

IEEE
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Rick:

Here's the Code of Ethics story from THE INSTITUTE, March 1990, page 5. (I've enlarged it because the type we used was so small it probably wouldn't reproduce over a fax.)

Don't credit me, but you may wish to do a piece in your next newsletter urging anyone--ESPECIALLY IEEE MEMBERS--to write to Carleton Bayless (IEEE president) about the exclusion of sexual orientation from item 8 of the proposed code.

Presume you saw the EE Times piece from mid-January, proposed by former Spectrum editor Brian Santo who has now moved to that publication.

Keep in touch: (h) 212-734-2757; (w) 212-705-7562. Thanks.



Proposed new Code of Ethics released by ad hoc committee

An *ad hoc* committee charged with simplifying the current version of the IEEE Code of Ethics has drafted a proposed replacement, reprinted below (left) along with the current version (right).

The new version, which the committee submitted to the Board of Directors in November, is now being distributed throughout the IEEE for members' review and comments. Formal discussion and consideration of the Simplified Code of Ethics is scheduled for the Board's August 1990 meeting. Before then, members are urged to read the rewritten code and send their opinions of it, pro or con, to President Carleton A. Bayless, IEEE, 345 E. 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

The new Code is based on a version proposed by 1989 IEEE President Emerson W. Pugh in a President's Column in THE INSTITUTE [April 1989, p. 6] that was modified by members' responses to that column and the *ad hoc* committee's revisions. The committee, chaired by then Vice President-Professional Activities Edward C. Bertnolli, consisted of Robert Alden, William Middleton, William Tackaberry, and Steven Unge

PROPOSED

We, the members of IEEE, in recognition of the importance of our technologies in improving the quality of life throughout the world, and in accepting a personal obligation to our profession, its members and the communities we serve, do hereby commit ourselves to conduct of the highest ethical and professional order.

We further agree and covenant:

1. to make engineering decisions consistent with the safety, health, and welfare of the public, and to disclose promptly factors that might endanger the public;
2. to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest whenever possible, and to disclose them to affected parties when they do exist;
3. to help improve understanding of technology and of its proper use;
4. to maintain and improve our technical competence and to undertake technological tasks for others only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure of pertinent limitations;
5. to be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates based on available data;
6. to seek, accept, and offer honest criticism of technical work, to acknowledge and correct errors, and to credit properly the contributions of others;
7. to neither offer nor accept bribes;
8. to treat fairly all persons regardless of such factors as race, religion, gender, disability, age, or national origin;
9. to never maliciously or falsely attempt to injure the person, property, reputation, or employment of others;
10. to assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development and to support them in following this code of ethics.

PRESENT

Preamble: Engineers, scientists and technologists affect the quality of life for all people in our complex technological society. In the pursuit of their profession, therefore, it is vital that IEEE members conduct their work in an ethical manner so that they merit the confidence of colleagues, employers, clients and the public. This IEEE Code of Ethics represents such a standard of professional conduct for IEEE members in the discharge of their responsibilities to employers, to clients, to the community and to their colleagues in this Institute and other professional societies. In order to protect and enhance the image and reputation of IEEE, its members, and the profession they represent, members must always conduct themselves in a manner reflecting the highest level of ethical conduct, honesty and openness.

Article I: Members shall maintain high standards of diligence, creativity and productivity, and shall: 1. Accept responsibility for their actions; 2. Be honest and realistic in stating claims or estimates from available data; 3. Undertake technological tasks and accept responsibility only if qualified by training or experience, or after full disclosure to their employers or clients of pertinent qualifications; 4. Maintain their professional skills at the level of the state of the art and recognize the importance of current events in their work; 5. Advance the integrity and prestige of the profession by practicing in a dignified manner and for adequate compensation.

Article II: Members shall, in their work: 1. Treat fairly all colleagues and co-workers, regardless of race, religion, sex, age or national origin; 2. Report, publish and disseminate freely information to others, subject to legal and proprietary restraints; 3. Encourage colleagues and co-workers to act in accord with this Code and support them when they do so; 4. Seek, accept and offer honest criticism of work, and properly credit the contribution of others; 5. Support and participate in the activities of their professional societies; 6. Assist colleagues and co-workers in their professional development.

Article III: Members shall, in their relations with employers and clients: 1. Act as faithful agents or trustees for their employers or clients in professional and business matters, provided such actions conform with other parts of this Code; 2. Keep information on the business affairs or technical processes of an employer or client in confidence while employed, and later, until such information is properly released, provided such actions conform with other parts of this Code; 3. Inform their employers, clients, professional societies or public agencies or private agencies of which they are members or to which they may make presentations, of any circumstances that could lead to a conflict of interest; 4. Neither give nor accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, payment or service of more than nominal value to or from those having business relationships with their employers or clients; 5. Assist and advise their employers or clients in anticipating the possible consequences, direct and indirect, immediate or remote, of the projects, work or plans of which they have knowledge.

Article IV: Members shall, in fulfilling their responsibilities to the community: 1. Protect the safety, health and welfare of the public and speak out against abuses in those areas affecting the public interest; 2. Contribute professional advice, as appropriate, to civic, charitable or other nonprofit organizations; 3. Seek to extend public knowledge and appreciation of the profession and its achievements.

Article V: Members shall, in fulfilling their responsibilities to IEEE, its members, and employees: 1. Make no statement that the member knows to be false or with reckless disregard as to its truth or falsity concerning IEEE or the qualifications, integrity, professional reputation, or employment of another member or employee; 2. Neither injure nor attempt to injure, maliciously or falsely, the professional reputation or employment of another member or employee.