Title: Becoming a Professional

Abstract:
The extensive education undertaken by engineers prepares them for entry into the profession, but it does not make them professionals. Engineers become professionals by exemplifying the attributes of a profession; for example, education, authority, community sanction, ethics, culture, and service orientation. These attributes have been defined with the independent practitioner in mind rather than the engineer working in industry or academia. This presentation views the attributes of a profession with the engineer in industry in mind and shows how engineers can demonstrate these attributes appropriately in an industrial setting. In doing so, engineers enhance their professionalism and their profession.

Bio:
Janet Rochester, BSc., MS, MBA, is a Life Senior Member of the IEEE. She retired in 2004 from Lockheed Martin Maritime Systems and Sensors – Moorestown, NJ, from the position of Lead Member of the Engineering Staff in the Radar System Engineering group. Janet was a member of the Board of Governors of the Society on Social Implications of Technology from 1999 until 2009, including serving as the coordinator of the Distinguished Lecturer Program, Awards Committee Chair, and Society President. She has also served as Chair of the Publications Committee. She was the Chair of the Philadelphia Section of the IEEE in 2003, the Section’s centenary year, having previously served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-Chair.
Since retirement she has participated in community activities as a Master Gardener and as a literacy tutor; learned to kayak, and read more books.