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Florida West Coast Section (FWCS)
 Please Check the Website Often for **UPCOMING EVENTS** (Front Page Right Column)
<https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/>

The SunCoast Signal

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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PE Corner

Art Nordlinger, PE, Life Senior Member Recent Rule Changes

I have noted in past columns that one of the, if not the most frequent cause for discipline is not having completed a Board-approved Rules and Laws course. This is most frequently violated by out-of-state engineers who are unaware of the requirement that for the course to count it needs to be approved by the Florida Board. In nearly all cases, when the violator is made aware of their deficiency they immediately remedy it by taking an approved course.

The Board became aware that disciplinary proceedings initiated for this infraction caused a ripple effect, in that the engineer would be required to report the discipline to all states in which they are licensed. To remedy this, the board changed the disciplinary action for a first offense of rule *61G15-19.004 Disciplinary Guidelines; Range of Penalties; Aggravating and Mitigating Circumstances; i. Renewing or reactivating a license without completion of continuing education hours; 1. Failure to complete Florida Board approved Laws and Rules and/or Professional Ethics course prior to renewal*; to “Remedial action only, complete Florida Laws and Rules Study Guide.” The remedial action doesn’t trigger the discipline-reporting requirement.

The Board is undertaking an additional mitigation to remedy the issue of engineers renewing their license without first completing an approved Rules and Laws course. Going forward, Rules and Laws providers will be required to upload the names and license numbers of engineers who have completed their course.

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Next ExCom Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
Google Meet
Register with vTools

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/405899>

IEEE FWCS ExCom

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PES/IAS Power & Energy/Industry Applications Joint Chapter:
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This database will be checked when the licensee renews their license. If a course completion record is not in the database for the licensee they will not be able to renew their license. This is separate from the requirement that licensees will need to enter their continuing education hours prior to renewal.

Another recent rule change affects the experience requirement for licensure for engineers who are working full-time and additionally earning an advanced degree. The rule was clarified so that those enrolled part-time in an advanced degree program, for instance taking classes at night, and also working full-time may earn credit for full-time work while earning their degree. *“61G15-20.002 Experience: 3. Experience credit is based on a 40 hour per week full-time employment basis. No additional credit is allowable for overtime work, or for part-time work experience obtained while pursuing engineering education on a full-time basis. For purposes of this rule, a “full-time basis” means the applicant is enrolled in twelve (12) or more credit hours per semester; less than 12 credit hours is considered to be “part-time enrollment.”*

Last, section 61G15-22.001(3) Continuing Education Requirements was updated to reflect the latest addition of the Florida Building Code (2023). A course covering the latest addition is required for renewal for some engineers whose work involves *“actively participating in the design of engineering works or systems in connection with buildings, structures, or facilities and systems covered by the Florida Building Code, as identified within Section 553.73(1)(a), F.S.”*

Questions regarding rule changes:

Board office. <https://fbpe.org/> (850) 521-0500

THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL, published monthly by the Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). **Please Note that the SUNCOAST SIGNAL is sent each month to ACTIVE members of the IEEE Florida West Coast Section. So to continue receiving the SIGNAL please keep your membership Active, meaning, renew your membership when it becomes due.** Annual subscription is included in the IEEE membership dues. The opinions expressed, as well as the technical accuracy of authors, advertisers or speakers published in this newsletter are those of the individual authors, advertisers, and speakers. Therefore, no endorsement by the IEEE, its officers, or its members is made or implied. All material for THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL is due in electronic form by the end of day of the 1st Monday after the 1st Tuesday of the month, i.e. the ExCom meeting, preceding the issue month. Contact: michael.mayor@ieee.org

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Dynamic Line Ratings Webinar

- Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024
- Time:** Webinar: 12:00PM – 1:00PM (EST/EDT)
- Speaker:** Wayne Hartmann – GE Grid Solutions
- Location:** Online – meeting invitation will be emailed to attendees prior to the webinar
- Cost:** Free
- CEH Credits:** No CEH's provided for this event.
- RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/392393>
- Questions:** Kayla Allemang - kallemang@ieee.org
Hermann Amaya - hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org

Abstract: FERC Order 881 states Utilities should do a better job of determining line thermal ratings. These have typically been determined using static or seasonally adjusted ambient ratings. If improved rating methods are used that include actual ambient temperature, wind and solar irradiance, one can typically obtain more capacity from a line the majority of the time. The improved rating methods are called dynamic line ratings (DLR).

During this webinar, we'll explore improved ratings as a grid enhancing technology (GETs), review angular and voltage stability fundamentals, impacts of grid forming versus grid following inverters on stability, and methods to redirect or redispatch power flows. This seminar would be of interest to engineers involved with Transmission Planning, Transmission Operation, System Protection, and Renewable Power Developers.

Wayne Hartmann is Advanced Applications Advisor (NAM) for GE Grid Automation, part of GE VERNOVA. In this role, he explores the application of new technologies in protection and control with Electric Utilities, Industrials and the Consultants the support them, provides market research, provides

input for new product development, and actively works with Sales and Application Teams. Prior to GE VERNOVA, his previous Industry involvement includes Standards Development at Duke Energy, Application, Sales, and Marketing Management capacities at Beckwith Electric, PowerSecure, General Electric, Siemens Power T&D, and Alstom T&D

Wayne is a Senior Member of IEEE, Serves as a Main Committee Member of the Power System Relaying and Control Committee (PSRC) for over 30 years, Chair Emeritus of the IEEE PSRC Rotating Machinery Subcommittee ('07-'10), Contributed to numerous IEEE Standards, Guides, Reports, Tutorials and Transactions, delivered Tutorials at IEEE Conferences, and was awarded FWCS IEEE PES/IAS Chapter Engineer of the Year in 2018

Wayne also Authored/Presented numerous Technical Papers at key Industry Conferences, Contributed to McGraw-Hill's "Standard Handbook of Power Plant Engineering", and Created Materials/ Taught at Industry Leading Schools such as WEI Relay, Beckwith Electric, HPC Technical, TMEIC MV, and GE Multilin.



Tour – GE/ITI Clearwater Instrument Transformer Facility Tour

- Date:** Friday, April 12, 2024
Time: 9:00AM – 12:00PM (EST/EDT)
Speaker: Ryan Alkire – GE Vernova
Location: GE/ITI Clearwater Factory - 1925 Calumet St, Clearwater, FL 33765
Cost: \$20 Members/\$40 Non-Members/\$10 Students
CEH Credits: No CEH's provided for this event.
RSVP: Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/405984>
 Seats are limited to 30 attendees
Questions: Kayla Allemang - kallemang@ieee.org
 Richard Beatie – r.beatie@ieee.org

The IEEE Florida West Coast Section Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) and Power Energy Society/Industry Applications Society (PES/IAS), in collaboration with GE Grid Solutions, is bringing to the IEEE community this awesome tour of the GE/ITI Clearwater Instrument Transformer Facility. GE/ITI Clearwater is the main manufacturing facility for all GE instrument transformer <69 kV. GE manufactures over 500,000 dry-type instrument transformers every year for utility and industrial applications out of the Clearwater facility.

This tour event will consist of a 45–60-minute classroom session to cover the basics of what makes an instrument transformer different, types of instrument transformers, applications, nameplate basics and how to apply, and the future of the industry.

The second part of the event will be a 1–2-hour walk-through of the factory floor from the component production, core manufacturing, transformer winding, casting, and then final test. As a bonus, there will also be a brief walk-through of the capacitor production floor which shares the other half the main building

Participants are required to wear safety shoes and safety glasses. The facility does have safety shoe covers available, but supplies are limited, please include during registration if you will need a shoe cover + shoe size. Hearing protection will be provided at the necessary locations. Additional information regarding parking and other instructions will be provided ahead of the event via email to those registered.

Ryan Alkire is the Lead Technical Application Engineer for GE Power Sensing, part of GE Vernova. In this role, he supports all utilities in the US and utilities and industrial customers in Canada for instrument transformer needs. Ryan presents at ten electric meter schools throughout the country providing instruction on instrument transformer ratings and application.

Before his current role, Ryan obtained his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of South Florida and holds a Master of Science in Engineering Management from USF. Ryan has worked as a design engineer for ABB dry-type distribution transformers, GE instrument transformers and at Espey Electronics and Manufacturing as a magnetics design engineer. Ryan has been an IEEE member for 9 years.

An Interview with Robert G. (Bob) Sokalski by Krysta Banke (PhD Student)

In January 2024, I interviewed Robert G. (Bob) Sokalski, a research and development director, electrical engineer, and inventor who is active in IEEE and its predecessor IRE. I was granted access through the IEEE Region 3 Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) collaboration with the Senior Member Committee and the USF student IEEE branch.

My approach to the interview was influenced by the fact that I am not an engineer, but rather a PhD in English Rhetoric and Composition, adjunct instructor in technical and professional writing, honors engineering and humanities academic advisor, and life coach. I enjoy connecting with people and learning about their values and inner world, as well as their professional expertise and insights. Since I help undergraduate programmers and engineers plan for their careers, I was especially interested in gathering Mr. Sokalski's insights for undergraduates including his hiring process, and experiences with work-life balance. From our first contact, I saw this was an opportunity to talk about how to live a satisfying life as well as engineering culture and practices.

In our first contact via email, Bob provided his CV and professional biography, a visual graphic titled Healthy Me, the Sno-Dawg mission, and a Rutherford County Magazine article on Bob and his Siberian husky dog, Sassy. Mr. Sokalski was enthusiastic about his experiences in engineering and in supporting well-being through volunteerism.

My first question for Mr. Sokalski was, "Approximately how many hours a week did you work as an engineer, and how many hours a week did you work as an engineering manager?" He replied that in his first position at Kay Electric, he worked a 40-hour workweek or close to it. As a manager, he would work around a 45–46-hour workweek except for a couple of all-nighters a year when a new product was being implemented, or if there was a production issue. He added that travel for work did require overnights or working late into the night. Generally, he saw companies as being respectful of engineers.

My next question for Mr. Sokalski was, "Did you work on something that intentionally supported 'planned obsolescence?'" "No," Mr. Sokalski was

quite clear, "The diametric opposite." Having worked in automotive and home appliance industries, quality was the rule. When he designed a product, he had to prove it would last at least seventeen years during use. He noted that with 1,000 parts, some fail at 10 years and others last 17, 20 or even 30 years. And with thousands of parts in an automobile, there was a greater chance of a failure in a year.

I asked if Mr. Sokalski drove a Japanese, German, or American car. He noted he had just bought a Japanese car. While working at Eaton Corporation in the 1970s and 80s, Mr. Sokalski was there when Ford came to Eaton requiring all parts to meet Ford specifications or to lose all Ford business. The specifications, according to Mr. Sokalski, were copied from Japanese car manufacturers. In those times, Henry Ford II ran the Ford company. Mr. Sokalski relayed that at that time, Ford employees were expected to not even mention Japanese cars to Henry Ford II. Those who dared to own Japanese cars had to park them in the back, not the front.

As an electronics manager of oven controls in the 1960s, Mr. Sokalski observed that their competition from Korea fabricated quality that was equal to or better than American quality, and the workers were paid a very low wage of around \$1.00 an hour. As part of Eaton's cost-lowering strategy, Mr. Sokalski worked with the Mexican Matamoros plant across from the Texan boarder to improve quality.

Thinking of the undergraduate juniors and seniors I work with, I asked Mr. Sokalski, "When interviewing an electrical engineer as a potential hire, what are you looking for?" In sum, Mr. Sokalski prioritizes engineering passion and skills, "First you specify what you need in order to get quality. Second, go through resumes." Mr. Sokalski would look for passion, grades, and observe how the person talked in the interview. Once he hired someone new, Mr. Sokalski would advise the engineer early on, "If, in a couple months you aren't enjoying the job and not having fun on the job, then something's wrong and we've got to talk." As an employee, Mr. Sokalski expected a positive connection with his supervisor, and an ethical worksite.

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I asked Mr. Sokalski, “What would you say to an electrical engineer who earned a disappointing “D” grade on their first calc-based physics exam?” Mr. Sokalski responded that he wouldn’t care about it if after that things were pretty good. The questions he would ask would ensure that the person understood the material. He noted that a lot of engineering does not require calculus, although that was needed in the past when computers weren’t so available.

I asked Mr. Sokalski, “How do you recommend engineering students learn class material? He advised, “Apply [the learning] somehow. A model of an airplane, a model of a garbage disposal. Apply mathematics to it. If you want to be a manufacturing engineer, you can have Cs in Calc. Electronics is a breeze if you know math.”

Our conversation turned toward IEEE. Mr. Sokalski stated, “IEEE has always impressed me as an organization thinking beyond itself to the welfare of others, thus, our fundamentals resonate. ... IEEE is not solely about machines or technology but has a strong focus on people who are the fundamental building block to make IEEE great! IEEE cares about engineers and helps engineers become better engineers or scientists.”

I asked Mr. Sokalski, “How did you arrive at your conviction and expectation that ‘giving (altruism) is critical in our career as well as personal lives?’” What crystallized this outlook was a post-retirement reflection on what made him a healthy and whole individual. Looking back, Mr. Sokalski felt joy while solving problems to help others in his childhood. For example, in 5th grade he was a Crossing Guard, ensuring safety, and served as the school’s movie projector operator, taking over a task from teachers who were “terrified of that monster.” Mr. Sokalski cared about sustaining the passion of his supervisees. He additionally shared credit for technical papers and patents with colleagues and providing counsel and help where possible. Recently, as Vice President of his high school class, Bob produced a 50th reunion video and formed a scholarship that requires good grades and an essay demonstrating the applicant’s passion for a future career. Over time, his service included more philanthropy in support of the Middle Tennessee Choral Society and the Nashville Opera.

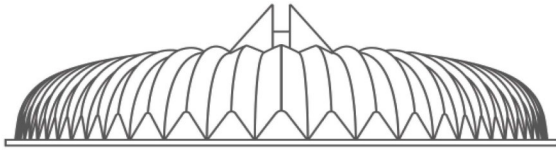
Mr. Sokalski’s Sno-Dawg Ministry is a powerful example of having a passion for helping others. First on his own and then with a pet in attendance, Mr. Sokalski provided respite to people in hospice and care facilities. The pet who first accompanied him was Sassy, black, white, and silver Siberian Husky with blue eyes. She knew the command, “paws up,” which led her to put her paws on the chair or bed so people could pet her paws. One time in response to “paws up,” she jumped on the bed and gave the man a big lick on his face, “Everyone roared,” remembered Bob.

Mr. Sokalski established his Sno-Dawg Ministry with Sassy’s successors Stasiu and Tadek, two solid white Siberians. They visited men in the Veteran’s Administration and care centers. They would laugh, find peace, and reminisce while playing with a Sno-Dawg. Mr. Sokalski said, “It exceeded fun or joy by orders of magnitude and was literally compelling. The SnoDawgs are absolutely non-technical but brought incredible joy and peace that permitted technological thought to a high degree.”

Reflecting on Mr. Sokalski’s appreciation for passion and altruism, I asked him, “As a teacher, manager, and supervisor, what do you find most satisfying about working with learners and supervisees?” He replied, “working with them, just plain seeing them succeed. I wanted to see them succeed and I would help them.” Sometimes he guided engineers toward a solution. He would tell one to do a “bit more testing,” or “do a temperature reading,” leading them toward new awareness of the limits of their designs. Mr. Sokalski included coworkers in papers and patents.

A retired engineering manager, husband, and father, Mr. Sokalski appreciates passion, learning, problem-solving, and community service. As a supervising engineer, he worked to help people learn and perform at a higher level and to find joy. While his values were evident since he was a 5th grader, his understanding of what is important in life developed both through his profession and his personal life. Nowadays, the Sno-Dawg ministry is on pause, both due to COVID-19 and Stasiu and Tadek’s advanced age. However, each of us can carry forward Mr. Sokalski’s legacy by sustaining passion and joy in our professional and personal lives, and by helping others.

IEEE Student Branch at Florida Poly



FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
GIVING DAY
— MARCH 14, 2024 —

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

EMPOWERING IEEE AT FLORIDA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY: JOIN US FOR THE FLORIDA POLY GIVING DAY AND PI RUN!

Help Fund Future Activities and Opportunities by checking out the vTools Event with a link to the donation site!



vTools Event



**THURSDAY,
MARCH 14, 2024**

**4700 Research
Way, Lakeland,
FL, 33805**



In the evening, join us for the 10th Annual Pi Day run. registration link on vTools



IEEE Florida West Coast



STEM EXPLORER FESTIVAL EVENT

January 20, 2024

LARGO CENTRAL PARK

Article by Sean Denny

(STEM Champion/RAS Chair),

Carol Dekkers (IEEE Member) and

Emma Alaba

(RoboFest Chair and RAS Photographer)

After bestowing the title of STEM Ambassador, the IEEE elevated my appointment as STEM Champion. The Florida West Coast Section Executive Committee (EXCOM) members supported my efforts and posted in the Signal Newsletter. I did the first Energy Event on September 1, 2022 with Dr. Sidney Martin and FWCS PES IAS Society. Through the power of communication, it caught the attention of Dr. Catherine Mullins, Pinellas County Schools STEM Director for the Second event: STEM Explorer Fest at Largo Central Park on January 2023. We returned a year later for STEM Explorer Fest on January 20, 2024.

We announced it through V-Tools and the Signal Newsletter to invite those who wished to participate. The FWCS Treasurer loaned me the IEEE FWCS Table cloth and luggage tags.

I arrived at 8 am to the Largo Cultural Center. I checked in and greeted Dr. Catherine Mullins at the Performing Arts Portico. Wendy helped me set the table and chairs for my booth. I laid out the IEEE table cloth and displayed extra back issues of IEEE Spectrum Magazine. I also greeted teachers whom I had worked before with Robotics and Teacher In Service including Dan Kinzer, Chad Mairn and Dr. Sidney Martin.



The STEM Explorer Fest ran from 10am to 2pm. I shared the IEEE Booth with Robofest Chair Emma Alaba and Carol Dekkers who volunteered during the STEM Festival. Emma Alaba invited our guests to draw a robot and we hung the drawings on the Robofest sign. She distributed left-over 2017 World Championship Robofest shirts.



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I talked about why the IEEE is the biggest Professional International Organization, why we support computer networking standards and STEM education through the TryEngineering.org Website.



Regardless of whether or not a Student, Teacher, or Parent stopped by our booth, I was able to explain the advantages of searching the newly improved TryEngineering.com Website. I remember there were about 20 lesson plans in 2005 including Ohm’s Law, Motor Controllers, and Building Robot Arms, now there are a couple thousand. Volunteers can subscribe to get email updates and post their surveys or events. The Florida West Coast Section and Region 3 have accomplished a lot for STEM.



Students would go by each booth participating in the demonstrations. We would sign the event flyer for their “passport.” A highlight was that we got to see a Police Helicopter land and take off on the field.



We collectively recruited for the FWCS & Robofest while doing TryEngineering demonstrations promoting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics for Tampa Bay Education. We had a delightful time and were invited back for 2025.



This made the day worth our efforts.

Florida West Coast Section—Event Summary

<p>◆ February 2nd, First Friday, IEEE-HKN, IEEE-HKN@usf.edu</p>	<p>◆ February 19th, Resume Workshop, IEEE-HKN, IEEE-HKN@usf.edu</p>
<p>◆ February 29: FWCS Officer Training by Robert DeMelo, POC Kayla Allemang kallemang@ieee.org.</p>	<p>◆ March 5: St Pete College Construction Expo. https://web.spcollege.edu/survey/36230 Contact Sean Denny Venner20@ieee.org.</p>
<p>◆ March 15: Dynamic System Rating - FERC Order 881 virtual seminar by Wayne Hartmann, POC Kayla Allemang kallemang@ieee.org.</p>	<p>◆ Southeast Con March 15-17 - Virtual Technical Conference March 20-24 - In-Person Conference https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/ Contact Alessio Medda alessiomedda@ieee.org</p>
<p>◆ March 27th, EE Automation Fest, IEEE-HKN, IEEE, ISA, AAUW, robertomonte@usf.edu</p>	<p>◆ 3 April: 69th State Science and Engineering Fair of Florida STEM Competition. Contact FWCS STEM Ambassador Sean Denny Venner20@ieee.org</p>
<p>◆ *** Call for judges: https://ssefflorida.com/judging-3/</p>	<p>◆ April 12: Tour of GE instrument transformer factory in Clearwater (joint event with Polytechnic, reaching out to USF & LMAG as well), POC Kayla Allemang kallemang@ieee.org.</p>
<p>◆ April 22nd, Kappa Xi Spring Induction Ceremony, IEEE-HKN, IEEE-HKN@usf.edu</p>	<p>◆ June 10: PES/IAS day at the FECA Engineer conference in Clearwater. The first half (4 hours) will be a NERC compliance overview by the SERC Outreach team, second half (4 hours) is TBD but it will be either Substation Design Practices or Distribution Protection topics. POC Kayla Allemang kallemang@ieee.org.</p>
<p>◆ TBD October: FWCS Annual Awards Banquet. Contact hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org</p>	<p>◆ TBD October: AESS conference in collaboration with Cyber Florida. Contact Michael Mayor michael.mayor@ieee.org</p>
<p>◆ May 2025: The conference application for 2025 IEEE 19th International Conference on Automatic Face and Gesture Recognition (FG) has been approved! This event is scheduled to be held in Tampa/Clearwater, FL, US on 2025-05-12 to 2025-05-16, and will be sponsored by IEEE Biometrics Council, IEEE Computer Society.</p>	<p>◆ September 2025: Intelligent Cybersecurity Conference https://www.icsc-conference.org/2024/. Contact Muhammad Al-Abdullah mal-abdullah@ut.edu</p>

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WIE Planning Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/404823>

Contact/Questions: Diana Aristizabal, dianaaristizabal@ieee.org

IEEE General Body Meeting
Monday, March 25, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Virtual

Registration and Contact Information
<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/403514>

Andrew Seely, Florida West Coast Section Vice Chair receives a R3 Award

Congratulations! It is a pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as the winner of the **IEEE Region 3 Director’s Choice Award for your work on Senior Member Elevations!** Region 3 encompasses over 24,000 IEEE members across nine states in the southeastern US and Jamaica.

This award recognizes a volunteer of Region 3 who, through continuing service to the Region and to the Institute, has made exemplary contributions to the Region. It will be presented at SoutheastCon

<https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/>

Florida West Coast Section - SunCoast SIGNAL Advertising Rates

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March 2024 - Calendar of Events <i>(For more information see "Inside the SunCoast Signal" → Page 1)</i>						
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		*FWCS ExCom →Page 1				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	*Signal Inputs Due End of Day					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				*Dynamic Line Ratings →Page 3		
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	*IEEE General Meeting →Page 9					