In September 2008 I had the opportunity to visit four Chapters in the Midwest United States. The talks were one per day for four days. The Chapters were very different from each other, but all quite active chapters with many people attending the meeting.

The first talk was held in Minneapolis on September 8. There were about 20 attendees and we had some interesting discussion. The Chapter Chair, Nihar Jindal, is interested in publishing in a publication that is more technical than the magazine but less leading edge than the Journals. He could be a good volunteer at the Society level to work in the publications area as well as working locally.

The second talk was September 9 in Omaha, Nebraska. Pierce Carpenter, the Chapter Chair, hustled in 48 attendees even though they had to pay (for dinner) to attend. The dinner was in a huge restaurant with doors that are very thick, and have bull horns for handles and metal bulls between the glass edges. Again there was good discussion. Some people had driven from 50, and some 100 miles away to attend the meeting. The Section holds regular meetings and it sounds like they get good attendance. Not all of the people who attended this talk were from Communications.

Day 3 the talk was in Denver. Karthik Sundaresan, the Chapter Chair, drove in from Boulder as did a few others. The talk was held at the university with many pizzas for dinner. Over 30 people attended and many had good comments about telecom issues. Karthik is keen to hear ways in which he can increase membership and attendance.

The last talk, on day 4, was in Salt Lake City. Michael Rice, who has been active in the Region and ComSoc for a few years, met me at the hotel and drove me to a dinner with about 20 students and a few professors. We had a great Italian meal plus good conversation. One issue they identified is that thanks to high school profiling, which is based on very old profiles of
engineers, high school kids are being advised not to go into engineering. One professor, Cindy Furst, is working to have this changed. After dinner we all moved to join others at the university for the talk. Jake Gunther, the Chapter Chair, arrived from his flight in time for the talk. We ran overtime with the presentations and discussions.

Overall this seemed to be a very successful trip. I met many interested participants and many energetic volunteers. I did not take my camera with me so unfortunately I have no pictures of all of these people.