FWCS Anniversary Celebration

Yes the Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) has been around for 62 years! Thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers through the years, we have continued to be a successful section, with multiple Chapters. Please join us as we celebrate our members by presenting IEEE Service Anniversary certificates to recognize the members years of IEEE Membership.

Young Professionals are also invited to join us in the Anniversary Celebration.

Date: Sunday December 2, 2018
Time: Noon—3:00pm
Location: South Florida Museum 201 10th St. W Bradenton, FL 34205

Please sign up at http://time2meet.com/fwcs-section/index.html no later than Monday November 26th so we have an accurate count for food planning, etc.

FWCS Seeking Volunteers for Officers

The FWCS Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers for the following positions within the Section Executive Committee:

Chair  Vice-Chair  Secretary  Treasurer

If you are willing to volunteer and have the tie to dedicate to these prestigious positions, please contact Richard Beatie, (r.beatie@ieee.org), Jim Howard, (j.howard@ieee.org), or Robert Aasheim (Robert.aasheim@duke-energy.com)

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PE Renewals Due February 2019
18 CEHs required for renewal
Check the FWCS Signal for opportunities to earn CEHs

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Upcoming Meetings

EXCOM Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018 5:30PM at TECO Plaza
Register online at http://time2meet.com/fwcs-excom/index.html
Open to all FWCS Members

FWCS SunCoast Signal 1  December 2018
PE Corner
Art Nordlinger, PE, Senior Member

Keeping Your Licensure Records Up-To-Date

As renewal approaches, it is important that we all make sure that our contact information on file with the Board is correct. It is the responsibility of the Licensee or certificate holder to notify the Board of any change of vital information previously submitted, such as a name or address change, change of employer, or change of PE in responsible charge for a firm. This information should be provided within 30 days of when the change occurs. The Board also encourages licensees to provide their current email address as the Board routinely provides special notices, information and the quarterly newsletter electronically.

Changes may be submitted to the FPBE on-line. This may be done via an interactive form found in the Licensure section of the Board’s website, and then selecting the Change Contact Information page. You can also manage your license account by selecting Licensee Login on Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s on-line portal at www.myfloridalicense.com. So while it’s fresh on your mind, log on and make sure that your information is correct and up-to-date.

The contact information that you provide to the Board is public record and subject to disclosure by the Board under public records laws. As a result, we all receive solicitations from a variety of vendors and organizations. In response to some solicitations seeming to imply endorsement by the Board, the Board’s recent newsletter stated, “The public records laws in Florida place no restrictions on the commercial use of information provided in response to a public records request, including use of Board compiled listings of Florida licensees and their contact information, including email addresses. The Florida Board of Professional Engineers in no way endorses or sanctions the use of information obtained through a public records request in any way, whether for sales, marketing, surveying or polling, or other activities.” (emphasis in original)

Did you also know that it is required that you notify the FPBE of a criminal conviction? Hopefully this will never apply to you, but if it ever does, Section 455.227(1)(f), Florida Statutes, Grounds for Discipline; Penalties; Enforcement requires all FPBE licensees to report, in writing to the Board within 30 days, after the licensee is convicted or found guilty of, or entered a plea of non contendere or guilty to, regardless of adjudication, a crime in any jurisdiction. Failure to timely report will result in disciplinary action being taken against the licensee. Note that minor traffic tickets are considered “infractions” and don’t constitute a “crime” as contemplated in this statute. However, more serious traffic tickets, like a DUI are considered a crime. Also note that the reporting requirement only kicks in if a licensee is found or pleads guilty as noted above, not just merely arrested.

Whether you are a PE looking to attain required CEHs, or an engineer looking to learn something new or keep current with the latest trend in the profession, IEEE has seminars that will meet your needs. And for the PEs, don’t forget that the next renewal is only 2 months away. Better start earning those CEHs now!
Leader’s Center
A Surprising Event with Participative Management?

Paul Schnitzer, Ph.D—Life Senior Member

Last month I described Participative Management and why it is valuable. But I ended with a question: Does it always work? My short answer: Not always but sometimes surprisingly. Here is one such example.

I had been brought in to lead an electronics research group which focused on various forms of communications. While it was functioning fairly well, I, in my arrogance, thought it might be able to do even better. What if I allowed the group to reorganize itself so that everyone was doing what they really wanted to do?

I had my drill: bring them together; list all the projects/tasks; and let them select what they each wanted to do. I expected that many would select what they were currently doing but perhaps there may be some restructuring—and that is what happened…almost!

It took a few sessions but Al came in to my office. He was not happy. Al was a senior electronics technician in a group of more senior engineers and wasn’t the most confident of people. He told me that he did not like what I was doing. He didn’t want to choose what to do; he wanted me to assign a task to him. That’s the way it always was and he didn’t want it to change.

I was relatively new to this PM stuff and was very surprised. How could anyone refuse to accept some control of their activities? Perhaps he had never had that option before but why not take it now? Here I was offering him an amazing opportunity and he was turning it down!

It took some rethinking; this violated my understanding of the PM process. What to do?

I realized that he was actually doing what I asked: he was telling me what he wanted: he wanted me to assign him his work. Oh, okay. Not that way I imagined it but I can do this.

I asked Al what he had been doing (although I thought I knew) and he told me some additional activities I was not aware of. He told me what he liked and what was less pleasant. We gradually focused on two project tasks, one he was currently doing and the second something new. He liked these ideas—so much so that he asked to also continue working on another project that was currently on his plate.

The result? He actually selected his own work…to his great surprise. Still, while this really works, I repeat, not always—but give it a try and be flexible.

Next month a related topic: Concurrent Engineering—a powerful way to significantly shorten projects. If you haven’t tried it, you might find it a pleasant surprise. For more on change leadership go to http://leadchangelWithoutFear.com/ and check the tab “Successful Real Change” for more ideas.

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IEEE USF Student Branch Banquet

The IEEE USF Student Branch held its Student Banquet on Saturday, November 17, and the Banquet was attended by approximately 30 students, professionals and staff. Dr. Jim Anderson gave an enlightening speech of his career history.

Several Student Awards were distributed following Dinner.
Managing an Aging Infrastructure

**Date:** Friday, January 18, 2019  
**Time:** Registration & Light Breakfast: 8:30AM - 9:00AM  
**Speaker:** Ralph Fehr, Ph.D.  
**Location:** FRCC 3000 Bayport Drive., #600, Tampa, FL 33607  
**Parking:** Use parking lot for Hyatt (North side only)  
**Cost:** $100 Members, $200 Non-Members, $20 Students. Includes Light Breakfast, Lunch.  
**CEH Credits:** 4 Professional Development Hours will be awarded. Be sure to enter your name and PE number on the signup website as it appears on your license.  
**RSVP:** Online at [http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes3/index.html](http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes3/index.html) (Select Reservations)  
Make checks payable to: IEEE FWCS  
Send checks to: Jim Howard, IEEE FWCS Treasurer  
3133 W. Paris Street  
Tampa, FL 33614-5964  

**Questions:** Jim Howard at 863-834-6585, or j.howard@ieee.org

The United States was the first country to widely distribute electricity to its citizens. Early distribution systems date back well over 125 years. Since then, much has been done to improve the means by which we distribute electricity, but nonetheless, we as a nation are faced with an aging infrastructure which poses reliability and economic challenges. And other countries are not far behind.

This seminar addresses topics essential for managing an aging infrastructure, such as customer expectations and reliability of service; cost and economic evaluation; equipment inspection, testing, and diagnostics; impact of aging equipment; limitation of traditional planning methods; O&M prioritization; planning methods for an aging infrastructure; and recommendations.

Any engineer dealing with an aging energy delivery infrastructure (all of us!) should find the seminar interesting and useful.

**Speaker Bio**

Dr. Fehr earned his B.S.E.E. degree from the Pennsylvania State University, his M.E.E.E. concentrated in power from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and his Ph.D. from the University of South Florida (USF). He has been employed in the electric power industry for over 20 years, and has taught engineering courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels since 1997. He currently serves on the Electrical Engineering faculty at USF. He also provides consulting and training services to the power industry, teaching short courses and seminars throughout the United States and worldwide. He is a senior member of IEEE, and a registered professional engineer in Florida and New Mexico.
Tour of Beckwith Electric Company

Date: Friday, January 25, 2019

Tentative Schedule

Time: Registration & Light Lunch: 11:00AM  
Lunch: 12PM—12:45PM  
Technical Presentation on BECO solutions for P&C (ex., VVO, CVR, Hosting, DER & DA Impact, MBT, Recloser Control)  
Factory Tour: 2:00PM to 4:00PM (limit of 35)

Location: Beckwith Electric—see below for directions

RSVP: Online at http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes3/index.html (Select Reservations)

Questions: Claude Pitts at 727-418-5272, or claude.pitts@ieee.org

Beckwith Electric is a worldwide provider of power system protective relays and transmission/distribution Volt-VAR controllers (LTC transformer, voltage regulator and line capacitor controls). In this tour, we will take a “peek behind the curtain” to see how these mission critical P&C devices are engineered, prototyped, built and tested.

From drawing board to “burn in” room, we’ll see the engineering and manufacturing equipment, processes and systems used on a daily basis. Encompassing subassembly level to integrated systems with enclosures, batteries, communications equipment, and special cabling, see the manufacturing flow from the incoming shipping/QA to final QA and outbound shipping. We’ll also tour the Smart Grid lab where several pieces of distribution equipment (voltage regulators and reclosers) are controlled by Beckwith P&C systems.

Beckwith Electric subject matter experts will be there to discuss applications and how the engineering and manufacturing teams design and build-in reliability for these key power system P&C assets.

Here is a link with directions and a map to Beckwith Electric (the map is viewable by clicking on the Google Map & Directions link on that page.

http://www.beckwithelectric.com/contact/directions.html
Electric Power Substations Engineering

**Last Chance to Earn Your CEHs for this Renewing Period**

**Date:** Friday, February 15, 2019

**Time:**
- Registration & Light Breakfast: 8:30AM - 9:00AM
- Seminar: 9:00AM - 2:00PM

**Speaker:** John McDonald, - Smart Grid Business Development Leader,

**Location:** FRCC 3000 Bayport Drive., #600, Tampa, FL 33607

Parking: Use parking lot for Hyatt (North side only).

**Cost:**
- $150 Members, $250 Non-Members, $80 Students. Includes Light Breakfast, Lunch and a

**Hard Copy of “Electric Power Substation Engineering” worth $129 is also included**

**CEH Credits:** 4 Professional Development Hours will be awarded. Be sure to enter your name and PE number on the signup website as it appears on your license.

**RSVP:**
- Online at [http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes2/index.html](http://time2meet.com/fwcs-pes2/index.html) (Select Reservations)
- Make checks payable to: IEEE FWCS
- Send checks to: Jim Howard, IEEE FWCS Treasurer
  3133 W. Paris Street
  Tampa, FL  33614-5964

**Questions:** Serge Beauzile at [serge.beauzile@ieee.org](mailto:serge.beauzile@ieee.org)


**Last Chance to Earn Your CEH’s for this Renewing Period**
**Speaker Bio**


He is a sought-after industry leader, technical expert, educator, and speaker. John was elected to the Board of Governors of the IEEE-SA (Standards Association), focusing on long term IEEE Smart Grid standards strategy. John was the Chair of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel (SGIP) Governing Board for 2010-2015 (end of 1Q) coordinating Smart Grid standards development in the US and global harmonization of the standards. John is a member of the NIST Smart Grid Advisory Committee.

John is Past President of the IEEE Power & Energy Society (PES), Past Chair of the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative (SECC) Board, the VP for Technical Activities for the US National Committee (USNC) of CIGRE, and the Past Chair of the IEEE PES Substations Committee. He was on the IEEE Board of Directors as the IEEE Division VII Director. John is a member of the Advisory Committee for the annual DistribuTECH Conference, on the Board of Directors of the GridWise Alliance and Chair of its Technical Committee, Vice Chair of the Texas A&M University Smart Grid Center Advisory Board, and member of the Purdue University Strategic Research Advisory Council. John received the 2009 Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineer Award from Purdue University.

John teaches a Smart Grid course at the Georgia Institute of Technology, a Smart Grid course for GE, and substation automation, distribution SCADA and communications courses for various IEEE PES local chapters as an IEEE PES Distinguished Lecturer. John has published 80 papers and articles in the areas of SCADA, SCADA/EMS, SCADA/DMS and communications, and is a registered Professional Engineer (Electrical) in California, Pennsylvania and Georgia.

John received his B.S.E.E. and M.S.E.E. (Power Engineering) degrees from Purdue University, and an M.B.A. (Finance) degree from the University of California-Berkeley. John is a member ofEta Kappa Nu (Electrical Engineering Honorary) and Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honorary), a Life Fellow of IEEE (member for 47 years), and was awarded the IEEE Millennium Medal in 2000, the IEEE PES Excellence in Power Distribution Engineering Award in 2002, the IEEE PES Substations Committee Distinguished Service Award in 2003, the IEEE PES Meritorious Service Award in 2015, the 2015 CIGRE Distinguished Member Award and the 2015 CIGRE USNC Attwood Associate Award.


John has one US Patent (9,853,448) on Systems and Methods for Coordinating Electrical Network Optimization (December 26, 2017).
FREE IEEE-USA E-BOOK

In the fourth installment of IEEE-USA’s Shaping an Engineering Career series, author Dr. Joseph R. Bumblis advises readers to do whatever possible to grow their careers—before time and change radically alter their perspectives of what a career is, or could be. “The progression of time and your career have two very tightly coupled attributes: they are both continuous, and ever changing,” writes Bumblis. Identifying nine suggested IEEE-USA career principles in this book, Bumblis annotates each principal with some anecdotal data, and his own personal experiences, and helps readers steer the development of their own careers. He guides readers to begin where they are right now; consider career growth assignments; identify skills; identify fields of interest; identify important work values; keep current technically; keep professional; keep personal history up-to-date; and network.

Bumblis advises readers not to dwell in the past, and continually go through the woulda’-coulda’-shoulda’ cycle of old decisions: “The bottom line is: you are where you are, and what is-is.” He encourages readers to begin by looking forward, and to look back only if they can learn something. In his own personally added tenth principle—Have Fun—Bumblis says that whoever coined the phrase, “the journey is more important than the destination,” must have been an engineer—or at least an engineer, at heart. “Change is inevitable,” writes Bumblis, “so be sure to have some fun along the way.”

From 1 December through 15 January, IEEE members download a free copy of Shaping an Engineering Career—Volume 4: Electrical and Computer Engineering—A Path to a Rewarding Career.

To get your free download of this eBook, go to http://shop.ieeeusa.org/usashop/product/careers/76041. Log in with your IEEE Web account, add the book to your cart, and use promo code DECFREE16 at checkout.

Great American Teach-In at Meadowlawn Middle School in St Peterburg, Florida November 14th

Students from Meadowlawn Middle School participated in the following three STEM projects.

STEM Project #1: Noise Detector: using the Sound sensor.
In this project the robot mimic a mouse. The mouse runs away when the room quiet and stops when the room is loud. The interaction between the students and the robot/mouse was quite unique and ‘loud’. The mouse did not get far

STEM Project #2: Race: using the Ultrasonic sensor
The students always enjoy a race: one group starts the robot and the other group stops the robot (by extending their hand when the robot gets within 15 inches). The robot will run until encounters an object, stop and turn around. The race was a hit.

STEM Project #3: Bottle Sumo: using the Light sensor
The sumo battle started with two robots facing off, 3 robots, 4 robots and then 5 robot facing off, back to back. This was an absolutely awesome battle and the students loved it, also the adults! Most of the students have never done robotics STEM activities like this before.

Written by Emma Alaba, Director and Host Organizer of Robofest in Florida

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Offices in Tampa and St. Petersburg
December Calendar of Events (For more information see P. 1) *in this Signal...*

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*Note: December 25th is Christmas Day.*