

Our Vision is "To teach, inspire, and assist people to experience enjoyment, fulfillment, and personal growth in their work while contributing to the success of themselves and their employers."

The Koval Eagle

Making People and Profits Soar!

Issue 11
May 2010



I hope you are all enjoying our springtime weather - or is that summer weather - or fall?!

This will be the final issue of the Koval Eagle. As I discussed in my December newsletter, I have left five and a half years of self-employment for a position with IEEE Power & Energy Society, as the Sr. Administrator for Education Services. I thanked my clients and colleagues in that newsletter, and provided the details of my new position. (All newsletters are archived on my website.)

This issue will provide an update on my new position, as well as some background information about IEEE PES and the electric power industry we support.

Also in this issue is my recommendation for a great source of life-long learning.

And don't forget to check out the Humor at Work section! It has been expanded for our final issue, and features electricity and energy humor!

Happy reading!

Sue Koval

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The Koval Eagle's Final Flight

This is the last issue of the Koval Eagle. I have enjoyed writing this newsletter, and would like to express my thanks to all who have commented through the years.

PDF versions of the newsletter are available on the website.

I'll be keeping the website up, at least through the end of 2010, and my email will remain the same: sue@kovalassociates.com

Quick Links

Our Homepage

www.kovalassociates.com

Nontraditional Careers

www.susankoval.com

Job Match

www.kovalassociates.com/jobmatch.shtml

Our Services

www.kovalassociates.com/services.shtml

About Us

www.kovalassociates.com/about.shtml

Sample Assessments

www.kovalassociates.com/samples.shtml

Powering Along at IEEE PES!

On January 4th I began the next phase of my professional career - as Senior Administrator for Education Services for IEEE PES! The overall mission of IEEE is "Advancing Technology for Humanity," and the Power & Energy Society carries out that mission as it relates to electric power and energy.

I work with our Executive Director, Patrick Ryan, to manage the IEEE Power & Energy Society's Education business and services, and to provide analysis and strategy to guide the decisions of the Society's Board. I coordinate, develop and oversee the Plain Talk series of courses, as well as researching and implementing new educational initiatives for the Society.

My primary focus this year is to grow and expand the "Plain Talk About the Electric Power Industry" series of courses. Our "Basics" curriculum consists of Power System Basics- Understanding the Electric Utility Inside and Out, Distribution System-Delivering Power to the Customer, and The Grid-The Interconnected Electric Bulk Power System. During the course of this year I am expanding the offerings to include two new courses - Power Quality, and Operation of Electricity Markets, in addition to 4-9 new courses focused on Smart Grid, the hot topic in the industry. These courses are delivered at various locations throughout the year.

My first opportunity to see the courses in action occurred a few weeks ago, at our Society's largest convention - T&D Conference and Expo, in New Orleans. This is a huge conference - 13,000+ attendees and over 700 exhibitors! I learned a lot from observing the Plain Talk courses, and it was great to meet my instructors in person! I also had the opportunity to meet many of the IEEE people I've interacted with via phone and email in person, which was really nice. And New Orleans is a colorful, interesting place to be!

Another aspect of my position is helping to meet the needs of the power and energy engineering workforce. It is expected that within the next 5-10 years, 45% of the power utility engineering workforce will be retiring. We need to replace these engineers, as well as add to their numbers, as the demand for electric power increases and will continue to do so. In addition, it is estimated that up to 27% of engineering faculty will retire in the same timeframe. IEEE PES leads the U.S. Power and Energy Engineering Workforce Collaborative, which has issued a detailed action plan to address these concerns. I am working to find ways to increase awareness of this industry and to increase the number of people who choose power and energy engineering as their careers. As one of the presenters at the conference stated - electricity is the difference between civilization and non-civilization!

A few links where you can learn more about what I'm doing:

My Plain Talk Page: <http://www.ieee-pes.org/education/programs/plain-talk-courses>

PES Home Page: <http://www.ieee-pes.org/>

IEEE K-12 Engineering Resource Site: <http://www.tryengineering.org/>

This position with IEEE PES has turned out to be the perfect fit for me that it seemed to be when I first read the job description!

I wish all of you the best as you move forward in your careers and businesses. Stay in touch!

Warm regards,
Sue

Recommended Lifelong Learning

If you enjoy learning, I highly recommend The Teaching Company. The Teaching Company was founded in 1990 by Tom Rollins "to ignite people's passion for lifelong learning by offering great courses taught by great professors." Rollins was inspired by an experience he had as a Harvard Law Student, when he studied for an exam using a series of taped lectures. He thought nothing could be more boring than "The Federal Rules of Evidence," but the professor was so good that he thoroughly enjoyed the learning and even got an A in the course! Rollins wanted to bring this experience to others, and The Teaching Company was born!

The Teaching Company offers courses on CD, DVD, and other formats. Subjects are wide-ranging and include Science and Mathematics, History, Fine Arts and Music, Religion, Philosophy and Intellectual History, Literature and English Language, Business and Economics, Social Sciences, and even courses geared to high school students.

The courses go on sale on a regular basis. Check them out at <http://www.teach12.com>. We haven't gone wrong with a course yet - and we have a whole library of them!

Humor ... at Work

This issue highlights humor related to electric power and energy. As this is the most popular section of the newsletter, Humor has been expanded for our final issue! Enjoy!

From buildfutureenergy.wordpress.com/2010/05/02/green-giggles-renewable-energy-jokes/

Q: What did the California wind farm say when it met Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger?

A: We're big fans of yours!

Q: What's the best way to charge a car battery?

A: With a credit card.

Q: What should they do to gas guzzlers?

A: Lock them up in a fuel cell.

From uwsp.edu/cnr/wcee/keep/Networking/index.htm#Energy%20Jokes

An energy conservation fanatic is in his deathbed surrounded by his family. He asks, "Is my wife here?" She replies, "Yes, I'm here, dear." He asks, "Are my children here?" They reply, "Yes, we're here father." He asks, "Are my grandchildren and neighbors here?" They all say, "Yes, we are here!" Then he lifts himself out of bed and points out the door, "Well, if everyone is here, why are the lights and television left on in the living room?"

From powerstream.com/powerhumor.htm

Two Antennas got married - the wedding was lousy, but the reception was outstanding.
Contributed by Chris Wantuck

Five year old: "Mom, can I sleep with jumper cables under my pillow?"
Mom: "OK, but you have to promise not to start anything."
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The red wire said to the black wire "Why are you so sad?"
The black wire replied "I've been grounded."
© Copyright Mark W. Lund 2006

There was the engineer that was putting sea water in his batteries without the boss knowing. He was arrested for salt-in-battery, but even though the charge wouldn't hold up, he is sitting in his cell serving two current sentences.
Contributed by Doug Elliot, used with permission

To survive as a power supply designer you need just two things--a solid technical foundation and CPR.
© Copyright Mark W. Lund 2005

From megavolt.co.il/humor.html

Q: What is the definition of a shock absorber?
A: A careless electrician!

Q: What did the light bulb say to the generator?
A: "I really get a charge out of you!"

Q: What do you call a carpenter working in an electrical panel?
A: Dead!

Q: Why are electricians always up to date?
A: Because they are "Current specialists."

Q: What would you call a power failure?
A: A current event.

Sign on the side of the electrician's van - "Let Us Get Rid of Your Shorts."

Two atoms were walking down the street one day, when one of them exclaimed, "Oh no - I've lost an electron!" "Are you sure?" the other one asked. "Yes," replied the first one, "I'm positive."

From anyplace-control.com/anyplace-control/text/remote-desktop.shtml

A chemist, a biologist and an electrical engineer were on death row waiting to go in the electric chair.

The chemist was brought forward first. "Do you have anything you want to say?" asked the executioner, strapping him in. "No," replied the chemist. The executioner flicked the switch and nothing happened. Under this particular state's law, if an execution attempt fails, the prisoner is to be released, so the chemist was released.

Then the biologist was brought forward. "Do you have anything you want to say?" "No, just get on with it." The executioner flicked the switch, and again nothing happened, so the biologist was released.

Then the electrical engineer was brought forward. "Do you have anything you want to say?" asked the executioner. "Yes," replied the engineer. "If you swap the red and the blue wires over, you might make this thing work."

*Did you hear about the foolish gardener?
He planted a light bulb and thought he would get a power plant.*

Q: What kind of car does an electrician drive?

A: A Volts-wagon.

Q: What's grey, crispy and hangs from the ceiling?

A: An amateur electrician.

Q: Why did the lights go out?

A: Because they liked each other!

Q: Why do fluorescent lights hum?

A: Because they can't remember the words.

Q: What did the baby light bulb say to the mommy light bulb?

A: "I love you watts and watts!"

Q: Why did Mr. Ohm marry Mrs. Ohm?

A: Because he couldn't resistor!!

(Thanks to Sniff for that one)

AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE...

From 123basics.com/land/goats.htm

Goat-Powered Energy

Here's another original idea from Jimbo the Power Guy!

Energy can be supplied to a house, a farm, or even a city using nothing more than goats and garbage. The entire system (large or small) can be built on multiples of single goat units. A goat unit consists of the following:

- 1 goat
- 1 Plexiglas box (large enough to contain goat)
- 1 fresh air fan
- 1 water bowl
- 1 food dish
- 1 poop bowl/can
- 2 15-foot sections of flex-ventilation hose
- 1 boiler w/250 gallon tank
- 1 steam-driven turbine/generator
- 1 bank of 12v dc storage batteries
- 1 converter (dc to ac)

Instructions:

1. Place the goat in a Plexiglas box just large enough to contain goat. Arrange water and food containers so that goat can reach them without effort. Place poop collection can/bowl at rear (of goat).
2. Cut a hole in the rear of the Plexiglas box and insert ventilation hose. Run the hose to the lower section (hotbox) of the steam boiler.
3. Cut hole in front of Plexiglas box. Attach ventilation hose to box and to fresh air fan. Make all connections secure.
4. Feed goat with waste foliage, grass clippings, food scraps and other garbage from gardens, farms, etc.
5. Keep water level in water dish at least half full.
6. Ignite methane gases in boiler hotbox. (Be sure water level in tank is at proper level.)
7. Run wiring from steam generator to battery bank and from batteries to converter.
8. Enjoy living off the grid for life.
9. To increase voltage and/or wattage, simply add more goats. (Boiler can take up to 250 goats.)
10. Be sure to keep at least two goats for breeding and restocking power line.

This system really works. Granted, there have been a few minor explosions in some third-world applications (too many goats on the systems), and one fella in Minnesota managed to burn all his facial hair plum off when igniting the fire in the hotbox. But mostly, the results have been ok and injuries have been minor (or at least funny). One city is even looking into using this system to power the main grid. (However, the mayor has asked that his name not be mentioned at this time.) So you know it's gonna work for you.

Ok, now all you gotta do is get out there and git 'er done.
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Koval Associates offers a wide range of programs and services - including internet-based assessment tools, management development training, team training workshops and keynote speeches - to help you develop superior people and increased profits. Koval Associates also offers special programs about women in non-traditional careers.

**Susan Koval
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Helping You Attract, Train and Retain Top Performers!

Special Programs About Women in Non-Traditional Careers!

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