Setting the Standard for Automation

ISA Birmingham Section Trend Recorder
International Society of Automation

ISA Birmingham Web Site: www.isa.org/Birmingham [isa.org]

July 15, 2018

Society voting ends July 20, 2018

By voting in Society elections, ISA members help determine the future of the association. Don’t waste this opportunity. Voting for 2019 Society leaders begins 15 June and ends 20 July. (Remember, only those who held Professional ISA member status as of 15 May are eligible to vote.) To cast your ballots, visit the ISA log-in page. Click on this link and

Vote Now! [isa.personifycloud.com]

ISA Birmingham Leaders 2018 – 2019
Visit the ISA Birmingham web site: www.isa.org/birmingham [isa.org]

- President: Jim Key – Southern Company Services (jimkey@southernco.com)
- Vice President: Meg Moore – KBR Engineering (meg.moore@kbr.com)
- Treasurer: Patrick Joseph – Southern Company Services (pvjoseph@southernco.com)
- Secretary: John Cover – A&E Engineering (john.cover@aeengr.com)
- Program Chair: Mark Isbell – W. G. Yates Company (misbell@wgyates.com)
- Education Chair – Gerald Wilbanks – DES (gwilbankspe@charter.net)
Meet your 2018-2019 ISA Birmingham Leaders:

**Elizabeth Clarkin - Assistant Web Master**

Beth is an Instrumentation Engineer with Southern Company for whom she represents the I&C department on projects and does DCS cable design. She holds degrees in Physics and English from Illinois State University as well as an Electrical Engineering degree from Iowa State University. Her favorite part of ISA is the people that she gets the chance to learn from. “There is a lot of knowledge in this group and it is a pleasure learning from such kind people”.

Beth has been instrumental in reworking the ISA Birmingham website and is the co-web master, working with Jimmie Johnson. She is the perfect example of becoming an ISA member, and then getting
involved in the leadership of the section. Please send any suggested changes or additions to the ISA Birmingham Section web site to Beth or Jimmie Johnson.

Check out the ISA Birmingham web site at [www.isa.org/birmingham](http://www.isa.org/birmingham)

---

**Mark Your Calendar:**
The ISA Birmingham Section will not be meeting in June, July or August as we take a brief summer time break. *The first meeting of the 2018-2019 section year will be our annual kick-off event, which will take place on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at Logan’s Roadhouse on Highway 280.* New members and visitors will be encouraged to attend and they will have free meals as a membership promotion. We will begin at 5:30 PM with a social and networking time, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM, and some section information sharing at 7:00 PM.

- **Technical Meeting:** Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
  Time: 4:00 PM  
  Speaker: Rob Flynn – Delphian Corp.  
  Topic: “Fundamentals of Gas Detection”  
  Location: KBR Engineering

- **Technical Meeting:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
  Time: 4:00 PM  
  Speaker: John Cover – A&E Engineering  
  Topic: “Experiences with HMI Design”  
  Location: W.G. Yates Company

- **Technical Meeting:** Tuesday, January 8, 2019  
  Time: 4:00 PM  
  Speaker: To Be Announced  
  Topic: TBD  
  Location: Revere Control Systems
Anyone with suggestions as to program topics and presentations, should contact Mark Isbell at misbell@wgyates.com, with ideas and suggestions.

**SAFETY TOPIC**
Dilbert Funnies

I'm installing a paper-burning stove to lower our heating bills.

I'll fuel it with all the useless documents I get at work.

I've been noticing how much stuff you take home. You must love your work.

It gives me a warm feeling.

[dilbert.com]

Technical Brain Teaser:
A 16 foot tall tank is used for chemical solution storage and mixing. The tank is first filled partially with water, then the chemical is added as a 50% slurry with water. The chemical has a specific gravity of 2.4 when dry. The tank has a rotary actuator to maintain suspension, but the liquid surface is only mildly agitated and is free from foam. The tank is covered, but at atmospheric pressure. The most appropriate and economical level measurement technology would be:

a. Capacitance probe  
b. Hydrostatic pressure transmitter with high side diaphragm seal  
c. Ultrasonic level transmitter  
d. Nuclear gauge

Scroll Down for the Correct Answer

Answer
Varying concentration will change conductivity and capacitance is not a good choice. The changing specific gravity rules out the hydrostatic head device. The nuclear device will be expensive.

*Answer is C* Ultrasonic transmitter

---

**Gerald Wilbanks, PE**  
ISA Fellow and Former President  
Emeritus Member Alabama Board of Licensure for PE and LS  
Documentation & Engineering Services  
125 Woodward Road  
Trussville, AL 35173  
Mobile: (205) 566-9801  
Home: (205) 655-7076  
[ISA Fellow]

[www.isa.org/birmingham](http://www.isa.org/birmingham)