



Madison Section Newsletter

Vol. 24, No. 2

Serving IEEE Members of South Central Wisconsin
February-March 2021

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IEEE-Madison Upcoming Meetings

Madison Section -- Scott Olsen is planning a virtual meeting tentatively for April 29, noon central time, regarding Productivity in Building Construction. So far, he has lined up three speakers on the topic, one from each coast, and one from local construction firm, Findorff.

LMAG -- is working to schedule a talk on helping to fund and find volunteers for STEM activities to be given by Tom Zinnen. It will be virtual with the date and time not yet set.

Section Social -- Members have expressed interest in trying to connect socially, like we have done before and after in-person Section Meetings. The IEEE-Madison Executive Committee will be working to roll out a new monthly meeting dedicated to helping foster the person-to-person contact while still virtual. Tentatively dubbed "**Friday Afternoon Club**", it is a work in progress, but it will be implemented with a new model that allows breakout groups to get together and discuss topics of interest. Unfortunately neither WebEx nor Zoom as licensed by the IEEE-Madison allow this, so other virtual meetings platforms are being considered. One possible platform is jitsi ([What is Jitsi?](#)) We might even consider plugging in live music or video using a service like Jamulus (see [Jamulus.io](#)) or OBS ([Open Broadcast Software](#)). Have any ideas? Let us know about it -- email tjkaminski@ieee.org and reference this.

IEEE-Madison "Committee Corner"

New This Year: This column is going to be a regular part of the IEEE-Madison Newsletter with contributions for selected IEEE-Madison Section volunteers. All of the elected and selected leaders are volunteers and are considered members of the IEEE-Madison Executive Committee (ExComm), hence the name "Committee Corner".

Hugh Schmidt, IEEE-Madison Chair

I really got to know my parents in the summer of '73. Instead of working across the river again in a NJ shipyard, I went home to Western New York to turn a few acres of new locust tree growth into firewood and fence posts. Cornell had published a heat content study ranking Black Locust at the top with White Oak. It is rot resistant and cuts like butter. You don't even have to split it! It grows spaced like a row crop and roaming livestock kept away understorey.

I got to know my parents well that summer watching a few hours of Watergate hearings almost every day. "Tony Ulasewisz! Who thought you up?" Wow! Cornell Extension didn't offer a guide to politics.

It was interesting to contrast that experience with watching the Congressional hearings this winter, guided now by a lifetime and a little wisdom. But, no sooner had the hearings ended and the new administration revved up than we were hit by the "Texas Blizzard". As a Buffalo native I'm not readily impressed by our snow here but we did keep the water running overnight a few times.

In the media there's a lot of finger pointing over the Texas 'whiteout'. Everybody likes a punching bag! But it's been great to have knowledgeable IEEE colleagues to talk with about the details of what really happened and what are reasonable adaptations to climate change. Like searching for a lost child in the woods, evolving technology depends on searches done by many people. That's where IEEE excels, connecting experts - and us with each other.

Don Neumeyer, Secretary-Treasurer for the IEEE-Madison PES/IAS Chapter

To borrow from Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

The COVID pandemic has brought us many changes in our lives, whether professional, social, and/or educational. We have found technology to help at IEEE with Virtual presentations rather than the in person Chapter meetings or Society Conferences. This has allowed us to attend meetings and conferences without the need for time to travel and all the associated expenses. We do lose some of the casual social gatherings and the treats from vendors at the expositions, but we also saved some weight gain on the road.

The Executive Committee would like your ideas for the near future for what would be of value to you during these times? For instance, what type of presentations would you personally like to see? technical and subject? complex environment changes? current events in electrical engineering? have a monthly discussion forum? topics? or suggestion queue?

What could IEEE Region 4 or Corporate IEEE offer? More access to data, topics, publications, presentations? Are Professional Development Hours an important service? Does IEEE help you stay current in your application area in your industry? Or any other issue you would like to share with the Executive Committee?

Questions/Comments about this?: **Email: hfschmidt@wisc.edu**

Matt Nowick, IEEE-Madison Section Treasurer

Thank you for electing me to be your treasurer. I am looking forward to serving for the next two years. As treasurer my goal is to pay the bills and keep the books balanced. As a voting member of the ExComm my goals are to encourage team building and improve communications within our pool of active volunteers and our general membership.

Dennis Bahr, IEEE-Madison Engineers in Biology and Medicine (EMB-018) Chapter Chair

Dennis will be calling or emailing members of the EMB to solicit volunteers. We have a growing number of EMB-018 members for the IEEE-Madison - hopefully some of you will volunteer to help out!

Chuck Cowie, IEEE-Madison Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) Vice Chair

The subject areas covered by LMAG activities tend to be less technically focused than the section activities, and somewhat broader in scope. Subject area examples:

- Supporting and promoting STEM education
- Learning about, supporting and promoting activities of organizations and institutions like the Madison School System, Library System and the Wisconsin Science Museum
- Environmental, energy and sustainability issues beyond those directly related to electrical engineering.
- Travel, hobby and other subjects with more than the usual emphasis on socialization and less than the usual technical content.
- Tours with or without a particularly technical aspect

IEEE-Madison Student Activities Coordinator

We are seeking a volunteer for the role of Section Student Activities Chair. The main duty of this role will be to coordinate with the IEEE Student Branches at UW Madison and UW Platteville and encourage their development and growth. The Section Student Activities Chair will lead the Section Student Activities Committee, which will consist of the Student Branch Chairs and any other members appointed to the committee. The Section Student Activities Chair will be a voting member of the Executive Committee. If you are interested in this role, or have questions, please reach out to Hugh Schmidt, Section Chair (hfschmidt@wisc.edu).

News/Announcements

- **Volunteers:** Consider giving some time to the IEEE Madison community by volunteering. We need volunteers for: YP, ECN, LMAG, PES/IAS, Section Officers, and EMB. In particular we need a volunteer for **Section Secretary** and **Student Activities Chair**. We also are looking for volunteers to start a Madison Section

IEEE-Madison Slack Channel Established and Open to IEEE Members

- **What is Slack?:** Slack is a messaging application that works on most modern computing platforms, including cell phones. Many organizations use slack to quickly connect with people and conduct business. You can share files and create sub-channels for discussion. IEEE-Madison is using the free version of slack that has limited features.
- **Executive Committee Presence:** Members of the IEEE-Madison Executive Committee have joined a Slack Channel and will be available to discuss issues you might bring up.
- **For more:** See this YouTube Video [on Slack](#).
Also see this site: [What is Slack?](#)
- **Get an Invitation to Join the IEEE-Madison Slack Channel:** at [Slack Channel](#).
- **Access it here:** [IEEE Madison Slack Channel](#)

IEEE Madison Leadership

- Section Chair - Hugh Schmidt
- Section Vice Chair - Mike Stemper
- Section Treasurer - Matt Nowick
- Section Secretary - <open>
- Webmaster - Nate Toth
- PES/IAS Chair - Mike Stemper
- PES/IAS Vice Chair - Dan Ludois
- PES/IAS Secretary/Treasurer- Don Neumeyer
- EMB Chapter Chair - Dennis Bahr
- Life Member Affinity Group Chair - San Rotter
- Life Member Affinity Group Vice Chair - Charles Cowie
- ECN Chair - Matt Nowick
- Young Professionals Chair - Thomas Murphy
- Members at Large: Nate Toth, Clark Johnson, Craig Heilman, Dennis Bahr

Membership Upgrades

Those interested in upgrading their IEEE membership level should be aware that the process has been streamlined with much of it on-line. The application process can start with your application as described on line [here](#). You will have to provide the names and IEEE numbers for three Senior Members in your field. The Madison Section Chair (Hugh Schmidt, hfschmidt@wisc.edu) can help, or attend the informal networking portion of the monthly Section meetings to meet the Section Board members and discuss your intention to elevate.

About IEEE

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers or IEEE (read Eye-Triple-E) is an international non-profit, professional organization dedicated to advancing technology innovation and excellence for the betterment of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community through IEEE's highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. It has the most members of any technical professional organization in the world, with more than 300,000 members in around 150 countries. The IEEE consists of 38 societies, organized around specialized technical fields, with more than 300 local organizations that hold regular meetings. Discover what IEEE Member Discounts can offer you. The Member Discounts portfolio consists of insurance products and programs for the home, office and travel, all at excellent group rates and reduced pricing. Visit IEEE Member Discounts to see what's available in your location and enjoy the savings. For more information, please visit: IEEE.ORG.

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