IEEE REGION 4 - NEWSLETTER

Region 4
Serving IEEE Members in all or parts of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin

2023 – Issue 02

Contents

Upcoming Events

We have several events coming up, all are listed below, FYI.

Event	Date Start	Date End
2023 IEEE Transportation Electrification Conference & Expo (ITEC)	6/21/2023	6/23/2023
2023 IEEE 24th Workshop on Control and Modeling for Power Electronics (COMPEL)	6/25/2023	6/28/2023
2023 IEEE World Congress on Services (SERVICES)	7/1/2023	7/8/2023
2023 IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC)	7/2/2023	7/5/2023
2023 IEEE Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility & Signal/Power Integrity (EMC+SIPI)	7/29/2023	8/4/2023
2023 IEEE 34th Magnetic Recording Conference (TMRC)	7/31/2023	8/2/2023
2023 IEEE International Conference on Computational Photography (ICCP)	8/4/2023	8/6/2023
2023 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS 2023)	10/1/2023	10/5/2023

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Director's Column

Ready for Summer!
Welcome to the June Region 4 Newsletter.
As the end of Spring approaches and we move into Summer, I hope you are healthy and enjoying the warmer weather. I'm happy to report that the eIT team held a very successful Conference on May 18-20. Please see the article submitted by the committee for more information.

Region Engagement
I represented Region 4 at the Region 8 Annual meeting in Bucharest, Romania. At the event I spoke about our plans for 2023. The IEEE Romania Section & University Politechnica of Bucharest hosted a welcome cocktail reception, followed by dinner.

I also took time to spend a day with the Region's Student Activities, Young Professional and Women In Engineering Committees. In our discussion we talked about many of the same items we talk about here in Region 4. How to engage and retain members and coordinate activities across the groups.

IEEE 2023 VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony
The 2023 IEEE Vision, Innovation, and Challenges Summit (IEEE VIC Summit) & Honors Ceremony was held on May 5th at the Hilton Atlanta. I attended the pre-event meet and greet held at the Georgia Aquarium on May 4th, as well as the Gala Dinner. The IEEE VIC Summit and Ceremony is IEEE's premier event that highlights the innovation and creativity of engineering, science, and technology through provocative, educational, and inspiring talks with a vision for the future.

IEEE Board Series
IEEE travel continues, and I'm heading to Chicago for the Board Series meetings June 14-19. MGA Assembly and Directors Forum will meet on June 15th, IEEE-USA Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Friday the 16th, with the MGA Board meeting on Saturday the 17th and the IEEE Board meeting on Sunday and Monday, June 18-19.

Region Committee:
Your Region Committee for 2023 is excited to kick-off a new year and are here to provide support. Have questions, need help with events, or just want to bounce an idea off someone please reach out. The roster can be found on our region website here.

Check out all the upcoming Region 4 events here.

As always, thank you for all you do for IEEE!
Respectfully submitted
Vickie Ozburn
Region 4 Director

Editorial Corner

Previous editions in this series may be found on the Region 4 website at the R4 website. Click on the "Newsletter" button in the top left column. Comments and suggestions may be sent to the editor: sharan.kalwani@ieee.org
We rely on our officers and members to provide the 'copy' that we finally present to readers of the newsletter.

We try to complete the newsletter layout a week before publication, to allow time for review and corrections. If you have an article or notice, please submit it as early as possible.

The newsletter relies on the contributions of our members and officers, so please do not be shy. If you have something that should be shared with the rest of the region, we want to give you that opportunity.
We always encourage all Region officers to share news of activities (both past and future) in their arenas. Please feel free to share any and all information so your peers, colleagues can hear about all the good work you do.
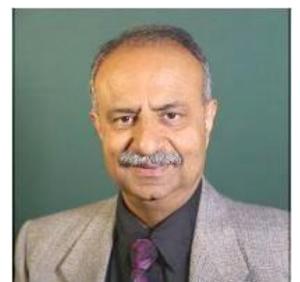
IEEE EIT 2023

IEEE EIT 2023 Conference held at Lewis University
April 2 – 8, 2023

The 23rd annual IEEE International Conference on Electro-Information Technology (EIT), sponsored by IEEE Region 4, was held at Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois, on May 18-20, 2023. The conference had about 120 national and international registered attendees.

The conference kicked off on Thursday, May 18, with a tour to Panduit Corporation's Jack E. Caveney Innovation Center (JECIC) in Tinley Park, Illinois. The JECIC is innovation is a sleek, high-tech state of the art research center containing over 17 labs in a 250k square foot facility, and is named after its founder, one of the most prolific inventors in the electrical and telecommunications-oriented industries. The tour was followed by a Welcome Reception dinner, where the attendees were welcomed by Lewis University leadership that included the Dr. David Livingston (President), Dr. Christopher Sindt (Provost) and Dr. Christopher White (Dean of College of Aviation, Science and Technology). Jim Riess, EIT Conference Administrator, represented Vickie Ozburn, IEEE Region 4 Director, in welcoming the attendees, along with the 2023 conference organizing committee chairs, Dr. Hossein Mousavinezhad (Founding General Chair), Dr. Gina Martinez (General Co-Chair), and Dr. Bakul Banerjee (General Co-Chair).

About 80 papers on topics ranging from AI, cybersecurity, biomedical applications and various other topics in the fields of electrical and computer engineering were presented and will be published in the conference proceedings and IEEE Xplore. In addition to the paper presentation sessions, the conference featured a packed industry engagement track, which included a total of eight tutorials and workshops. The tutorials covered topics such as AI, cybersecurity, EVs and Intellectual Property. The full final program can be viewed at https://eit-conference.org/eit2023/program.html.

During breakfast, lunch and dinner, the conference attendees heard from an array of distinguished plenary keynote speakers, each of whom shared profound ideas and insights. Ms. Anne Lee, Bell Labs Fellow and Senior Technology Advisor in the Technology Leadership Office at Nokia, discussed AI and Telecom, which was a very relevant and timely topic given the recent interest on ChatGPT. Other keynote speakers included Professor Mohammad Shahidehpour, University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), who discussed electric grid resilience, Dr. Madjid Fathi Professor and Head of KBS & KM University of Siegen, Germany, who discussed AI and knowledge graph-based recommendation systems, and Dr. David Livingston, Lewis University President, who discussed the importance of electrical engineering for global development and cautions for its future.

At the Friday, May 19 Awards Banquet, the conference recognized the best paper winners. Zhaodong Zhou, Jun Chen, Mingyuan Tao, Peng Zhang, Meng Xu from Oakland University and Isuzu Technical Center of America were awarded the "Best Paper, First Place" for their paper "Experimental Validation of Event-Triggered Model Predictive Control for Autonomous Vehicle Path Tracking."

IEEE EIT 2023 Best Paper Winner, First Place: "Experimental Validation of Event-Triggered Model Predictive Control for Autonomous Vehicle Path Tracking"

The Best Paper second place award went to Tianyang Fang, Jafar Saniie, Sasan Bakhtiari and Alexander Heifetz of IIT and Argonne National Laboratory for their paper "Optimization of Microwave Resonant Cavity Flowmeter Design for High Temperature Fluid Sensing Applications.", and the third place award went to Shereen Ismail, Diana W. Dawoud, Tamara Al-zyoud and Hassan Reza from the University of North Dakota, the University of Dubai and the University of Jordan, for their paper "Towards Blockchain-based Adaptive Trust Management in Wireless Sensor Networks."

On Saturday, May 20, an undergraduate student poster contest was held, with cash prizes sponsored by IEEE Chicago.

IEEE EIT 2023 Student Poster Displays

The EIT 2023 Organizing Committee is extremely thankful for the attendee's paper submissions and attendance to the conference, as well as IEEE Region 4's support for a successful conference, and hopes to see everyone at the EIT 2024, to be held at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

EIT 2023 Organizing Committee

IEEE Sections Congress

IEEE Sections Congress is a triennial gathering of Section leadership sponsored by the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board.

An event that includes four days of working sessions and networking, Sections Congress involves hundreds of delegates from all ten Regions. At Congress, they learn how to utilize the resources of IEEE to maximize their effectiveness as IEEE volunteer leaders. Workshop, panel, and tutorial sessions are held on topics of interest to the Sections.

Sections Congress is the one major meeting sponsored by IEEE that brings together the grassroots leadership of IEEE so that they can share ideas, concerns, and solutions.

The Congress is also a forum where the Section Chairs speak as the collective voice of IEEE members, expressing ideas about how IEEE can better serve its members, both now and going forward. The issues generated at Sections Congress have had a major impact on the plans made by the IEEE leadership for the future of IEEE.

Nexus 2023

A Nexus is defined as *"The point where different things or ideas come together or intersect"* and the Region 4 Nexus – Student/Young Professional Conference – was held in Schiller Park, IL, March 31 – April 2, 2023 and was truly the intersection of Career Planning with immediate actions.

After welcomes by Vickie Ozburn, Region 4 Director; Alvin Chin, Chicago Section Chair and Ben Standskov, Conference General chair; this project of the Region 4 Combined Student Activities-Young Professionals Committee, Region 4 Staff, and Chicago Section Staff for the purpose of providing Early Career planning information to the Students and Young Professionals in attendance, the tone for the conference was set with a keynote by Russell Harrison, Managing Director of IEEE-USA . Russ makes the case for the relevancy of both IEEE and the participation of IEEE Members in government to insure that elected officials had the necessary technical information to create strong informed legislation. He cited the recent CHIPS Act as an example of IEEE engineers working with Congress to make sure that the Act was technically correct and appropriate for our American economy.

With a positive tone set for the rest of the conference, a panel posed the question of where do you go after graduation? Discounting the idea of Gap Years which needed little elaboration, the panel brought out information on the three remaining choices: Ray Klouda of Elite Electronic Engineering explained the benefits of a strong job in your field. Steve Peters formerly of IDOT contrasted a permanent job with the temporary learning environment of an internship which allowed you to sample a job without a major commitment. Mark Werwath of Northwestern University offered the alternative of continuing education in a Masters Program.

The pandemic created a pool of engineers who prefer to work for themselves rather than for a formal employer. There are two distinct ways you can work for yourself: You can be a consultant and provide expertise to a range of clients. If you have a new idea for a good or a service, or thoughts on a better way to do something, you can be an entrepreneur and start your own business. There are both similarities and differences in the worlds of consulting and entrepreneurship. The second panel of the day explored the areas where there is overlap and where these two important areas diverge to make it is easier to determine if being your own boss is the right career plan for you.

Rob Klein, Chair of the Chicago Rockford Consultants Network chaired a panel which included Peter Salerno, who started his own software services company and David Hoffman who provides consulting expertise to a several area companies including several startups.

The Group was then treated to a keynote by U.S. Representative Sean Casten (D)(IL-6), who is an engineer and was a clean energy consultant prior to being elected to Congress, He is a member of the House Science and Technology Committee. Representative Caster has also spent a considerable amount of time on the Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee. Rep. Casten not only gave the attendees a window into the pending technical legislation but talked about areas where additional legislation for emerging technologies can be added by IEEE members. He was able to give Congressional context to the CHIPS Act Russ Harrison had introduced earlier. Rep. Casten followed his prepared remarks with a lengthy question and answer session where he addressed queries from the audience.

Having spent the better part of the day on the how of careers, the focus was shifted to the what of those careers. Most curricula do a great job of giving you the theory and basics of your chosen field. What they do not do, is present a strong picture of how you will be able to apply that information to a career which will support you into retirement.

Tom Braxton introduced the area of Electromagnetic Compatibilities which is fast becoming a major consideration at we embrace the Internet of Things and Electric Vehicles. Harry Jones brought home the necessity for Product Safety testing – both the completing of the tests and the creation of those tests – as more and more devices used in daily life become powered. Alvin Chin explained the various opportunities for vehicular engineers as cars not only switch to electric power but become smarter and more feature laden. Biswan Senapati showed students there is more to computer science than programming with a discussion of systems architecture, ERP planning, and the increasingly important area of cybersecurity.

Bob Burke rounded out Saturday's presentations with a presentation on the importance of ethics in engineering and IEEE's Code of Ethics. His interactive presentation allowed the attendees to examine ethical situations and their reactions.

Where Saturday was focused on career planning and the future, Sunday's theme was Humanitarian Activities and what Students and Young Professionals could do right now to make a difference.

The day started off with a special presentation live from Kyiv, Ukraine, by award-winning journalist Philip Ittner, a former CBS and Voice of America Moscow Bureau Chief and Sixty Minutes producer who is now an independent reporter living among the residents in Kyiv rather than in the journalists compound at the Hotel Intercontinental. Philip shared with the audience the importance of engineers to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people's survival, and how they are considered national heroes there. He talked about the contributions of engineering students who are designing drones and the nuclear engineers who volunteered to stay in the occupied territories to insure that the reactors were properly maintained. A highlight of the presentation was the audience being able to pose questions directly to Philip on a variety of topics like how schools were operating and the daily life in general.
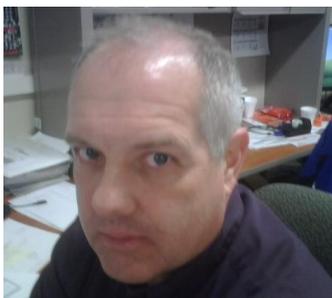
Following Philip Ittner's inspiring presentation, Bruce Howell, Region 4 Humanitarian Activities Chair, gave an overview of IEEE's Humanitarian Activities program and the various ways IEEE members could get involved. It was noted that Region 4 did not have a single SIGHT group attached to a Student Branch, Section or Society Chapter though creating one was relatively straightforward.

Only one EPICS in IEEE Environmental Challenge grant was awarded in 2022 and Oakton College in Chicago Section received that one. There were ten grants awarded worldwide which makes this award even more impressive. Chloe Richmond and Epiphany Sosa who developed the sustainable community garden project and submitted the winning application as freshmen shared with the group how they approached not only the application process, but the actual building of their greenhouse on the Oakton College grounds. They talked about what they felt they did right, what they would have done differently and what they learned from the process.

Connie Kelly finished off the theme of giving back with a discussion of how students and Young Professionals can get involved right now by participating in STEM programs, She also introduced the group to the Science Kits for Public Libraries program.

Ben Strandskov, Conference General Chair, summarized the two days of material before declaring the conference closed.

The conference was not only sitting and listening, but attendees were also able to visit a number of displays provided by IEEE Region 4, IEEE Chicago Section, Chicago Chapter EMC Society. EPS (Electrical Package Society), SPS (Signal Processing Society, and Photonic Society. Other support was received from IEEE Educational Activities.

WIE International Leadership Summit

IEEE Region 4 **W**omen **I**n **E**ngineering **L**eadership **S**ummit (WIELS) **November 3, 2023 (NEW DATE)**, will bring together 200+ engineering leaders, researchers, educators, innovators, disruptors, young professionals, and students to gather at the conference to help advance the state of practice related to energy/sustainability challenges, work/life balance strategies, and leadership vision. Speakers will share real-life experiences and lessons learned. This summit would provide a platform to identify opportunities for improvement and networking. This event is not just limited to women, but also men are invited.

Post Covid 19, companies have adopted remote working practice and virtual working did provide employees flexibility. However, industry surveys showed employees have experienced more stress in balancing work/life. We saw energy and sustainability as a central driver for business, societies, and individuals. Lastly, the topic of leadership and self-reliance are ever more essential amidst the recent tech layoffs. Women in tech are a growing force behind such advancement and concerns in these areas. This summit will provide a forum for women in tech to gather to share different points of views to yield new understanding, learn best practices and walk away with a fresh strategy to balance work/life, support sustainability activities, and be inspired as new leaders, or become confident in one's authentic self.

Watch for registration information. If you have suggestions on topics or speakers, or would like to volunteer, please reach out to Liang Downey at lxdowney@ieee.org or Vickie Ozburn at vaozburn@ieee.org .

Senior Elevation

Have you ever wondered what it required to be a Senior Member or even why it mattered?

IEEE membership enhances every stage of your career. Whether you are an established professional or just starting out, IEEE membership identifies you as superior talent. Advancing your member grade can bring added peer recognition to your accomplishments and shows your employer your desire to improve your technical and leadership skills. Senior Membership is encouraged because it is required, in most cases, for key volunteer positions at the IEEE.

As an IEEE Senior member, you receive the following benefits:
1) **Recognition:** The professional recognition of your peers for technical and professional excellence.
2) **Leadership Eligibility:** Senior members are eligible to hold executive IEEE volunteer positions.
3) **Ability to refer other candidates:** Senior members can serve as a reference for other applicants for Senior Membership.
4) **Review panel:** Senior members are invited to be on the panel to review Senior member applications.
5) **Letter of commendation:** A letter of commendation on the achievement of Senior member grade will be sent to your employer (upon your request).
6) **Announcements:** Announcement of your elevation can be made in section/society and/or local newsletters, newspapers and notices.

In addition to your new benefits, the following rewards are sent to you via postal mail:

1) **Complimentary Society Voucher:** You may use this voucher to join one **new** IEEE Society.

2) **Senior member plaque:** An engraved plaque you can proudly display to colleagues, clients and employers. The plaque, an attractive fine wood with bronze engraving, is sent approximately eight weeks after elevation.

So what's required to elevate?
1) To be eligible for application or nomination, candidates must:
    - Be engineers, scientists, educators, technical executives, or originators in IEEE-designated fields
    - Have experience reflecting professional maturity
    - Have been in professional practice for at least ten years (with some credit for certain degrees)
    - Have shown significant performance over a period of at least five of those years
2) Obtain references from three Senior, Fellow, or Honorary Members
3) Complete the online application at the Senior Member Portal.

References a Problem? Let us help!

Getting reference is not always easy:
1) Members frequently are unable to attend meetings due to work schedules.
2) Members may not be located near Section or Chapter meetings or presentations.
3) Members may not feel comfortable trying to determine the identity of Senior Members at activities.
4) A member's society may not have a chapter in the local area which holds meetings.
5) Seniors Members and Fellows want to at least talk to the person they are referring to before completing the endorsement.

The Solution

The Virtual Senior Member Reference Review Panels

Online interviews of members wishing to elevate by current Senior Members where the Seniors can get to know the candidates assist in matching members to Senior Members.

Want more information on becoming a senior member? **It's your lucky day.**

Please contact Meredith Godar (meredith.a.godar@ieee.org) or Vickie Ozburn (vaozburn@ieee.org) **WE'LL BE GLAD TO HELP.**

IEEE Day 2023

In most areas outside IEEE-USA, IEEE Day has almost the status of a major holiday. Sections have major activities and there is strong participation in the Photo and Video Contests. Badges are earned and Collaboratec is full of information about the various celebrations of the day when engineers came together to share their technical expertise. But in Regions 1 through 6 activities are few and far between. Some sections in Region 10 have more IEEE Day Ambassadors than entire USA regions. Region 4 can be as creative and productive as our counterparts outside the United States.

We are just as clever as the members of any of these regions. The IEEE Day window at the end of September/beginning of October during which activities qualify as IEEE Day Activities provides an excellent opportunity for recruiting students returning to school and professional members regrouping after summer. It is also a great time to remind our industry partners of the educational opportunities available through ILN and IEEE.tv. The classes, workshops, and lectures available via the various IEEE avenues can be used to provide excellent continuing education to engineers working through out your section.

Once again there will be free presentations by the various societies and other IEEE entities like ILN. There will be free and discounted classes and mini-courses on a wide range of topics. Discounts on some future conferences will be offered when registration is done during IEEE Day window. New members will again be offered a discount to join. Many societies will be offering free or discounted fees for becoming society members. These should be great enticements for new members to join or lapsed members to return. In many cases the discount is extended to both professional and student members.

There will once again be prizes for photos and videos submitted to the contests. Badges will be offered to those who complete a series of tasks associated with IEEE and its long history.

The Region IEEE Day Lead will work with the Section IEEE Day Ambassadors to coordinate activities with the local society chapters, affinity groups and student branches. Publicizing the local activities and the national offerings in local media can attract new members and reinvigorate existing members. Sending information to local media, libraries, companies, and even schools can help to attract attendance from outside the organization.

October 3 – the date of IEEE Day for 2023 – seems like part of a distant future, but given the annual summer slowdown, it is much closer than one might think. This is a great time to start planning both activities and how to publicize them.

There will be additional guidance in the months leading up to IEEE Day to help Sections, Chapters, and Student Branches in Region 4 field IEEE Day celebrations to rival those in any Region. Now is the time to begin the discussions that will lead to a successful IEEE Day 2023. Let's prove that Region 4 can be as successful with its IEEE Day observances as our non-USA counterparts.

R4 Award Nominations

2023 Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for 2023 Region 4 Awards!

The Region 4 Awards and Recognition program is designed to encourage, recognize, and reward excellence in promoting the interests of IEEE within our Region.   Each award has a unique mission and criteria—and offers the opportunity to honor distinguished colleagues.

For more information and to see how you can nominate a deserving colleague or organization, see the Region 4 Awards and Recognition web site at:

https://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/awards.php

The nominations portal will close Friday, November 10.

Thank you!

Best Regards,
Steve Kerchberger
Awards Chair, IEEE Region 4

IEEE Region 4 Awards and Recognition

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2023 Regional Awards

Nominate by November 10, 2023

2023 Awards are now open for nominations. To learn how to nominate a deserving colleague or organization and to submit a nomination visit: https://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/awards.php

IEEE Region 4

IEEE
Advancing Technology
for Humanity

EAA AirVenture 2023

IEEE is Going to EAA AirVenture 2023!

This July Region 4 will be joining more than 650,000 attendees and over 200 vendors and organizations at the EAA AirVenture. This world-renowned aviation event attracts pilots, manufacturers of aviation and aerospace related products from planes to their avionics to the support systems on the ground, educators, legislators and just persons with related interests from all over the world to Whitman Field in Oshkosh, WI, for the last week in July. During that time, little Whitman Field becomes the busiest airport in the world!

Region 4 hopes to attract new members and rekindle relationships with former members. There are thousands of attendees who did not attend an ABET school and might not have learned about IEEE as a student, or who did and thought IEEE was just a student club. Computer Science majors, in particular, may have attended schools which did not offer IEEE exposure. There are many persons who have heard of IEEE in relation to our Standards efforts but were not aware they could become a part of the organization.

The numerous vendors are excellent prospects for to introduce our IEEE Publication subscriptions and online offerings, especially in the area of Standards. The online courses and certificate programs provide the continuing educations necessary for companies to stay current and completive. It also gives us the opportunity to reconnect with some of our corporate colleagues and update them on existing offerings.

AirVenture runs from July 24 through July 30. Region 4 is looking to staff our booth in the indoor exhibit hall, which is open from 9 to 5 daily. Our 10 x 10 booth will provide information to visitors on membership and IEEE products. There will also be STEM information to occupy the children while the parents engage in technical discussions. The goal is to have sufficient staffing so that all volunteers have an opportunity to enjoy the other exhibits, activities, and airshows during the week. In addition to the four large permanent buildings, there are pop up buildings erected by major vendors like Boeing and General Electric. "The Fly Market" is a flea market which is aviation oriented but does have some non-aviation goods on sale. There is a "Theater in the Woods" where there is nightly entertainment.

From homebuilt aircraft to military planes to airliners to commercial craft, the Oshkosh flight line has dozens of static displays offering the opportunity to walk through the planes and visit with their crews. Wednesday and Saturday nights attendees are treated with airshows that feature aerobatics enhanced with lights on the aircraft and fireworks.

Information on AirVenture can be found at www.airventure.org

Oshkosh, WI, is roughly one hour north of Milwaukee, one hour east of Madison, one hour south of Green Bay via interstates. Chicago is just over two hours south of Oshkosh. AirVenture is a family friendly activity and a great outing for even the youngest children (A special area called KidVenture where children can learn more about aviation.) and those under 18 are admitted free.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the exhibit planning or to staff the booth, please contact Vickie or Connie. Admission and parking will be covered by Region 4 for anyone participating. Let's make IEEE a permanent fixture at AirVenture and a major part of our recruiting and marketing efforts going forward.

IEEE Industry Ambassador

Opportunity to be an IEEE Industry Ambassador!!!

IEEE's Region 4 Industry Engagement Committee is launching a pilot program to create a greater bonding between its members and the industry at large. In this innovative program called "IEEE Industry Ambassador" members of IEEE working in any industry covered by the IEEE charter/Societies can submit self-nomination to be an IEEE Industry Ambassador by contacting the Region 4 Industry Engagement Committee.

As an IEEE Industry Ambassador, you will have the unique honor of being the bridge between our prestigious institution and various industries ranging from Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) to large corporations (MNC's) promoting the growth of technology through collaboration between experts from the applied engineering world. This will be an honorary title bestowed on the volunteer by IEEE with the expectation of member contributing to the advancement of industries technological growth located within their region/section through various activities.

Don't miss this golden chance to guide the future of our industries through IEEE's vast technological resources. Contact your section chair or Region 4 IEEE IEC at balaji.sankarshanan@ieee.org for more details and nomination submission.

Volunteer Profile

IEEE Region 4 Volunteer Profile

Vickie Ozburn

How long have you been a member of IEEE?

17 years

Why did you join IEEE?

Invited to join by members of the Cedar Rapids ProCon Conference committee. I had been a volunteer for a couple years but not a member, so they offered to pay my first year dues and I was hooked.

What's your favorite part of being a member of IEEE?

Meeting new people and helping others grow. We have a unique opportunity to connect, educate, and create through our events and activities.

What's you current volunteer roles?

- Region 4 Director
- Member of the MGA Operations Committee
- Member of the Membership Development Committee
- Member of the Climate Change Activities Inventory (CCIRCC) Ad Hoc committee
- Cedar Rapids Section WIE Chair

I also volunteer with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) as the Convention Food Services Manager. This year's convention will have close to 3500 attendees in Milwaukee, a lot of food ;-)

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

Opportunities to try different things, things you may not have the opportunity to try in your day job. I also enjoy giving back and helping others.

What is your current occupation?

Sr software engineering manager at Collins Aerospace

What do you love most about your industry?

I work in the Avionics business unit, where we enable safe flight through our products and services. Our focus is on keeping passengers, flight crews, and militaries safe, connected, and informed. I'm proud of the work we do at Collins Aerospace.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spend time outdoors and scrapbooking

What's your favorite book/movie/TV Show?

I'm a big anything Star Wars fan when it comes to movies. My favorite TV shows are NCIS and FBI, and I love murder mystery books.

What's your favorite food?

Pizza, it can cover most all food groups

What's your favorite place to travel?

I really enjoy Europe

19th Annual RTC

Save the Date!

19th Annual Real-Time Communications Conference & Expo at IIT Chicago

It is more the norm for International Real Time Communications Conferences to be held in places like Silicon Valley, but for the past nineteen years IEEE and IIT have teamed up to present one of the premier conferences in this space.

IEEE is pleased to announce the Real-Time Communications Lab at Illinois Tech in Chicago will host the 9th annual Real-Time Communications (RTC) Conference and Expo at IIT – October 2 – 5, 2023. IEEE Chicago is proud to be the host for this international conference.

The RTC Conference at IIT is a globally recognized collaborative event where the interactive multimedia and real-time communications industries and academia connect. The conference brings together developers, technical professionals and business executives from industry, standards, policy, regulatory, and research, promoting an open exchange of ideas to lead future development in the rapidly changing field of real-time communications.

This year marks a return to an in-person activity at Hermann Hall on the IIT Campus, 33rd and Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois, United States.

https://www.rtc-conference.com/2023/

Registration: Link to External Registration

Agenda
This year's event promises to be the biggest and best to date! This is a multi-tracked conference that will run over three days, focusing on the major areas of:
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- WebRTC & CPaaS
- Next Generation Emergency Services
- Cloud Communications and Programmable Networks
- VoiceTech
- *Research Track (juried papers) Additional information on submission of Research Track Papers will be available shortly.*

Industry and Academic personnel who are interested in speaking at the conference should check the Conference website for additional information on applying for speaker slots. Information on the Conference will be posted on the website and contained in future mailings.

Add Event to Your Calendar So It Doesn't Slip By
iCal
Google Calendar

To view complete details for this event, click here to view the announcement

NASA calling All Hams!

Ham Radio Operators, We Need Your Help During Solar Eclipses!

August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse as seen from the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, near Maryville, TN. (Credit: W.D. Engelke AB4EJ)

Ham Radio operators, we're calling you! Members of the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) will be making radio contacts during the 2023 and 2024 North American eclipses, probing the Earth's ionosphere. It will be a fun, friendly event with a competitive element—and you're invited to participate.

Both amateur and professional broadcasters have been sending and receiving radio signals around the Earth for over a century. Such communication is possible due to interactions between our Sun and the ionosphere, the ionized region of the Earth's atmosphere located roughly 80 to 1000 km overhead. The upcoming eclipses (October 14, 2023, and April 8, 2024) provide unique opportunities to study these interactions. As you and other HamSCI members transmit, receive, and record signals across the radio spectrum during the eclipse, you will create valuable data to test computer models of the ionosphere.

For more information, go to https://hamsci.org/festivals-eclipse-ionospheric-science

More about solar eclipses:
https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/home/

https://science.nasa.gov/science-news/citizenscience/ham-radio-operators-we-need-your-help-during-solar-eclipses

HAC becomes HTC

<u>The IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board continues the work of the Humanitarian Activities Committee</u>

In November 2022, the IEEE Board of Directors approved to re-establish the Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) as the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB). This change represents an elevated priority of humanitarian and sustainable programs within IEEE and reflects the growing numbers of SIGHT groups, project proposals, and funded teams since the Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) was first formed in 2015. A recent survey indicates 30% of all active IEEE members and 60% of active IEEE student members have interest in IEEE's humanitarian programs.

The IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board (HTB) continues the mission of inspiring and empowering IEEE volunteers around the world to carry out impactful humanitarian and sustainable technology activities at the local level. The HTB and SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) are again offering a call for proposals to support grassroots local projects that utilize technology to address pressing needs of the IEEE members' communities. These funded efforts provide a powerful opportunity for IEEE members to utilize their technical expertise in their local communities to help IEEE achieve its mission of Advancing Technology for the Benefit of Humanity.

HTB/SIGHT recognize that there is a broad range of challenges in the communities in which IEEE members live worldwide. The starting point for a project should always be the needs of the local community as evidenced through dialogue and relationship with local organizations and leaders. Projects must focus on people first, rather than starting with a particular technology that needs to find a use. The following areas of particular interest to HTB/SIGHT can act as a guide when determining the technological solution to the community needs:

- Agricultural Technology
- Climate Sustainability Technology
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including rural communications and connecting the unconnected
- Sustainable Power Solutions
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WaSH) Technology
- Other technologies to address pressing local community needs

A special consideration for these proposals will be to support projects that apply existing proven technologies within IEEE designated fields to address challenges faced by a localized persons with disabilities or local organizations that serve persons with disabilities. Proposals can include customization of existing technologies but should not involve research or the development of new prototypes. Applicants of these proposals must demonstrate collaboration with the beneficiaries in the identification of the need and proposed solution.

HTB/SIGHT provides awards of between $1,000 and $10,000 per project. Projects that have previously been awarded funding may re-apply if they have successfully completed the work and fulfilled all reporting requirements. It is important to note that IEEE is not a disaster response organization and is not organized to address immediate humanitarian challenges. All projects related to disasters should focus on addressing medium- and longer-term needs such as prevention or early warning rather than direct relief efforts.

More information can be found at the IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board homepage: https://htb.ieee.org

Bruce Howell, SMIEEE, Region 4 Humanitarian Activities Coordinator

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Climate Change

Do you want to get involved in our future? As the world's largest organization of technical professionals, IEEE is uniquely positioned to help organize the world's engineers, scientists, and technical professionals in addressing the causes, mitigating impacts, and adapting to climate change.

The New R4 Climate/Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee is chartered to support and engage R4 members to address and support climate change and sustainability activities in R4 and other considerations as listed below.
- ➢ Identify and recommend new directions and initiatives to provide technical and sustainable solutions to climate change in coordination with IEEE and other OUs
- ➢ Promote climate change activities by other OUs
    - o TAB - Climate Change Program, Future Directions Committee
    - o SA - Planet Positive 2030
    - o IEEE USA - Congress visits
    - o EA – Ideathon
- ➢ Promote IEEE climate change collections and activities
    - o IEEEXplore
    - o Climate Change website
    - o 2022-2023 IEEE Climate Change Ad Hoc Committee activities

To join us please reach out to Chanaka Hettige at chanaka@ieee.org or Vickie Ozburn at vaozburn@ieee.org

R4 Newsletter Name!

Yes, we have rejuvenated the newsletter, but beyond that we are looking for a very catchy and interesting name. Send your suggestions to Vickie Ozburn (vaozburn@ieee.org) and Sharan Kalwani (sharan.kalwani@ieee.org)

R4 Web & Social Media Sites

Region 4 Website
https://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/index.php

Each of the sites below may be accessed through the Website:

R4 Event Calendar
https://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/calendar.php

R4 Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/R4.IEEE/

R4 LinkedIn Page
https://www.linkedin.com/company/ieeer4/

R4 Twitter
https://twitter.com/IEEER4

R4 Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/ieeer4/

R4 YouTube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/@IEEER4

R4 Committee Members:
For a complete listing of all:
https://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/4/committee.php