system can be accessed at www.transformerscommittee.org. Register by Friday, February 22 to receive the US\$50 early registration discount. The on-line registration system will be disabled on Wednesday, March 12 to print name badges and to finalize counts. Note that the cost for walk-up registration for the meetings at the hotel is substantially higher than for registering on-line in advance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, March 16 - The Biltmore House is the largest home in America. Completed in 1895 as the home of George Vanderbilt, this house is one of the most visited sites in all of the southeastern United States. At one time, the estate upon which the 250-room estate sits was comprised of 228 square miles of beautiful North Carolina mountain terrain. Surrounding the mansion are beautiful flower gardens and the vineyards beyond. The visit to the Biltmore house will include an optional visit to the nearby winery.

Sunday Evening Reception - We will gather in the Grand Ballroom of The Westin at 6:00 pm on Sunday for a few words of welcome from Jim Hicks, President of Shaw Energy Delivery Services, and for quality time of renewing friendships (and forming new ones). Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

Tuesday, March 18 - For the Tuesday Luncheon, Mr. Brew Barron of Duke Energy has agreed to talk to us about the recent resurgence of Nuclear Generation in the energy mix of the United States.

Wednesday, March 19 - On Wednesday evening you will have the opportunity for not only a fine dining experience, but also a unique display of the works of Norman Rockwell of Saturday Evening Post fame, including some three-dimensional representations of his famous sketches/paintings. Don't forget to bring your camera for an opportunity to become a part of his characterizations.

COMPANION TOURS

Monday, March 17 - A tour of the James Buchanan Duke Mansion and of Charlotte Historical Areas will include a group lunch at the mansion.

Tuesday, March 18 - A visit to Charlotte's premier shopping center, SouthPark Mall, will allow an opportunity to do some shopping (or just browsing), after which you will have the opportunity to tour the Mint Museum of Craft & Design. Note the two options for times to return back to The Westin.

Note that Charlotte is the boyhood home of evangelist **Billy Graham** and the site of the recently-constructed **Billy Graham Library**. We were not able to work in a tour of this famous library due to a conflict between the tour schedule and our meetings, but you may want to consider sticking around Thursday afternoon to see it. The library is located off Billy Graham Parkway, near to the Charlotte-Douglas Airport. For more information, see website at www.billygraham.org/library.

TECHNICAL TOURS

ABB in Bland, Virginia and Federal Pacific in Bristol, Virginia will offer a choice of two factory tours on Thursday afternoon. The tours are by invitation only and paper invitations have been mailed directly from these companies. More information is included in the detailed Meeting Schedule.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Along with this Invitation Letter, the following information comprises Meeting Invitation Package. This information can be downloaded from the Committee's website at www.transformerscommittee.org.

1. Meeting Registration Form. This document is primarily used for those who do not have access to the Internet or need to pay by paper check or money order. It also makes a good guide to review the fees before you begin the on-line registration process. On-line registration is encouraged.
2. Detailed Meeting Schedule. An updated schedule will be posted on the committee's website approximately one week before the meeting.
3. Information Flyers:
 - Sunday Biltmore Tour
 - Monday & Tuesday Companion Tours
 - Tuesday Speaker Luncheon
 - Wednesday Evening Dinner Social
 - Technical Presentations

My wife Linda and I are very happy to host these meetings, along with Shaw Energy Delivery Services. We hope your visit will be both enjoyable and memorable. If you need further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (704) 519 5541 or to email me at robert.s.thompson@shawgrp.com.

We look forward to seeing you here in Charlotte in March!

Robert Thompson
Host, Spring 2008 Meeting
Shaw Energy Delivery Services