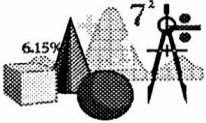




# SPARKS

Daytona Section Newsletter  
November 2020



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## SECTION MEETING

**There will be no Daytona Section Meeting for November**

### CHAIR'S REPORT



This year the IEEE Daytona Section members will vote online using vTools for key officers of the section to serve in the 2021-2022 time period. These key officers are chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. Your nomination committee, of which I am a member, has nominated one candidate for each position, but you may enter a write-in candidate. In the near future, you will receive an email from IEEE concerning this voting, but you can vote now. The voting period ends on November 30<sup>th</sup> but please vote as soon as possible.

I have voted. The following is the process I used, and you may want to use to vote because I know it works:

- Go to IEEE.org
- Sign In (see the top right corner of page)
- Put "vTools" in the search feature and click (upper right under sign in)
- Click first subject "vTools – Free tools for managing IEEE Geographic Unit activities"
- Click "vTools Voting" (7<sup>th</sup> item on right-hand side of page)
- "Click Here to Vote" (select your candidates)
- "Complete Ballot" (make sure you click this, otherwise your ballot is not valid)

There will be no more in-person meetings of the IEEE Daytona Section in the year 2020. There may be some opportunities to participate in IEEE Daytona Section sponsored

virtual meetings through various platforms such as WebEx or ZOOM later this year and in 2021. IEEE Region 3 (Southeast US & Jamaica) is supporting our section combining efforts with other sections for virtual presentations, and counting these events as meetings which is important when the Daytona Section gets funding. Eventually, things will get back to normal, hopefully before the end of 2021.

The operation of the Small Radio Telescope (SRT) has been officially given to the Burns Science and Technology Charter School in Oak Hill, Florida. A heartwarming ceremony took place on their campus during the morning of on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Some of us at the ceremony were given a tour of the school afterwards and found the facilities excellent and the children happily learning their lessons. The IEEE Daytona Section was given a large framed certificate by the school principal, Dr Janet McGee, celebrating the partnership between IEEE and the Burns School. This is a truly a remarkable collaboration between the two institutions.

Sadly, for me, this is my last Chair's Report as my yearly terms of being chair must end at the end of this year. I want to thank the members of the IEEE Daytona Executive Committee for their hard work and providing guidance to me, without which guidance we would not have been nearly as successful as we have been. Fortunately for the IEEE Daytona Section, we have IEEE members with great qualifications running for officers of the section. This year, Region 3 would like for the election of officers to take place online. When you get the email notice of the IEEE Daytona Section election, please vote.

Please keep reading your messages from IEEE for any announcements. My hope for all of you is good health and good fortune.

*Rich*

Richard T Kent Jr  
IEEE Daytona Section Chair  
Mobile 206-369-1965

## **ANOTHER TALE FROM THE OLD PROFESSOR**

### **You Can't Do That with Three Cadillacs**

In 1977 while working for Cessna Aircraft's avionics division, I was promoted to my first engineering management position. I was now responsible for more than design and development but had the dubious honor of planning and scheduling, purchasing parts and equipment, advising upper management on new hires, attending boring meetings and so on.

My group was tasked with L band, 1000MHz, designs and I hired an engineer with experience in microwave circuits particularly microstrip. I needed to get a network analyzer for him to use before he arrived so I put in a request to the purchasing

department for an HP network analyzer and the necessary accessories such as the S parameter fixture, a calibration kit, various phase matched cables etc. The total cost was about \$33,000. Today, modern technology and more competition in the electronic test equipment business has reduced the cost, corrected for inflation, of network analyzers. Don't get the idea that network analyzers are cheap. They are not as expensive as they were in 1977 when compared to the cost of other items as the following dialogue will show.

As expected, I received a call from the company comptroller.

Comptroller: "What is this \$33,000 network analyzer all about?"

Me: "It's a piece of test equipment."

Comptroller: "What does it do?"

Me: "It analyzes networks."

Comptroller: "I figured that. But how big is it? Does it fit on a desk top or is it a big rack of equipment? Give me some idea of what it looks like."

Me: "It fits on a desk top."

Comptroller: "You know, I can buy three brand new Cadillacs for less than \$33,000!" (The 1977 Cadillac Coupe DeVille's list price was \$9654.00)

Me: "Yeah, but you can't analyze networks with any number of Cadillacs."



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I decided to explain the situation to the comptroller using MBA-speak.

"I have a new engineer joining my department in a month and he gets more than the cost of a network analyzer every year and he will have nothing to do until he gets his network analyzer."

I got my analyzer in plenty of time and my new engineer was elated with his new tool and went to work immediately designing all types of microwave circuits using his network analyzer.

In the ensuing months and years, I learned a few more industry dialects in addition to MBA-speak that turned out to be very valuable to my career. I learned boss-speak, factory chat, pilot-speak, machine shop talk, marketeereese, salesman-speak and a few more. There are some things you just can't learn from books or in a classroom.

*Al Helfrick, a.k.a. The Old Professor*

## PE CORNER

### Inactive and Retired License Status Explained

It is my hope that all Professional Engineers licensed in Florida will renew their licenses by Feb. 28, 2021. However, some licensees, particularly those who are retired or are no longer using their licenses, may be considering putting their licenses in “inactive” or “retired” status. Before taking that step, it is important that the licensee understand the similarities and differences between these license statuses, and the process for status change.

The rules for inactive status are primarily found in Rule 61G15-22.002, Florida Administrative Code, *Licensure Change of Status*. Information and forms may be found on the Board’s website at [fbpe.org/licensure/other-forms/](http://fbpe.org/licensure/other-forms/).

A licensee may place their license in inactive status by completing the *Application To change Status from Active to Inactive*, and remitting the fee specified by Rule 61G12-24.001, F.A.C. The Change of Status Fee (Active/Inactive) is currently \$93.75 plus a \$5 mandatory unlicensed activity fee. To maintain a license in inactive status, the licensee must continue to pay the renewal fee each biennium, but does not need to take the continuing education hours. Naturally, an engineer may not practice engineering while their license is inactive.

An inactive license may be reactivated by completing the *Application for Change of Status From Inactive to Active*, and submitting the appropriate fee, which is the same as the renewal fee: \$93.75 plus a \$5 unlicensed activity fee. The licensee must demonstrate that they have completed the required 18 hours of continuing education.

Rules for retired status are found in Section 61G15-22.0017, F.A.C., *Application for Retired Status*. Information and the form may be found on the Board’s website at the same location noted above. There is no fee associated with this status change. As with inactive status, once in retired status the licensee may no longer practice engineering. They are allowed to use the designation “Professional Engineer, Retired” or “P.E., Retired.” It is important to understand that once a license is placed in retired status it may never be reactivated. If that licensee wanted to again practice engineering they would have to reapply for licensure.

An application for retired status must be approved by the Board and must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the Board meeting at which it is to be considered. FBPE will approve the retired status provided that the licensee has no pending complaints against their Florida license or any PE license held in another state.

There seems to be a misconception that simply not renewing a license will allow it to be placed in inactive or retired status. This is incorrect and may result in some unexpected consequences. If a license is not renewed it automatically becomes “delinquent.” A delinquent license becomes “null and void” at the next renewal if the situation is not

rectified.

In summary, those considering not renewing their license should carefully review the rules regarding inactive and retired status so that they can make an informed decision about which route to take. They should also understand the consequences of not taking action at renewal time. If you have questions, please contact the Board office.

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!

Art Nordlinger, PE, Senior Member

### **DAYTONA SECTION SHIRTS**



We are pleased to offer Daytona Section polo shirts for our Section members. The shirts are embroidered with the IEEE Logo and DAYTONA SECTION on the left and your name and grade, if desired, on the right. The shirt is a high quality 5 oz, 65/35 poly/cotton pique in Royal Blue with white embroidery. Available in S - 2XL in men's as well as ladies' sizes. Price is \$30, including tax, for S-XL size's, 2XL size is \$3 additional.

For more information or to order shirts contact: Allan Jusko 386-671-3706 or [a.jusko@ieee.org](mailto:a.jusko@ieee.org)

### **FUTURE MEETING DATES:**

The dates -TBD

### **EDITORS NOTES**

Visit our Daytona Section website: <https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/daytona/>

## ENGINEERING HUMOR



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