

Region 3



<http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/3>

Volume 28 – No. 3

Fall 2013

This is the October Issue of the Region 3 Newsletter. Like the second newsletter of the year, the main audience for this newsletter is IEEE Region 3 Volunteer community. Our next newsletter will be delivered in January 2014 and will be to all IEEE members in Region 3. Please consider writing an article for this audience.

The theme for this issue is "Finishing the plan and Setting the stage for a great 2014". We have invited articles on this topic in the spirit of sharing and collaboration. Please don't hesitate to follow up with the individual authors or our Region 3 ExCom Committee members about these topics.

I hope you have a great summer and are now executing your IEEE unit's Fall program. Reflecting on this newsletter's theme, this is an interesting time of year where we need to concentrate on completing our year's plans as well as setting the stage for next year's efforts (often by our successors). In the Region we plan to host webinars on

- Using NetSuite for transactions, year-end reporting and entering the 2014 budget that has been developed. Region 3 Treasurer Don Hill is organizing these sessions and IEEE staff will help with the presentations and training demonstrations.
- Using vTools Voting for engaging your units members in choosing the new officers. Bill Tiedemann is working on how to present this in a webinar environment. Your unit should already be announcing it's process and timeline so as to be ready for elections later in the year.
- Using SAMIEEE effectively for unit operations. Director-Elect Mary Ellen Randall is arranging two sessions (one introduction, one advanced) on how to leverage the IEEE Member Information tool for advantage to your section. IEEE staff will also be helping with these presentations.

Look for an email announcement with the schedule for these webinars soon.

The Atlanta Section and MGA are sponsoring an IEEE Smart Tech event in Atlanta on 18-19 October. This is part of the Metro Area Workshop Series and includes day long workshops on Smart Grid, Computer Engineering, Life Sciences and BioTech, Wireless Communication, Mobile Technologies and Career Assistance. See <http://www.ieee.org/metroevents> for details. This series was last in Region 3 in its inaugural year 2011 when it was hosted by the Huntsville Section.

Another exciting opportunity for members is IEEE Technical Communities. There are now some communities (more are coming as tools are finalized) covering topics including Cloud Computing, Earth Observations, Electric Vehicles, Green Information Communications Technology (ICT), Internet of Things, Life Sciences, RFID, and Smart Grid. Look for them on <http://www.ieee.org>.

I was recently sent an announcement listing the recipients of the 2014 IEEE Technical Field Awards. While there will be official

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David Green
Director, Region 3

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Director Region 3 ...

recognition ceremonies announced later, I want to join with you now in recognizing and congratulating the two recipients from our Region:

- Biing-Hwang
Georgia Institute of Technology
2014 IEEE James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing Award
- Mark McGranaghan
Electric Power Research Institute
2014 IEEE Charles Proteus Steinmetz Award

Given the newsletter schedule, this will be my last article as Region 3 Director. I want to thank everyone for your support and efforts during these two short years. In addition to the projects, events, and other engagement successes, I value the friendships established and grown. I hope that everyone will continue (and even increase) their contributions for the benefit of IEEE Region 3 and the profession under our next Director as she takes over in 2014. I especially want to thank the Region 3 Officers who have served with me:

- Mary Ellen Randall, Director-Elect
- Don Hill, Treasurer (and SoutheastCon 2014!)
- Gregg Vaughn, Secretary
- Lee Stogner, Past Director

I also want to thank Bill Ratcliff for his service beyond that of his appointed position. He has accepted and executed many adhoc tasks throughout my term as well as provided an engaging conversation about a vision for an IEEE that serves as our professional home.

I am sure I am over my allocated space so apologies for not mentioning other strong contributors, but the back of the Newsletter contains the members of the ExCom as well as some additional appointments. I thank everyone for agreeing to serve and the efforts that have been made to make IEEE and Region 3 better for our members.

In closing, please join me in thanking our Newsletter Editor Bill LaBelle for his work in preparing this newsletter. I hope that by reading these articles about activities across the region, you have some new ideas on how through local activities we can strength IEEE as the professional

home for our members.

All the best,

Dave

David Green, 2012-3 IEEE Region 3 Director

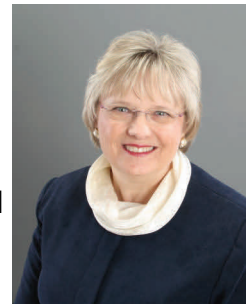
Region 3 Web Site: <http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/>
Region 3 Twitter: r3ieee

Succession Planning Challenge— Results

By Director-Elect

Mary Ellen Randall [merandall@ieee.org]

In the last Newsletter, I challenged each and *every leader in Region 3*, is **to identify 1 person whose talent you admire. Invite them to coffee this month** and spend some time trying to understand what IEEE means to them.



To lead by example, I am reporting on my personal experience with this challenge. Here is what I learned.

- 1. Get to know someone better.** It is very rewarding to get to know a young member who is passionate about their technical interests and career. This is the type of young professional who will do a great job leading IEEE in the future.
- 2. May find ideas for change.** There is a great opportunity to find new members in the software development and information technology communities. We need to focus more on the college and graduate student members to engage them.
- 3. Conference Attendance.** We should consider more ways to integrate the Technical conference participants of SouthEastCon with the students and Region leadership.
- 4. Energy.** Meeting with young professionals gives me a boost of energy. Perhaps that

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will help you also. It lasts longer than that afternoon coffee.

It is NOT too late to take this challenge and remember to

Follow-up:

1. Make sure you and your coffee partner have current contact information for one another. Exchange email or connect via linkedIn, etc. to stay in touch.
2. Make notes to remind yourself of the meeting along with any potential future involvements you think might make sense.
3. Don't forget to follow-up on any items you promised.
4. Schedule another coffee, as appropriate.

This simple act of **Member Engagement** can be a powerful force for change for both you and your coffee partner.

Region 3 Student Activities Chair

Pat Donohoe [p.donohoe@ieee.org]



I was asked by the Region 3 leadership to write a newsletter article introducing myself, since I have recently taken over the position of Region 3 Student Activities Chair from Regina Hannemann, who is busy planning the student program for SoutheastCon 2014. It seems kind of odd to introduce myself as the "newbie" since I have been an IEEE member for 34 years and I have been involved with the Region 3 Executive Committee off and on since 1992 [Area 6 Chair (1992-1994), Student Activities Chair (1996-2000), Educational Activities Chair (2002-2008)]. So, in fact, I'm not even new to the Region 3 Student Activities Chair position. Other relevant IEEE service includes Student Branch Counselor, MGA Student Activities Chair, Associate Editor for IEEE Potentials and Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Education. In real life, my job title is Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Paul B. Jacob Chair at Mississippi State University where my primary research interests are computational electromagnetics, radar, geomagnetic disturbances and electromagnetic properties of composite materials.

The Region 3 Student Activities Committee is busy this fall conducting student branch leadership training workshops at sites around the region. The purpose of the workshops is to provide new student branch leaders with the tools necessary to develop and implement a successful branch plan for the upcoming school year. We also want to encourage all student branches to start making plans now to attend SoutheastCon 2014 (March 13-16, 2014) at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa in Lexington, KY where there will be a full student program including the student paper competition, the student hardware competition, the student software competition, the student branch website competition, the student branch T-shirt competition, and the ethics competition. For more information on SoutheastCon 2014, see the Region 3 website at <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/> or feel free to contact me at p.donohoe@ieee.org.

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The Whole Pi

Dr. Jim Anderson [jim.anderson@ieee.org]

Public Information Chair

65 days. That's how much time we have left from the start of October (probably a little while ago from when you are reading this) until the end of 2013. That may sound like a lot of time, but as we all know, it can slip by very quickly. Throw in a couple of major national holidays and suddenly we're not looking at not all that much time left to get things done. You do have some IEEE things that you want to wrap up by the end of the year, don't you?



The good news is that there's still time. The bad news is that you had better get moving!

It's All About Publicity

Just about every R3 IEEE section has a number of events planned between now and the end of the year. These events are probably a mix of what we normally do (technical seminars, career seminars, etc.) and holiday activities. Each one of these events presents you with a fantastic opportunity to get the word out about the great things that are going on in your section.

Keep in mind that as the year draws to a close, the engineers in your section who are not IEEE members will probably be looking at the year gone by and wishing that they had done more (or anything!) to stay current in their career. This is a great time to remind them that the IEEE exists. The good folks at IEEE HQ have a great deal of membership information consisting of sign-up forms, brochures, and even pens that you can request and handout. In the world of marketing we always say that people have to see something 7 times before they'll make a buying decision, use this time of year to get started on allowing people to "see" the IEEE opportunity that they have.

Holiday activities, like parties or holiday themed meetings are a great way to both celebrate the season and attract new and existing members – who doesn't like a party? These meetings don't have to go overboard on the red and green decorations, just including some aspect of the holidays (serve red and green cookies?) and you

can call it a holiday meeting. By doing that you'll have a better chance of getting your local paper and other news outlets to promote the meeting. Who knew that engineers celebrated the holidays?

What's Up For Next Year?

You and I both know what's going to be happening as December start to get closer and eventually arrives: we will all start to think about 2014. More often than not this thinking starts with a realization of all of the things that we wanted to get done this year that we didn't, then we add on our hopes, dreams, and desires and before you know it we've got a full agenda for the upcoming year. Let's make sure that both joining and participating in the IEEE is on the agenda for the engineers in your area.

You can make this happen by using your web site and any newsletters that you send out to start to talk about all of the great things that your section might do next year. Remember, plans always change. Don't get too hung up on only talking about the things that you already have a room or a speaker reserved for. Instead, talk about the things that your section WANTS to do next year. This is what will capture the interest and excitement of the engineers who read your material.

Good luck and make sure that you use these last 65 days of 2013 in the best way possible!

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IEEE SMART TECH

METRO AREA WORKSHOP SERIES

Professional workshops in a learning environment



IEEE Smart Tech Metro Area Workshop Series Brings Affordable, High Quality Technology Training to *Atlanta*

Piscataway, NJ, July 27, 2013 – IEEE will be conducting a special workshop series at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday through Saturday October 18-19, 2013. The workshop series will offer participants a unique learning experience with topics on the cutting-edge of technical innovation today. The workshop will offer full day and ½ day courses in Smart Grid, Mobile Technologies, Computer Engineering, Wireless Communications, Life Science and Career Strategy. The workshop is designed for practicing engineers and technical professionals who are innovators, have a desire to learn more, and/or are in career transition or considering a career change. Each course is taught by leading experts in their respective fields. Attendees can earn CEU credits for the courses they attend. The two-day workshop will also provide an opportunity for networking and will include a Friday evening reception and plenary speaker address on the topic of *Mid-career transitions, including the ins and outs of networking, what recruiters REALLY care about, and how you can put your best foot forward* by Paul Miller from Monster.com. You can learn more about this event at www.ieee.org/metroevents.

About IEEE

IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community through IEEE's highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities. Learn more at www.ieee.org.

IEEE Education Fair—21-23 October 2013

IEEE Educational Activities is hosting a virtual education fair 21-24 October 2013 titled, "**IEEE Education Fair: Envisioning the Future of Science, Technology, and Engineering Education**".

The Fair is intended to raise awareness of engineering and technology education needs with a view into the next 10 – 15 years; areas of focus include educational trends for pre-university, university and continuing education audiences. It will also incorporate virtual booths providing access for the attendees to a variety of IEEE programs, products, and services.

The four-day event has dedicated the final day to Hot Topics, bringing to the Fair subject matter experts in the areas of Cyber Security, Smart Grid and Cloud Computing.

The IEEE Education Fair is designed for a global audience - to register, visit <http://bit.ly/16XUKwt>

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/IEEEead

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The Forsyth Tech IEEE Student Chapter

Bill Williams [billwill@ieee.org]

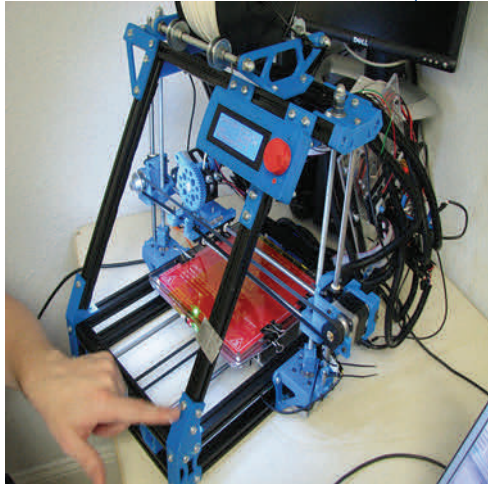
The **ForsythTech IEEE** Student Chapter of the Winston-Salem Section was formed at Forsyth Technical Community College (FTCC) in the fall of 2012 for the purpose of developing engineering projects that would benefit the community, the school and individual students.

The **ForsythTech IEEE** Student Chapter has had a spectacular first year. The participating students elected to develop a low-cost 3D printer from information originating from rep-rap.org and the Winston-Salem FabLocker

"hacker-space." As funding was being sought for the materials of the student machine, two of the students financed and built the first 3D printers that have been used for replicating parts for the student printer and providing demonstrations, participating in trade fairs, training for the students, and production of plastic parts for the assembly of "RoboHands" for children with ABS (Amniotic Band Syndrome).

The 3-D printer project requires technical skills that include:

- ⇒ CAD Design of pieces to be produced with the printer.
- ⇒ Raspberry Pi and Arduino microcontroller programming.
- ⇒ Development of motor control algorithms for CNC-like operation.
- ⇒ General electrical, electronic and mechanical engineering.
- ⇒ Materials analysis and selection.
- ⇒ System troubleshooting, calibration and



maintenance skills.

Acquiring and enhancing these skills will ensure that the students are putting their studies to practical use and are developing as future engineers.

During the spring and summer of 2013, the **ForsythTech IEEE** Student Chapter participated in and demonstrated the 3D printer project at:

- ♦ FTCC Spring Fling
- ♦ FTCC AMP (Advanced Manufacturing and Production display)
- ♦ Maker Faire in Raleigh, NC
- ♦ The Winston-Salem Chapter of IEEE
- ♦ The Robotics and Automation Chapter of the Eastern North Carolina Section of IEEE held at NC State University

"The only community college with such an active engineering student activity. A true asset for the Forsyth Tech engineering program."

This summer, the general news media sensationalized the use of 3D printers for personal production of plastic guns. To



Above: **ForsythTech IEEE** students present their 3D printer project to the Robotics and Automation Chapter of the Eastern Section of IEEE at NC State University in Raleigh, NC

offset this negativity, adjunct FTCC professor Markus Parker found the opportunity to use the 3D printer for the "positive" by printing the plastic parts of a "Robohand" for a child in Raleigh NC.

The ForsythTech IEEE students club is now in contact with families in Maryland and Pennsylvania that desire similar low-cost prosthetics.



The presenters



Networking and discussions



October Free E-Book: *Engineers Can Write! Thoughts on Writing from Contemporary Literary Engineers*

by George C. Stelluto

Who Said Engineers Couldn't Write?!

David Poyer is a best-selling author who writes what is considered genre fiction. In addition to thrillers set in a fictional geography that resembles small towns of the Allegheny region, he has written four underwater adventures. Poyer is best known for a series of novels that follow naval officer Dan Lenson, as he faces a succession of ever mounting threats to his life and career. He has been hailed as the best living American writer of naval fiction, and his work has been compared favorably with masters of the sea novel, such as Patrick O'Brian and C.S. Forrester. Poyer's work also includes three historical novels based on naval actions during the American Civil War.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Poyer begs to differ with those who say engineers can't write. "We studied what was called naval engineering," he recalls,

"which is basically systems engineering with a focus on things like naval architecture, structures, systems, and things that would fit us for a career at sea." The Navy gave him plenty of opportunities to hone his engineering skills, installing and debugging missile systems, testing prototype sonar systems, devising strategies to counter nuclear, bacteriological and chemical attacks, and taking part in a staggering number of training and support missions.

The Bad News Is...

The claim that engineers can't write, is a familiar one. When universities survey employers of their engineering graduates, writing and communication skills are often high on the list of areas needing improvement. Training firms and independent contractors stay quite busy offering short courses in writing for the staff of engineering firms, large and small. It could be argued that the profession of technical writing exists, at least in part, from a lack of trust in the writing prowess of engineers.

And engineers, themselves, have openly admitted their struggles with writing.

Of course, some engineers are poor writers. For many, English is not their first, and possibly not even their second, language. Others struggle with the elusive nature of language, finding far more comfort with mathematics, engineering formulas, laboratory exercises, and computer simulations than with gerunds, appositives and semi-colons. And some decline to invest effort in gaining proficiency with written language, feeling, perhaps, that their success will arise from solving problems, not from writing about them.

But the Good News Is Better...

It turns out that many engineers are excellent writers, adroit at taking on technology's toughest challenges, and using language clearly and cogently.

In *Engineers Can Write! Thoughts on Writing from Contemporary Literary Engineers*, award-winning author *and* engineer Tom Moran introduces you to engineers of every stripe, who are also award-winning—and much lauded—writers of poems, short stories and novels. Each of these engineers has been successful in the world of literature, and their competence with language undermines any claims that engineers can't write.

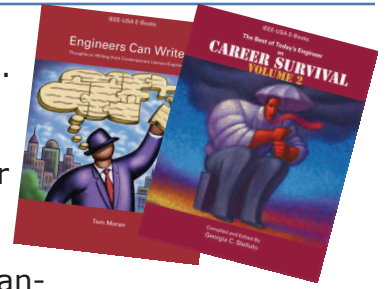
Moran's e-book explores the differences and similarities found within writing and engineering; offers some thoughts on how engineers can conceptualize their writing to improve their reports, articles, proposals and other documents; and, shows why engineers, one and all, should be able to write—and write very well—at that.

Get the October Free E-Book for Members

From 1-31 October, you can download *Engineers Can Write! Thoughts on Writing from Contemporary Engineers* for free, as a member service from IEEE-USA.

And Get the September Free E-Book, Too!

And for the last few days of September, IEEE members may download the September free e-book offering from IEEE-USA: *The Best of Today's Engineer: On Career Survival (Vol. 2)*. This compilation contains a collection of articles from *Today's Engineer* that will be useful



E-Book ...

to you, regardless of whether you are looking for a job, wondering if you are valued as much as you should be in your organization, or pondering the future of engineering as a vehicle for innovation and productivity.

IEEE members can purchase other e-books on writing from award-winning author and engineer Tom Moran, and other IEEE-USA E-Books, at deeply discounted prices by going to [IEEE-USA E-Books](#). To purchase IEEE members-only products, and to receive the member discount on eligible products, members must log in with their IEEE Web Account.

Call for Authors

IEEE-USA E-Books seeks authors to write an individual e-book, or a series of e-books, on career guidance and development topics. In particular, we are looking for authors for our new and ongoing series on Shaping an Engineering Career. This series is about the personal journeys of engineers in their careers. Shaping Engineering Career e-books will include personal recollections by engineers and managers who can demonstrate through life experiences the satisfaction from being immersed in their careers.

We want to know what you learned during your career that you wish to pass on to your colleagues. What were your experiences? Who provided guidance? Why did you take the route you did? What were the obstacles, if any?

We want the e-books in this special series to stir the imagination of younger engineers by showing how experienced engineers and managers built their careers, and the issues they confronted. While we have listed specific areas of engineering below, keep in mind there are many types of engineering. E-books should be between eight and ten thousand words:

- Book 1: Introduction to the Series
- Book 2: Technological Leadership
- Book 3: Engineering Environment: Management's Expectations
- Book 4: Digital Technology: Hardware Engineering
- Book 5: Digital Technology: Software Engineering

H1B Increase on Congress' Agenda

by Russell Harrison [r.t.harrison@ieee.org]

Legislation has passed the U.S. Senate and is pending in the U.S. House of Representatives that would roughly double the size of the H-1B temporary visa program. If an immigration reform bill passes this year, the H-1B increase will almost certainly be part of the bill unless legislators hear from their voters soon.

The bills are part of Congress' on-going efforts to pass comprehensive immigration reform. While most media attention has focused on issues like amnesty and boarder security, the legislation would also profoundly change high-skill immigration into the United States.

At the moment, both the House and Senate are supporting legislation that will increase the H-1B visa cap from its current 65,000 visas to around 180,000 visas annually. Along with new and existing exemptions from this cap, the total number of H-1B visas available each year would likely be around 250,000, up from 130,000 now.

The Senate bill (S. 744, which is the big comprehensive immigration bill) also includes a number of useful reforms to the H-1b program. While these don't undo the damage done by a cap increase, they will help. The reforms include:

- Improving the formula for calculating the prevailing wage, so that H-1B wages will be closer, although still less than, American wages
- Requiring most companies to hire American workers before turning to the H-1B
- A ban on most companies using the H-1b to outsource jobs
- Limiting companies to having only 50% of their total U.S. workforce on an H-1B

The House bill (H.R. 2131) includes none of these protections.

Between 2001 and 2012, the United States created, on average, 58,000 new STEM jobs each year. A recent analysis by IEEE Spectrum estimated that there are a total of 277,000 new STEM job vacancies each year, which includes

See **H1B**, page 12

2013-2014 Conferences in Region 3

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>2013 Low Temperature Superconductivity Workshop (LTSW)</i> | |
| November 4-6, 2013 Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Kate Liu | Applied Superconductivity Council (ASC) St.Petersburg, FL meetings@kateliu.net +1 608 238 9153 |
| <i>2013 12th International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications (ICMLA)</i> http://icmla-conference.org/icmla2013/ | |
| December 4-7, 2013 Miami Beach Resort & SPA M Wani | Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society (SMC) Miami, FL awani@csu.edu +1 661 654 6702 |
| <i>GLOBECOM 2013 - 2013 IEEE Global Communications Conference</i> http://www.ieee-globecom.org/ | |
| December 9-13, 2013 Hilton Atlanta June Leach-Barnaby | Communications Society (COM) Atlanta, GA j.leachnarnaby@comsoc.org +1 212 705 8940 |
| <i>2014 IEEE 15th International Symposium on High-Assurance Systems Engineering (HASE)</i> http://hase2014.cis.fiu.edu/ | |
| January 8-11, 2014 Newport Beachside Hotel and Resort Victor Winter | Computer Society (C) Miami Beach, FL vwinter@unomaha.edu +1 402 554 2003 |
| <i>2014 IEEE 20th International Symposium on High Performance Computer Architecture</i> http://hpca20.ece.ufl.edu/ | |
| February 15-19, 2014 Location: TBD Tao Li | Computer Society (C) Orlando, FL taoli@ece.ufl.edu +1 352 392 9510 |
| <i>SoutheastCon 2014</i> http://www.southeastcon.com | |
| March 13-16, 2014 Marriott Hotel Don Hill | Region 3 and Lexington Section Lexington, KY dhill@uky.edu +1 859 327 2810 |
| <i>2014 IEEE International Conference on RFID (IEEE RFID 2014)</i> http://2014.ieee-rfid.org | |
| April 8-10, 2014 Orange County Convention Center Merrily Hartmann | Technical Committee on RFID (CRFID) Orlando, FL merrily.hartmann@ieee.org +1 830 990 8815 |

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IEEE Region 3 Executive Committee – 2013 (cont.)

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Tim Merkl

Educational Activities Chair
Ken Pigg

Nominations & Appointments
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Tellers Committee Chair
Gregg L. Vaughn

To contact any of the above members, please go to this website

<http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/comp.html>

Other Region 3 Address:

R3 Web Site: <http://ewh.ieee.org/reg/3>

Facebook: Search for "IEEE Region 3"

Blog: <http://ieeer3.blogspot.com>

Twitter: r3ieee

Calendar: r3ieee@gmail.com (Region 3 planned meetings)

Calendar: <https://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meetings/ical/0/90/asc/3>

(all meetings in Region 3 in vTools)

H1B ...

retirees and individuals leaving the STEM workforce.

IEEE-USA opposes any attempt to raise the H-1B visa cap, and supports efforts to protect American and foreign workers from the unintended consequences of this visa program. At the same time, IEEE-USA recognizes that there are many highly skilled and innovative people around the world who were not born in the United States. It is in our country's interest to let some of these people live and work here – but they must be allowed to live and work here as American citizens, not merely temporary workers.

The Senate bill includes a large expansion of the EB green card program, which IEEE-USA supports. The bill would create a new green card for every international student who earns a Masters or PhD in a STEM field in the United States. The House bill includes a more limited, but still very useful, version of this provision.

Problems with the H-1B program have been well documented. The most damning prob-

lem with the program is that more than half of the visas last year were used to replace American workers with lower-cost foreign workers. Outsourcing companies received around 55%

Send any questions or comments to Russell Harrison [r.t.harrison@ieee.org].

of the visas. These companies employ tens of thousands of workers in the United States, almost none of whom are Americans.

IEEE-USA encourages everyone who is concerned about expanding the H-1B visa program to send an e-mail to their legislators as soon as possible. This can be done at IEEE-USA's Legislative Action Center (www.ieeeusa.org/policy, look in the upper right.) or at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.