



Akron Council of Engineering
and Scientific Societies

ACCESSinc.org 330-535-8835
P.O. Box 2993, Akron, OH 44309-2993

Incorporated 1946

IEEE Akron / Canton Section April Event and ACCESS Joint Societies Meeting

America Is Eating Its Feed Corn

Presented by Dr. Richard A. Thompson

Thursday, April 24, 2014

The Tangier
532 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44303

6:00 pm Networking and Cash Bar

6:30 pm Dinner

Presentation will follow dinner

1 Hour of CPD credit is available

Reservations Due to Rick Buchanan (rlbuchanan@neo.rr.com) by April 21

IEEE Members and One Guest \$15.00 ea.

Students \$10.00 ea.

General Public \$20.00 ea.

(Reservations canceled after 2:00 PM April 21 will incur full charge)

A limited number of Presentation Only, Non-Dinner No Charge Reservations Are Available

Abstract:

America's economy has depended on innovation for the past 150 years, but our investment in innovation has declined over the last 20 yrs. The purpose of this talk is to explain this dependence and to alert the audience to a serious national problem before it becomes a national emergency. Along the way, we'll discuss out-sourcing and how it fits in the R&D process, while juxtaposed against US employment. The talk's rationale is historical, from the fall of Rome, to Ford and Edison, to today; but we'll carefully track the last 60 years: from the "happy days" to Sputnik and OPEC and SDI, to our current "post-Wall" economy. We'll conclude by discussing what Americans can do about the situation we find ourselves in.

Speaker:

Dr. Richard A. Thompson was a Professor of Telecommunications at the University of Pittsburgh since 1989, after 20 years at AT&T's Bell Laboratories. He was the Chair of Pitt's Telecom Program for 17 years, had a secondary appointment in Pitt's EE Department, and was affiliated with Pitt's undergraduate Photonics Program. He retired to emeritus status in 2012. Rich's principal research area is communications switching, especially photonic switching and Voice over IP. He has over 100 research publications, including two textbooks, Telephone Switching Systems and The Physical layer of Communications Systems (both by Artech House). Rich has been an IEEE member since the AIEE-IRE merger. He has been active in the Computer and Communications Societies internationally and locally (in Pittsburgh). He lives in Vermilion Ohio now and is currently Vice-Chair of the IEEE Cleveland Section.

(NOTE: The IEEE Cleveland Section hosted a version of this program September 18, 2013)