



## Florida West Coast Section

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# The Suncoast Signal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### EXCOM

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 5:30 pm

Google Meet

Register with vTools

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/235318>

## Professional Engineers Licensure Renewal Check List

This article is excerpted from one in the July 2020 FPBE Newsletter

[www.FBPE.org](http://www.FBPE.org)

Licensure renewal begins in November for Professional Engineers licensed in Florida. Now is the time to make sure you are prepared for renewal. Here is a short checklist to help you avoid discovering at the last minute that you have a problem.

**Continuing Education:** All Professional Engineers licensed in Florida must complete 18 hours of continuing education each renewal period. The Board has already received several questions regarding whether they will waive continuing-education requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of numerous industry conferences where many PEs earn their continuing education hours. This was discussed at a recent Board meeting. It was noted that many conferences and live seminars are going to a virtual format, and that there is a substantial amount of online continuing education content available. As a result, the Board concluded that they would not consider waiving the continuing education requirements. The deadline for completing the credits is Feb. 28, 2021 so there is still ample time to complete the required hours.

On a related note, several PEs audited in the last renewal cycle were found to be out of compliance with the continuing education requirements because the Rules & Laws course that they took was not administered by a continuing education provider approved to present that content by the FBPE. Be sure that the Rules & Laws course that you take meets the Florida continuing education requirements.

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## Continued from Page 1

**Board emails:** If you didn't receive the July 2020 FBPE newsletter email, you may have unsubscribed to FBPE emails. That means you won't receive notifications and reminders regarding renewing your PE license. You can re-subscribe to FBPE emails using the *Re-subscribe to FBPE Emails* form on the Board's website.

**License status:** Check the status of your PE license at [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com). If it is delinquent, you must pay the renewal fee from the previous renewal period and a delinquent fee before you can renew for the 2021-23 period. If it is null and void, you will need to have your license reinstated. Information and forms for this are available on the Board's website.

**Check your password:** Make sure that you can log into your account at [myfloridalicense.com](http://myfloridalicense.com). As in past years, you will be renewing your license through this portal provided by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

**Check your email address and contact information:** If you need to update your contact information with the Board, please fill out and submit the online *Change Contact Information* form on the Board's website.

**Early-bird renewal:** Watch for details on how you can save \$10 by renewing early once the renewal period begins in November. Information will be posted on the Board's website and included in the October 2020 FBPE newsletter.

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 the renewal deadline only 6 months away seminar demand is high. Sign up now!

**Art Nordlinger, PE  
Senior Member IEEE**

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINUTES

### *“What is Your COVID-19 Resolution?”*

**Andy Lilly**

**FWCS Membership Development Chair**

**Andrew.lilly@ieee.org**

The Covid pandemic starting early this year continues to have a profound impact on most of our lives personally and professionally. It has also presented some unique opportunities in saving many of us commute time and in taking many regular social-interactions off the table so we have more time to focus on other special interests that normally we would not have the opportunity to do. For the Florida West Coast this has presented an opportunity to develop our skills with WebEx and Google Groups and other teams-style meeting applications that are now allowing us to meet, contribute, and participate in ways we really had not before. Six feet separations, masks, and even larger geographic separation is now no longer as much of a constraint as it had been before, since we are all being forced to “go digital” with our social interactions in many ways.

Here’s the ask- What are you resolving to do with these opportunities of time and digital participation? Did you know a Florida West Coast Section member may even be involved/participate in other Florida Sections virtual events? **These are great networking opportunities** and you can still be getting your PE CEU/ CEH credits from almost anywhere via your favorite digital device?

I encourage all of us to check out the links below and to broaden our horizons resolving to be better versions of ourselves “virtually”:

IEEE Florida Council Sections Website:  
<https://ewh.ieee.org/r3/fc/sections.htm>

vTools Events: [events.vtools.ieee.org](https://events.vtools.ieee.org)  
Lower left corner enter: Region 3 and Florida West Coast

IEEE-MGA: <https://www.ieee.org/communities/geographic-activities.html>

## THE SENIOR MEMBER ELEVATION

### PROGRAM AT FWCS

**Hermann Amaya, PE**

**Senior Member Elevation Committee Chair**

**hamaya@tampbay.rr.com**

It is important that all IEEE Members become aware that elevation to the Senior Member rank is a privilege that they have earned through their professional service of ten years and they should be sure to claim it

This honor does not cost anything to the members and will in no way increase their yearly dues and there is no other charges associated with this process.

## Student Branch Update

As the Student Branch is planning for the start of another fall semester, it seems like a good time to reflect on the months passed. Many students have graduated and moved on to start their careers. Others have pursued internships and more challenging academic classes. Some professionals have made life-changing career choices recently and are moving towards greater things. Although I'd be naïve if all I mentioned were the positive changes that have occurred recently, many have lost jobs, livelihoods, and family members. It has not been an easy time for any of us. A good majority of our jobs have made the transition to remote work while others are constantly dealing with new social norms of living through a pandemic. One common saying that I've heard recently is that light shines brightest in the darkness. It's important to find the good in every situation.

IEEE both on the professional and student side has undergone a lot of change recently and it's important to pave the way forward with positivity and optimism. Change is often scary but required for progress. I was able to attend the "Limitations of Renewables and Baseloads Energy Sources" seminar provided by Charles Hawkins and it opened my eyes to a new era of learning via online webinars in the time of a pandemic. As the student branch makes plans for events during these troubling times, we are planning to start various webinar series discussing technical and professional development skills. We are always looking for speakers and open to other topics of discussion. If you are interested in presenting or know someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to me. I wish everyone the best during these tough times.

**Noah Hamilton**

**IEEE USF Student Branch Chair**

[ieeusfchair@gmail.com](mailto:ieeusfchair@gmail.com)

## PES/IAS Minutes



The FWCS PES/IAS Chapter volunteers are keeping our momentum going delivering content over the web and will continue to do so until we can meet again in person. If there is a specific topic that interests you please let us know and we will introduce it at our Excom. All PES/IAS Members are welcome to participate at our Excom meetings that decide content.

Our ExCom meeting is on the third Thursday, every month and over the web for now. Please go to the Section webpage:

<https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/>

and check the Events Calendar for meeting information.

Also, please register with vTools at:

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/235823>

We work on bringing value to all members and strategize on how to increase members.

I am proud to say Florida West Coast Section, one of the largest in Florida, and the PES/ IAS Chapter is very active with opportunities available should you wish to volunteer or join us at one of our events. We believe in truth, facts and the pursuit of knowledge, may we never stop learning.

We are honored and proud to serve, keep safe!

**Steve Antman, Chair PES/IAS Chapter**

[steveantman@ieee.org](mailto:steveantman@ieee.org)

**PES/IAS Minutes**

## When You Are Asked-Where Did We Come From?

### A brief history from the archives of IEEE

It is quite interesting reading about the ‘parent organizations’, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) and the remarkable consolidation resulting in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

AIEE was founded in 1884 to support professionals in the budding fields of Telephony and Electric Power and influenced by innovators such as Norvin Green, President of Western Union, Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. The rapid increase and commercialization of Electric Power by companies such as AEG, General Electric and Westinghouse influenced AIEE to become increasingly focused on Electric Power with a secondary focus on Wired Communications.

AIEE positioned itself to be a leader in the growth of Electrical Engineering through technical meetings, publications and promotion of standards. IRE was founded in 1912. While modeled after AIEE, IRE was focused on the new ‘Wireless’ industry and would grow to broadly include electronics. IRE was very similar as it also furthered its professionals through publications, standards, conferences and organizing local sections and meetings.

A great example of this - The Florida West Coast Section, was chartered under the auspice of the Institute of Radio Engineers November 14, 1956 and approved by then President of IRE, Arthur V. Loughren, December 12, 1956.

IEEE was formed by the consolidation of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE). A joint committee from IRE and AIEE met and agreed on ‘Principals of Consolidation’ in 1962 which was approved by the respective boards and subsequently the membership of both societies creating the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers on January 1, 1963.

From a legal perspective AIEE is the surviving, albeit smaller, of the two entities, but heavily influenced by the practices and policies of the IRE.

The Societies of IEEE, as we know them today, evolved from the technical Societies of the AIEE and were officially renamed as IEEE Societies in 1970. The largest IRE professional group became the IEEE Computer Society and the biggest from AIEE became the IEEE Power Energy Society. The Proceedings of the IEEE continue the numbering and editorial policies of the IRE Proceedings. The IEEE Spectrum owes its lineage to the AIEE magazine, Electrical Engineering and the IRE Student Quarterly and AIEE Student Digest. The IEEE logo brought together the 1987 AIEE logo – two linked circles that represented the relation between the electric and magnetic fields and the 1912 IRE logo – triangle and arrows representing the electric and magnetic forces in the conventional ‘right-hand rule’ relationship.

Today IEEE has a significant role in publishing technical works, sponsoring conferences, seminars and standards development. It is interesting that the basic core values that drove the creation of AIEE and IRE are just as germane today and alive in IEEE as they were then, provide a venue and tools for its members to network, share information and ‘foster technical innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity’.

Now, you know.

# 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>

[Edit an Event](https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4152)

<https://site.ieee.org/vtools/?mdocs-file=4152>

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 Or Fax your address changes to (732) 562-5445

August 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
		*EXCOM Google Meet			*Signal Inputs Due	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
				*PES/IAS ExCom		
30	31					