

## TAB HALL OF HONOR RECIPIENT NOMINATION FORM



**CANDIDATE NAME:** Dr. Irving Engelson  
12.24.1930 - 4.21.2020

**BIOGRAPHY:** After surviving The Holocaust as a child, electrical engineering studies in Germany, and Switzerland, and arrival in the USA, Irv was awarded a BS (EE) from Polytechnic Institute Brooklyn, MS from Rutgers, and a PhD (EE) from Worcester Polytechnic. Irv's work career began with several organizations followed by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), service in the US Army as a linguist, and a return to RCA where he held leadership positions. Moving to the University of Nebraska, Irv reached positions as professor and Dean of the College of Engineering at Omaha and Associate Dean of the College of Engineering in Lincoln. Irv joined IEEE and his career included major appointments at the highest levels of IEEE including Technical Activities,

Director Region 1, IEEE-USA Board of Directors, IEEE Board of Directors, Advisor to two IEEE Presidents and many special assignments.

**CITATION:** For leadership, contributions, and dedication to Technical Activities and IEEE.

**DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S) RELATIVE TO MAJOR CONTRIBUTION(S) TO IEEE TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES** *suitable for use in the "TAB Hall of Honor" (maximum length of 300 words).*

A phone call from Neil Pundit, the temporary Director of Technical Activities, brought Irv Engelson back to NYC from the chilly Nebraska winters as an IEEE staff member at IEEE Headquarters in NYC. Irv brought both experience from industry and academia: Industry experience included his time at Radio Corporation of America (RCA) both before and after his military service where he served as a linguist. Returning to RCA he served in leadership positions.

As an IEEE employee Irv took responsibility for many TA projects, followed by appointment as Manager of Committees and Special Projects, and then to Director of Technical Activities. He played an active role in moving TA from NY Headquarters to Piscataway, NJ. and in the following years of service to TA and its committees took the lead in developing strategies to cope with the future expansion of TA activities.

Upon retirement Irv continued as a loyal volunteer faithfully serving not only TA, but also IEEE Corporate, RAB, IEEE-USA, and several Societies and Councils where he served in major positions and as Parliamentarian in all. TA needed a Parliamentarian in those days and Irv was an expert in Roberts Rules of Order.

Irv lectured on many Continents and often served as TAB and IEEE Good Will Ambassador. Technical Activities honored Irv for "Exemplary Service" in 1993 and IEEE for "management leadership". The ETA KAPPA (HKN) Board of Directors honored Irv for "Exemplary leadership" in IEEE-TA. Irv became the second Non-Russian to be named an Honorary Member of the Russian Popov Society. It's difficult to find many TAB, Boards, and Committees, or any other organized unit in which Irv has not participated.

Full member of Sigma XI, NSF Faculty Research Fellow, Advisor to IEEE Presidents, Distinguished Lecturer, faculty member and dean of Newark College of Engineering—New Jersey Institute of Technology.

### **YEAR(S) OF ACCOMPLISHMENT(S):**

**Technical Activities:** Staff member Technical Activities 1977; Manager TA Committees and Special Projects 1978; Acting Director of TA 1979-1980; Secretary TAB 1980-1982; TAB Publications Council; TAB Products Council 1990-1992; Director of Technical Activities 1993; TAB Operations Committee; TAB Administrative Council 1980-1982; Secretary Tellers Committee 1994-1995; Secretary Credentials Committee 1994-1996; Secretary Member Conduct 1994-1996; Secretary N&A Committee 1994-1996; TAB Finance Committee 1996; TAB Strategic Planning and Review Committee 1980-1985; TAB Liaison Committee 1990-1992; TAB Ethics Committee 1996; TAB Book Broker Committee 1990-1992; Commendation for "Exemplar Service to TA" 1993

**RAB:** Region 1 Director 2000-2001; Educational Activities Board 1999-2000; Streamlining Committee 1999; RAB Board 2000-2001

**IEEE:** Life Member Committee 1997-2001; Meeting and Services Committee; Representative History Center 1999; WIE Board 1999; IEEE Board 2000-2001; IEEE Board Advisor even after retirement.

**IEEE-USA:** Board of Directors 2000-2001; IEEE-USA Assembly 2000-2001

**Societies/Councils:** President Engineering Management Society (EMS) 2005-2007; Technology Management(TMC) Council VP Operations 2008-2011; Technology and Engineering Management Society (TEMS) Parliamentarian 212-2013; Circuits and Systems Society; Electronic Devices Society; Systems Man and Cybernetics

### **RELEVANT IEEE ACTIVITIES:**

It's difficult to identify specific contributions for people in senior leadership positions during such transitions. Irv in his position and with his superiors, volunteers, and IEEE Staff developed a culture that promoted linking developed the talents of volunteers and staff where volunteers and staff worked collegially to implement TA's strategic directions and meeting operational goals and objectives, not only for the short-term but the future: They set the stage for growth of TA and IEEE. Irv originated the use of Executive Directors and hired several during his tenure.

After a short term as Manager of Technical Committees and Projects Irv took a major role in the move of TA to Piscataway, NJ which became the IEEE Operations Center and significant growth of TA. These were times of change and considerable growth for IEEE and IEEE Technical Activities. IEEE membership leveled off at about 130,000 members at the time.