

IEEE Communications Society History Committee  
Minutes of Committee meeting  
Wednesday, Dec.3, 2008  
New Orleans

Meeting opened promptly by Mischa Schwartz, Chair, at 9 AM.

Jacob Baal-Schem volunteered to take the minutes.

1. Roll call:

*Committee members*

Mischa Schwartz, Chair – [Mcschw66@aol.com](mailto:Mcschw66@aol.com)

Jean-Marie Dilhac – [dilhac@laas.fr](mailto:dilhac@laas.fr)

Jacob Baal-Schem – [j.baal.schem@ieee.org](mailto:j.baal.schem@ieee.org)

Excused: Jerry Hayes - [Jerryatece@aol.com](mailto:Jerryatece@aol.com)

*Interested attendees*

Steve Weinstein, Tarek El-Bawab

2. Agenda for meeting approved

3. Approval of minutes from Teleconference

The minutes of the teleconference were approved

4. Assessment of the History session Tuesday

- The participation in the two sub-sessions was good. The number of attendees was unofficially counted as varying between 40-80, as reported by Jean-Marie. This was felt to be excellent for the first ComSoc History session ever.
- Steve Weinstein's keynote address was well-received.
- The papers sub-session was adequate. One presenter (I. Brodsky) excused himself as he felt ill and did not come to the Conference.
- The paper by LaSorte et al duplicated, to some extent, the presentation by Weinstein. It was presented by Hassan Moradi on behalf of the authors. We should, in future History sessions, insist that an author present the paper.
- The panel sub-session went well, with much vigorous interchange between panelists, and with audience. Stress should be placed in future panels that panelists strictly limit their prepared remarks. This portion of the History session lasted 1½ hours, indicating that the 2 hours scheduled was quite adequate.
- It was mentioned that the panel should have been recorded as no printed papers are available.
- The power point presentations will be set on a Web site (see further)

5. Report by Jacob Baal-Schem on proposed History session, Globecom 2009, Hawaii; plus discussions on Globecom2010.

- History Sessions at GLOBECOM 2009 (Hawaii) will have two co-chairs: Jacob Baal-Schem and Jerry Hayes.
- The structure will be similar to this first one at Globecom08:  
**First session** to be chaired by Baal-Schem and include:  
Keynote lecture – The History of ALOHA by Norman Abramson

Four papers from CFP on the theme “Telecommunication’s Contributions to Mankind at this 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1884-2009) of the IEEE”.

**Second session** – Panel chaired by Jerry Hayes on the subject of: “25 years after Divestiture – The Impact of Privatization of Telecommunications Worldwide” with representatives from the US (possibly Irwin Dorros), France (to be proposed by Jean-Marie), UK, Germany (to be proposed by Jacob) and Japan (proposed by Mischa).

- History sessions at GLOBECOM 2010 were accepted in principle but not discussed in detail.
6. Report on ComSoc Magazine History Column- Mischa reported on articles published, articles awaiting publication, articles in preparation. (A copy of this report was subsequently transmitted to Committee members.) Suggestions invited for new articles. Jean-Marie will prepare a paper on Branly.
  7. Report by Jacob on IEEE History Committee. Global networking. How do we respond?  
Jacob presented the activities of the IEEE History Committee, with special emphasis on the Global History Network (GHN) launched lately.  
Jacob will discuss with the History Center the ways of including the presentations given at GLOBECOM into the GHN and send details to members of the ComSoc History Committee.  
The CFP for the IEEE Philadelphia Conference on History was distributed. It was suggested this Conference include papers on the History of EE Societies outside the US.
  8. Our charter suggests we work on public awareness, electronic archiving, and telecommunication milestones. How do we interpret these items? What should we be doing in these areas? What else should we be doing?
    - Several interested persons outside our Committee indicated an interest in being active (see list below).
    - One suggestion made to include them and other interested ComSoc members was to enlarge the number of members of the History Committee, as is the case with Technical committees. It was argued that we are a Standing committee and not a TC. Mischa will discuss the subject of how to proceed with Andrje.
    - Jacob proposed forming a ComSoc History network by having a “listserv” where any member can join. Committee members will provide continuous information to the network and network members will be invited to the Committee meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

*List of persons interested in History:*

Prof. Fotini-Niovi Pavlidou – Univ. of Thessaloniki, Greece ([niovi@auth.gr](mailto:niovi@auth.gr))

Prof. Tarek El-Bawad – Jackson State University – ([telbawad@ieee.org](mailto:telbawad@ieee.org))

Prof. Michael Rice – Brigham Young University ([mdr@ee.byu.edu](mailto:mdr@ee.byu.edu))

Prof. Damla Yurgut – Univ. of Central Florida ([turgut@eecs.ucf.edu](mailto:turgut@eecs.ucf.edu))