



### Florida West Coast Section

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# The Suncoast Signal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc

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## James Marion Howard In Loving Memory

*James “Jim” Howard  
(December 30, 1950 – April 6 2020)*

*IEEE Life Senior Member  
By Richard Beatie, PE*

It is with great sadness that our Section reports the passing of our beloved Jim after a long and courageous battle with throat and mouth cancer.



Jim’s lifelong career was with electric utilities. He received his BSEE degree from the University of South Florida in 1985 and worked for Tampa Electric Company for over 23 years followed by employment with Lakeland Electric for over 17 years until his passing.

Jim had many passions in his life, including his loving wife Donna, his family (3 sons/spouses, 5 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren), traveling (including many IEEE meetings to places like China and Australia!). Jim loved his boat (a BIG one!), aircraft, NASA, his TESLA car, and of course being involved with and attending IEEE meetings.

### Highlights of Jim’s IEEE Career:

Jim was a longstanding member, volunteer and supporter of the IEEE, including serving as the 2012 IEEE-USA President. His accomplishments and service to the IEEE over the years are numerous and include three years on the IEEE Board of Directors, 10 years on the IEEE-USA Board of Directors, two years as Region 3 Director, six years as SPAC Chair, eight years on the Strategic Planning Committee, three years as IEEE Audit Committee Chair, two years as Membership Development Chair, and so much more!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

EXCOM

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 5:30 pm

WEBEX

Register with vTools

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/229568>

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## Things you may not know about Jim!

I first met Jim in 1984, when he was a USF coop student working at Tampa Electric. We became good friends over the years, as we supported IEEE activities. Over the years I was his mentor, then the tables turned as he became so involved in IEEE activities that Jim became my mentor!

Did you know that Jim and Donna have produced our newsletter, the Suncoast Signal for over 30 years? In the early years I would produce the mailing labels, on an old Panasonic pin-feed dot matrix printer (still working!) and deliver to Jim. He and Donna would get the newsletter printed, then fold, stuff inserts and deliver to the post office bulk mail division. Technology has changed, as have postal regulations over the years, but they have continued to produce the Signal until Jim's passing.

Remember the SOUTHCON Electronics tradeshow of the 80's and 90's? It was a very successful conference and a major source of revenue for the owners, IEEE Florida Council, Region 3 and the ERA. I was on their Board for many years. As the conference waned in later years due to advancing Internet availability, Jim and Jim Beall took over the reigns as Directors to keep it going for several years, and eventually helping it to pass away in dignity.

Jim was the USF IEEE Student Branch Mentor for over 20 years. Under his guidance, the Branch has grown to around 200 members, participated successfully in the annual Region 3 Southeastcon Conference student hardware competition, software competition and student paper presentations. Jim and Donna never missed the opportunity to attend the student picnics at USF Riverfront Park, and the Senior Banquet for graduating seniors to be recognized. Students will sorely miss Jim's support and dedicated involvement.

Have you attended the Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet in recent years (every February)? Behind the scenes things were in disarray and turmoil as incoming committee members had no idea how to plan an event. Jim and Donna stepped in to take control and share their combined years of successful event planning, scheduling, contract management, etc. to make each banquet a resounding success and memorable event for the attendees.

Over the last many years the Florida West Coast Section has hosted numerous IEEE technical conferences. Most notable the 2005 Sections Congress and 2005 PES Annual Meeting. Under the Guidance of Jim Howard and Jim Beall, with their combined expertise and ability to run successful conferences (plus knowing who to talk to!) they brought these conferences to the Tampa Bay area. FWCS volunteer members helped in the planning and hosted the various conferences. Large surpluses from these events have helped support the production of the Suncoast Signal and other member oriented meetings and events over the years.

### **Awards:**

Jim has a wall full of awards from IEEE, as you can imagine! Jim was recently awarded the very prestigious Region 3 Outstanding Leadership Award, to be presented at Southeastcon. Unfortunately Southeastcon was cancelled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, so it will be presented to Donna at a later date

### **A small sampling of Jim's IEEE Activities:** (S'81-M'85-SM'91)

**OFFICES:** IEEE Board of Directors 2002-03 & 2012. **COMMITTEES/BOARDS:** IEEE-USA Board of Directors, 2005-13; Audit Committee, Chair, 2003, 2002-04; IEEE Membership Development, Chair, 1998-99; Regional Activities Board, Membership Activities, Vice Chair, 1998-99. **REGIONS:** Region 3: Director 2002-2003; Strategic Planning Committee, 2005-13; Membership Development, Chair, 1996-97.

**SECTIONS/COUNCILS:** Florida West Coast: Chair, 1991-93; Vice Chair, 1990-91; Student Branch Mentor, 1997-2013; PE/IA Chapter, Chair, 1990-91; Florida Council: Chair, 1993-94; Vice Chair 2020. **SOCIETIES:** AESS Vice-President Member Affairs, 2005-12; Power Engineering: Membership & Chapters, Vice President, 1997-98; **CONFERENCES:** PES General Meeting Chair, 2007; IAS Annual Meeting Vice-Chair, 2006; Sections Congress'05, Steering Committee, Chair, 2003-04; Region 3 SoutheastCon, Chair, 1996; Southcon, Director, 1995-99, 2004-13; Southcon Treasurer, 1998; SoutheastCon General Chair 2018.

**AWARDS:** Region 3 Outstanding Service, 1996; Florida Council Outstanding Service, 1995; Power Engineering Society Chapters Council, 1998; FWCS PES Chapter Outstanding Engineer, 2000; Region 3 Director's Award - Section's Congress, 2005; Florida Council Outstanding Engineer Award, 2006; Florida West Coast Section Engineer of the Year, 2006; R3 Outstanding Service 2020.

Jim impacted and inspired many people across our Section, Florida Council, Region 3 and throughout IEEE. He had a strong belief in and a gift for mentoring young professionals, and helping them grow into strong leaders.

Jim Howard will be missed by all. If you care to share condolences send an email to Donna Howard at [amberdon3133@gmail.com](mailto:amberdon3133@gmail.com)

***From Dr. G. Thomas Bellarmine,  
IEEE Life Senior Member,  
Tallahassee Area Section Chair,  
Region 3 Life Member Coordinator,  
2019-2020 MGA N&A Committee Member***

Mr. Jim Howard was my IEEE mentor after I moved to Florida. I started volunteering as an officer in the IEEE North West Florida Section in 1992. I met Jim at the Florida Council meeting when I represented the North West Florida Section. I am still attending Florida Council meetings whenever I can. He continued to encourage me to come to Florida Council and Region 3 meetings.

Whenever I had questions about IEEE, he found answers for those questions. He was extremely helpful to several IEEE members. Jim recommended me to organize and conduct MPAC/SPAC (SPAX) meetings in the Tallahassee Area Section. I arranged several of these meetings with his help. It is a big loss to Florida Council, Region 3 and the whole IEEE.

***From Maculay Osaisi,  
Canaveral Section Chairman***

Words are never enough to express my profound sadness. No doubt, the community has lost a father, leader, mentor and a dear friend. Jim was Mr. IEEE and his enthusiasm about anything science and the desire to give back to society was infectious.

***From Diana Aristizabal, WIE Chair***

I met Mr. Jim Howard 14 years ago while I was a graduate student at USF. Mr. Howard welcomed my friends and I to get involved with IEEE and FWCS through the student chapter. He was always encouraging and supportive of students. He told my friends and I that he knew there was a future for us as women engineering leaders in IEEE FWCS. After graduating and starting a family, I had to step away from IEEE FWCS. A year ago, I was able to reconnect with IEEE FWCS. Mr. Jim Howard welcomed me back with open arms.

Under his leadership, I became the vice chair and later on the chair of WIE chapter within the FWCS. It was a pleasure and honor to work with Mr. Howard this past year. I am so forever grateful to Mr. Howard, for his guidance, knowledge, hard work, and willingness to help. I will always strive to become the leader he was.

***From Bill Harrison, friend of Jim and Donna Howard******Jim Howard will be missed by all who knew and loved him***

Inputs from his friends and colleagues reveal that Jim Howard was a:

- ◆ **MENTOR TO MANY**
- ◆ **DEVOTED HUSBAND**
- ◆ **LEADER OF PEOPLE**
- ◆ **TRULY A FRIEND TO ALL**
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER'S VOLUNTEER**
- ◆ **KNOWLEDGEABLE AUTHORITY**
- ◆ **BLESSED TO HAVE A DEVOTED WIFE**
- ◆ **CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER**

***From Sean Denny, FWCS Secretary***

Jim Howard was a mentor to all of us and from me personally for 16 years on proper protocol in the IEEE. He was a fine friend and will miss him.

***From Serge Beauzile, FWCS Treasurer***

I have known Jim since 2006 when I moved to Tampa and attended my first Florida West Coast Section meeting. Jim was extremely nice and welcoming ever since Jim has been a mentor, a colleague, and a great friend. IEEE had lost a valuable member and I have lost a great friend and advisor.

***From Claude Pitts, Florida West Coast Section Chair***

I still recall when I first met Jim and my subsequent involvement with FWCS and IEEE. Jim was always quiet and reserved, ready to offer advice or guidance but most importantly ready to listen. It is an understatement to say Jim was passionate about IEEE, his involvement and contributions were widespread. When people learn of my involvement with IEEE I am usually asked if I knew Jim. It was almost like knowing Jim was an unspoken introduction in the IEEE circle. I have no doubt there are 'other' Jim's out there but unfortunately they are far and few between. I am honored to say Jim was and always will be my friend and mentor. I will miss and cherish his memory.

***From the University of South Florida (USF) Student Branch******Thomas Decanio***

Jim Howard was a kind soul and brought a warm joy to our IEEE meetings. As the leader of the student branch, he would never hesitate to lend a hand, help with a question, or keep us on course. No matter what, he always tried to attend our professional events like the picnic and banquet, and supported to USF Student branch however he could. He was a great asset to our organization, and will be greatly missed for his generous service.

***Cooper Neal***

Jim Howard was one of the few people who would take the time to really listen to what you said before he responded. He was a selfless positive impact on this world who will be truly missed.

***Ilia Bautista***

Jim was a leader, someone that you could count on to guide you in the right direction for a career. I looked up to him.

## Photographs commemorating Jim Howard's Activities in the IEEE



*Donna & Jim Howard, USF Student, Serge Beauzile  
Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet  
02-22-2010*



*Jim Howard with George Schott  
IEEE Holiday Party  
12-09-2011*



*Richard & Sharon Beatie, Donna & Jim Howard and Karen and Dr. Ralph Fehr  
IEEE Christmas Party - 12-01-2012*



*University of South Florida - IEEE Banquet  
04-18-2015*



*IEEE - EXCOM  
11-03-2015*



*IEEE - EXCOM  
11-03-2015*



*Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet  
02-26-2016*



*IEEE - Florida West Coast Section  
Christmas Party  
12-10-2016*



*Jim & Donna Howard, USF Students  
IEEE - University of South Florida Student Banquet  
04-16-2016*



*Jim Howard with T. J. Ross  
IEEE - University of South Florida  
Spring Banquet  
04-22-2017*



*Jim Howard between Suzy Folsom and Jim Anderson  
02-23-2017*



*Jim Howard and Ed McGuire at the  
Engineers Week Banquet  
02-22-2018*



*James Howard, Claude Pitts and Gregg Vaughn R3 Director  
Southeast Conference  
04-21-2018*



*Donna & Jim Howard and Sean Denny  
Student Banquet  
11-17-2018*



*Jim & Donna Howard  
Christmas Party 12-15-2018*



## Solar Seminar

**Date:** Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Time:** Seminar 09:00AM – 3:30PM

**Cost:** \$75 Members, \$150 Non-Members, \$10 Student Members

**CEH Credits:** 5 Professional Development Hours will be awarded at Seminar Completion

**IEEE Florida Provider Number** 003849

**Registration and Payment, online with vTools:** <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/230090>

Space limited to 45 registrants

**Location:** WebEx Broadcast - Seminar Link will be sent to Registrants 1 day prior to the Seminar

**Speakers:** Rae Dowling, FPL Area Manager

Joe Jancauskas, Senior Project Manager, Mesa Associates

**Contact:** Steve Antman at (813) 460-5434 or [steveantman@gmail.com](mailto:steveantman@gmail.com)

After you Register please send Steve an email stating:

- ◆ Your Name and Mailing address where you want to receive your Certificate
- ◆ Your Florida PE Registration Number

In the first portion of the presentation, you will learn Florida solar snap shop and FPL’s current and future **plans for solar in Florida**. The **second portion of the presentation is “Solar 101” which covers everything about solar PV that you were** afraid to ask. Topics covered include: is a site good for solar PV, which way to face the solar panels and how much they should be tilted, how much PV can fit onto a site, can the existing electrical system handle the PV generation, what are the economics of an installation, and the basics of solar panels, inverters and panel racking.

Because the Internet is so full of information that you can’t tell fact from fiction or current information from dated, this is the presentation that the author wishes he could have gone to when he was first getting into solar. By the end of this portion you will know more that most of the door-to-door PV salesmen that have been blanketing Florida lately. Once you’ve got the basics of PV understood, the third portion of the presentation will cover the numerous methods of connecting PV to the grid, high- lighting where practicality often wins over the ideal, which also covering some interesting problems recently encountered in commissioning of PV systems to utility standards.

Time	Subject	Presenter
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	FPL Florida Prospective	Rae Dowling
10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	Break	
10:20 AM - 11:30 PM	Solar 101	Joe Jancauskas
11:30 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch Break	
12:30 PM - 02:00 PM	Connecting PV to the Grid	Joe Jancauskas
02:00 PM - 02:20 PM	Break	
02:20 PM - 03:30 PM	Connecting PV to the Grid - <i>Continuation and Q &amp; A</i>	

## PE Corner

### Art Nordlinger, PE, Senior Member 2020 Legislative Update

This article is excerpted from one by Zana Raybon, FBPE Executive Director, in the April 2020 FBPE Connections Newsletter: <https://fbpe.org/>

The 2020 State of Florida legislative session officially ended on March 19. House Bill 707/Senate Bill 1124, better known as the “Sunset Bill,” did not pass. There was a lot of discussion regarding this bill, which would have scheduled repeal of the Professional Engineer license statutes as of July 1, 2024. The bill’s intent was to have the Legislature complete a systematic review of the costs and benefits of the PE regulatory program. The bill passed the full House but died in the Senate, having not been heard in all Senate committees of reference. As you may imagine, many in the engineering community, including myself, are relieved that this bill failed.

One bill that may be of interest to engineers and did pass both the House and Senate was HB 1193/SB 474, also called Deregulation of Professions and Occupations. The “Dereg Bill” affects a number of different industries, including engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, surveying and mapping, and geology. The substantive changes related to engineering include:

1. Amending Chapter 725.08, Florida Statutes, *Design Professional Contracts*, which limits indemnification to clarify an individual or entity licensed under Chapter 471, F.S., be qualified rather than certified (due to the elimination of the Certificate of Authorization in 2019).

2. Reducing the number of years that a professional engineer must be licensed in another jurisdiction in order to be deemed to have passed the licensure examinations for a license by endorsement.

If such applicant has been licensed in another jurisdiction for:

10 years, they are deemed to have passed the [Fundamentals of Engineering examination](#);

15 years, they are deemed to have passed both the FE examination and the [Principles & Practice of Engineering examination](#).

3. Reducing the number of members on the Florida Building Commission from 27 to 19. The bill removes the following members:

- One member from fire protection engineering or technology;
- One member who represents the Department of Financial Services;
- One member who is a county code enforcement official;
- One member who is a representative of a municipality or a charter county;
- One member who is a representative of public education;
- One member who is a representative of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Office of Energy; and
- One member who is solely the chair.

On another note, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and “Safer at Home” guidelines, the FBPE staff are primarily working remotely. If you need to contact the Board’s offices, email is generally the preferred method. There may be significant delays in returning phone calls. Additional information may be found on the Board’s website: <https://fbpe.org/>

Whether you are a PE looking to attain required CEHs, or an engineer looking to learn something new or keep current with the latest trends in the profession, IEEE has seminars that will meet your needs. With renewal only 9 months away seminar demand is high. Sign up now!

# vTools

The Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) will start using the IEEE vTools to set-up meetings and, subsequently, file the required L31 forms. This is in place of the current Time2Meet system.

The IEEE vTools system is being used throughout the IEEE to setup meetings and file the required reports.

*If you do not feel comfortable, or do not have the time, to file the meeting notice and/or reporting the meeting afterwards, please contact me and I will either assist you or do it for you:*

[michael.mayor@ieee.org](mailto:michael.mayor@ieee.org)

(484) 524-3264.

*The following link contains detailed tutorials (the actual URL is printed below the link):*

[vTools Events ALL Tutorials](http://sites.ieee.org/vtools/vtools-events-tutorials/)

<http://sites.ieee.org/vtools/vtools-events-tutorials/>

*The following links contain key tutorial presentations. They are a small subset of the presentations appearing in the previous link (again, the actual URLs are printed below the links)*

[Search and View Events](https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4132)

<https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4132>

[Create an Event](https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4134)

<https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4134>

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¾ Page	\$110	\$143	\$530	\$663	\$925	\$1,110
Full Page	\$140	\$182	\$670	\$838	\$1,175	\$1,410
Insert / Sheet	\$200	\$260	\$800	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,400

### Opportunity

for a

## Forensic Electrical Engineer Expert Witness

The right person for this opportunity has a P.E. license and experience as an electrical engineer with an electric utility or related industry. This can be an ideal part time or contract position for someone that has recently retired.

### J. B. Shepherd & Company, Inc.

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### Speech Research Development Engineer

Digital Voice Systems, Inc. (DVS) is seeking a qualified Speech Research & Development Engineer at our new office in Clearwater, Florida. This is a great opportunity to join our team of world class engineers in designing high quality voice compression technology that is implemented in hundreds of millions of telecommunication systems world-wide.

The ideal candidate will play a key role in the research and development of DVS's next generation of digital speech compression technology including speech analysis; speech modeling; model parameter estimation; quantization; speech synthesis; error correction and mitigation methods; as well as, echo cancellation and noise reduction.

#### Desired Qualifications

- Research and development experience in speech or audio
- Knowledge of programming languages, i.e. C/C++, Matlab etc.
- PhD (or equivalent) in Electrical Engineering or Software Engineering with an emphasis in Signal Processing
- U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Residency required

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For more information visit [www.dvsinc.com](http://www.dvsinc.com) or send resume to [jobs@dvsinc.com](mailto:jobs@dvsinc.com)

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May 2020 Calendar of Events <i>(For more information see Page 1 in this Signal)</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		*EXCOM WebX			*Signal Inputs Due	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
	*Labor Day				*Solar Seminar	