Once again, it's time to take action and nominate one of your associates for fellow grade in the IEEE.

Each year approximately 120 senior members of the IEEE are elevated to fellow grade, a rank of unusual professional distinction conferred only by invitation of the Board of Directors. An IEEE fellow must be a person of outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience who has made important individual contributions to one or more of the following fields: electrical engineering, electronics, radio, allied branches of engineering, or the related arts and sciences. The candidate must hold senior member grade at the time the nomination is submitted and must have been a member, in any grade, for a period of five years or more preceding January 1 of the year of election. (The year of election is the year following affirmative action by the Board of Directors.)

The Computer Society, with a membership of over 50,000, represents 25 percent of the IEEE membership. As such, one would expect that 25 to 30 Computer Society senior members would receive the fellow award each year, but the number awarded in the computer field rarely exceeds 12 to 15. Awards cannot be made unless there are sufficient nominations. Clearly, as members of the Computer Society, we must take the initiative in submitting nominations for associates we believe qualified for the fellow award.

Nomination forms can be obtained by writing to the Staff Sec'y, Fellows Committee at IEEE Headquarters, 345 East 47th St., New York, NY 10017 or by writing to me at 480 Ocean Boulevard, Apt 5E, Long Branch, NJ 07740.

To be eligible for consideration, nominations must be received by the Fellows Committee on or before April 30, 1981. The nomination must also include references, received by that date, from five fellow-grade references. A copy of the nominations form B-29 plus an evaluation form B-3 must also be sent to me for evaluation by the Computer Society Fellows Evaluation Committee.

In evaluating the nomination, the IEEE Fellows Committee considers nine criteria, listed below in approximate order of importance:

1. individual contributions as engineer/scientist/originator, technical leader, or educator;
2. evaluation by an IEEE group or society (or more than one of them);
3. team contributions resulting from leadership and management clearly identified with the nominee;
4. evidence of technical accomplishment, such as publications, patents, peer recognition, etc.;
5. opinions of confidential fellow-grade references who know of the candidate's work personally (if possible, they should be associated with other than the candidate's own organization);
6. service to IEEE (and its predecessors, the AIEE or IRE);
7. professional engineering service other than IEEE;
8. opinions of endorsers; and
9. total years in the profession.

Preparing a fellow nomination is not difficult, but obtaining the necessary references requires considerable time. To be sure of making the April 30 deadline, you should start preparing your nomination immediately.

I look forward to your cooperation in this important endeavor.

Samuel Levine, chairman
Computer Society Fellows Award Evaluation Committee

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