



TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE



April 13, 2009

Welcome To The Spring 2009 IEEE Transformers Committee Meeting!

Welcome to beautiful Miami, Florida, named the "Magic City" for its diverse culture and ethnicities! The Tequesta Indians originally founded this land more than 10,000 years ago and had it all to themselves until the Spanish "rediscovered" it again in the 16th century. Since then, Miami's rich tropical abundance of sun, sand and beautiful beaches has attracted millions of people. Centrally located in a bustling urban area that is bursting with new developments, residential homes and eye catching attractions, Miami is truly a world-class destination. Rich with history, Miami has 13 different neighborhoods that contain several historical locations and landmarks. Recognized worldwide as an international hub, Miami successfully hosted the 4th annual Latin Grammy Awards, the visit of the Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, the Celebration of the Free Trade of the Americas Conference, and the MTV Music Video Awards.

Take some time and enjoy this warm and colorful city known for its many attractions. See such sights as:

- **Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts**, just 1-1/2 blocks away from the Hilton! During the week of the IEEE meeting, such legends as Jazz musician Sonny Rollins and gospel performers Helen Baylor, The Voices of Antioch, and the Free Gospel Sundays Mass Choir are performing.
- The 18-square block area just north of Downtown Miami known as the **Miami Design District** long ago secured its reputation as a place to shop for high-style furnishings, view art collections, and is Miami-Dade's next culinary hot spot.
- Trek down to famous **South Beach** and enjoy such eateries as Smith & Wolinski's, which is known for their steaks, or famous Joe's Stone Crab. The "Alliance Hospitality Group" (located in the Hilton Motor Lobby) provides inexpensive transportation to South Beach for groups of 7 or more, with an hour or two advance notice.

For those of you wanting to extend your stay or do more **sightseeing**, experience Parrot Jungle (now called Jungle Island), located on the Macarthur Causeway, the southernmost causeway into the South Beach area. You can also enjoy the Miami Seaquarium on Virginia Key, Viscaya Gardens on US1 just south of downtown, or the Fairchild Tropical Gardens along Old Cutler Road just south of Coconut Grove!

There are many fine **restaurants** as well as casual dining that are within walking distance of the hotel. You can choose from a variety of cuisines such as Los Gauchitos II (steakhouse), Primo's (Italian), Tony Chan's Water Club (sushi & Thai), Bin 18 (Bistro wine & beer loft), Salad Creations, Burger King, and Checkers.

Also, make sure to take advantage of the **light rail system**, "Metromover". It's complimentary and a great way to move around Miami. It stops very close to the Hilton. It's a great way to access the Bayside Marketplace and Mary Brickell Village, which are two popular outdoor shopping and dining areas.

Note that **hotel parking** at the Hilton is slightly confusing AND expensive. If you are driving to the hotel and choose to self-park, you will park in the garage and enter the hotel through the Ballroom level (actually the 7th floor) and take the elevator up to the Hotel Lobby. If you use valet parking, you will leave your car at the Motor Lobby (on ground floor) and take the elevator up to the Hotel Lobby. Overnight self parking is \$25 per entry, and valet parking is \$28 per 24-hour period (come-and-go, multiple entry). Daytime self parking (not overnight) is \$15.

On **Sunday**, NASS will be hosting a golf scramble at premier Doral Golf Resort & Spa, a truly world-class golf course. A beverage cart, buffet lunch, and prizes are all part of the fun! Conclude Sunday evening with a Welcome Reception in the Hilton Ballroom, complete with food, drinks, and live music.

Our **Tuesday Speaker Luncheon** features Ms. Chris Dickey, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian, presenting "An Introduction to Robert's Rules of Order". All activity chairs are encouraged to attend (advance registration necessary).

Our **Wednesday Social** aboard the yacht Biscayne Lady will give you an opportunity to see the beautiful sights of South Florida, such as the Miami skyline, South Beach, Star Island, the Port of Miami, Fisher Island, and the mansions of the stars.

Your spouse/companion will enjoy the following tours: On **Monday**, a Miami City Tour and Millionaires Cruise, where they will start with a narrated sightseeing cruise along scenic Biscayne Bay and view such attractions as Brickell Key, Fisher Island, and "Millionaires Row". Next they will embark on a motor coach city tour of modern downtown Miami and the artists' colony of Coconut Grove and the "City Beautiful" Coral Gables. Finally the afternoon will continue with shopping at Bayside marketplace and lunch at La Carreta. On **Tuesday**, shopping at Sawgrass Mills Mall is what's on the agenda. Sawgrass is Florida's largest retail and entertainment center and features over 350 name brand stores and outlets. They will also have the option for a group lunch at Legal Sea Foods, which is located in the Mall.

North American Substation Services extends its thanks to all of you for attending the meeting, and we hope you enjoy your stay. If you have any questions or need anything while you're here, don't hesitate to see any of the NASS staff or myself.

Sincerely,



Mark Roberts
Host, Spring 2009 Meeting
North American Substation Services

