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Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and
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(depending on ZIP code) in the following
Counties (Yellow):
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Marion



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Florida West Coast Section (FWCS)

The SunCoast SIGNAL Newsletter

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

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There is NO Print Edition

Also, it can be downloaded
from the FWCS website:

<https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/newletter-archive/>

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Next ExCom Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Google Meet
Register with vTools

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/501804>

PE Corner

Art Nordlinger, PE, Senior Member The Rule Change Process

The Florida Statutes are the laws that have been passed by the legislature, including the practice of licensed professions. Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes governs the practice of engineering in the state. In some areas, the Statutes are very specific, and maybe even prescriptive. For example, Section 471.017 F.S. contains the continuing education requirements for engineers' license renewal. This section specifies that the number of continuing education hours required for license renewal is 18, and the mix of those hours.

It is up to the agency or board that administers each part of the law to craft detailed rules that put the law into practice. These rules constitute the Florida Administrative Code. In our case, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers is tasked with that responsibility.

Chapter 61G15 FAC contains the rules governing the practice of engineering. In the case of continuing education, the FBPE's rules specify, among other things, who qualifies to provide this continuing education and what level of instruction the content must be to qualify, e.g. basic math courses don't qualify for continuing education hours.

Continued on Page 2

IEEE FWCS ExCom Members

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RAS Robotics & Automation Chapter: Chair Sean Denny,
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SP/COMM Signal Processing / Communications Joint Chapter
Chair, Michael Ramalho, PhD, mar42@cornell.edu
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WEB PAGE: <https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/>

PE Corner - Cont'd from Page 1

The rule creation and change process is not done in a vacuum but rather in a public forum with input invited from any interested party. Practice of Engineering rule creation or changes may begin in a number of ways, including as a result of a change to the Florida Statutes, or from a suggestion from an engineer or other interested party. The FBPE often assigns a committee, chaired by a Board member and including participation from interested parties and FEMC staff, to review the suggested rule or change and come up with new rule language as a starting point. Once the committee process is completed, a rule change is proposed to the full Board.

Once passed by the Board, the rule is then published for comment. Proposed state rules in Florida are published daily in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR), which is available online at www.flrules.org. The FAR includes notices of proposed rulemaking, changes, corrections, withdrawals, and agency meetings and hearings, providing the official public record for agency actions regarding administrative law.

Any interested party may file comments. The Florida Attorney General's office typically comments on whether the rule is consistent with state law and precedent. The process is somewhat iterative, with the FBPE proposing changes to the rules, followed by a comment period, followed by more proposed changes, etc. until consensus is reached on a final rule which is voted on and passed by the Board. The final rule is then published and included in the Florida Administrative Code.

IEEE Florida Council
Florida Board of Professional Engineers Representative Report
Art Nordlinger, PE, IEEE Senior Life Member
September 2025

The most recent FBPE board meeting was held on August 6. I was not able to attend.

The legislature finally passed a budget that included additional funding for the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, as requested.

There was one bill of concern to the engineering community, and all other licensed professions governed by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Senate Bill 110 proposes to eliminate all regulatory boards that are under DBPR and place those responsibilities with DBPR staff directly. This includes eliminating both the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and the overseeing Florida Engineering Management Corporation (on which I sit). The bill went no farther than the one committee hearing. Naturally, interested parties will be on the lookout for this in the next session.

IEEE's license to provide Rules and Laws continuing education courses and associated CEHs has been renewed. This license must be renewed with the DBPR every biennium after the PE license renewal window closes on February 28. Note that IEEE is an "exempt provider" as defined by Florida Statutes and the Florida Administrative Code. This allows IEEE to provide technical continuing education on an ongoing basis. No renewal is required for IEEE to provide technical continuing education.

On a personal note, I will no longer be a FEMC Board member as of October 31, 2026, as I have served two 4-year terms and I am term-limited. Though that is over a year from now, I want to put out the word that, in fact, there will be three open FEMC Board positions at that time. If any Professional Engineer is interested in serving on the FEMC Board, or wants to find out more about this, now would be a good time to start attending FBPE Board meetings (October 8, in person in Jacksonville) and/or FEMC Board meetings (October 8, in person in Jacksonville and virtual) to get familiar both with the process and the Board Members.

Applications for these open positions should be tendered to the FBPE no later than July 2026 for consideration at the August or October 2026 FBPE meeting. Additionally, after October 2026 I will retire as IEEE's representative to the FBPE. I serve at the pleasure of the Florida Council, so I suggest that anyone interested in succeeding me should make that known to the Council. I hope that the Council feels that having a representative to the FBPE is beneficial and will appoint a successor.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this report, continuing education for Florida Professional Engineers, or IEEE's ability to provide continuing education:

a.nordlinger@ieee.org

813-508-2952

**Florida West
Coast Section**

Professional Activities Committee for Engineers (PACE)

Date: Tuesday, October 14, 2025**Time:** 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm (EDT)**Speaker:** Dr. Jim Anderson, COBOL: Your Secret To Long Term Job Security"**Location:** Virtual**Cost:** Free**CEH Credits:** No CEH's provided for this event**RSVP Online:** <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/501439>**Questions:** Dr. Jim Anderson, Chair PACE, jim.anderson@ieee.org**Mobile:** 813-454-3617

Did you know? More than 220 billion lines of COBOL code are still in use which equals ~80% of the world's actively used code. 90% of critical business applications use COBOL. 95% of ATM transactions are handled by COBOL / 60% healthcare records. U.S. Government: Social Security, Department of Defense Payment Systems, Internal Revenue Service. Every day \$3 Trillion worth of transactions are handled by COBOL code.

Man, with that much COBOL code being used it sure seems like it must be taught in every school! Well, the answer is that COBOL is so old that it's really not taught any more. The hip and cool language like Java, Python, C++ are what the kids are learning today. However, as those stats show you, it's really COBOL that runs the world that we live in.

Where things start to get really interesting is when you take a look at just exactly who is programming in COBOL today. The majority of COBOL programmers are quickly approaching the magic age of 65 and you know what that means: they are going to retire!

This means that just about every bank, financial institution, and significant parts of the U.S. government are starting to realize that they have a real problem on their hands - there is not going to be anyone to support their COBOL programs!

Attend this IEEE FWCS PACE session and we'll reveal the secrets of COBOL to you. We can get you started on a path to learning how to program in COBOL. If this becomes something that you can add to your resume, then guess what: in just a few years you might be as hot as one of those AI programmers are today!

Join us and find out what you have been missing!

Register here:

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/501439>

Dr. Jim Anderson, Chair PACE



Introduction to Blockchain, Crypto Mechanics & Smart Contracts

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Speaker: Michael A. Ramalho, Ph.D.

Location: Virtual & In-Person – 16313 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618

Cost: Free

CEH Credits: No CEH's provided for this event.

RSVP: Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/500636>

Questions: Michael Ramalho – mar42@cornell.edu

Robert DeMelo – robert.demelo@ieee.org

Abstract: You will learn the history of blockchains, the essential technologies behind modern cryptocurrency, and the basics of decentralized finance.

Get a detailed look into how Bitcoin blocks are created and linked to form an immutable distributed ledger, the consensus mechanism that is the foundation of the Bitcoin public permissionless blockchain's operational security, the control system operation of Bitcoin block creation, the Bitcoin supply/limits and more, all using Bitcoin Version 2 examples.

A history of Ethereum development will be provided, including the technological advances leveraged from Bitcoin experience and Bitcoin's shortcomings. There will be particular emphasis on the change of the consensus mechanism (from Proof-of-Work to Proof-of-Stake) and the addition of virtual machines and the associated virtual machine state to the Ethereum blockchain (enabling "smart contracts").

Lastly, the addition of "tokenization" to many crypto blockchains allows not only for the tokenization of real-world assets (RWAs), but also for stablecoin instantiation. Implications for tokenization and Stablecoins are deferred to Part Two of this series.

A lengthy Q&A period will be provided for those participants remaining after the lecture

Michael A. Ramalho, Ph.D. is an IEEE Senior Member and a recipient of the 2021 IEEE Florida Council Outstanding Engineer Award. Dr. Ramalho has extensive experience as a director, lead/chief architect, and principal investigator in networking, media signal processing, unified communications, packet-based error correction, acoustic spread-spectrum communication and block-chain/crypto mechanics.

He holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and a M.Eng.E.E. from Cornell University. He holds over 59 patents. He has authored many standards in the ITU-T, IETF, and IMTC, and many foundational input documents to ETSI, 3GPP, and ANSI Committee T1 standards.



Decentralized Finance, Stablecoins, Crypto Governance and Policy

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Speaker: Michael A. Ramalho, Ph.D.

Location: Virtual & In-Person – 16313 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33618

Cost: Free

CEH Credits: No CEH's provided for this event.

RSVP: Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/500639>

Questions: Michael Ramalho – mar42@cornell.edu

Robert DeMelo – robert.demelo@ieee.org

Abstract: This talk will discuss the implications of crypto, smart contracts, and stablecoins - with a particular emphasis on blockchain governance and stablecoin policy/governance issues.

This talk begins with the essential elements of modern crypto: public permissionless blockchains, immutable distributed ledger technology, cryptocurrency, smart contracts, stablecoins, etc.

Crypto blockchain governance shapes the purposes/uses to which the crypto is targeted. Bitcoin's governance minimizes code changes from present operation/function in order to maintain its primary use today as a proxy for "digital gold." This is in contrast to transaction speed/volume, smart contract enhancements, and tokenization capability implemented into other crypto that target traditional financial settlement (Visa, MC, Venmo, PayPal, SWIFT, etc.). The so-called "Layer-Two blockchains" and "Channels" that also target transactional speed and cost of crypto-based transactions will also be discussed.

High level examination of issues such as crypto supply creation/destruction, characterization of crypto as "a currency" vs. "a money" or "a commodity," the benefits of "staking crypto" from the

perspective of investors and blockchain operators, the economics of owning/running a cryptocurrency element (e.g., a Bitcoin miner vs. an Ethereum validator), and more.

Lastly, with the recent passage of the GENI-US Act, stablecoins (crypto pegged to fiat) have the potential to increase crypto acceptance by providing an on-ramp to Layer-One crypto, to provide an alternative to cross-nation settlements, to aid in anti-money laundering efforts, and more.

Michael A. Ramalho, Ph.D. is an IEEE Senior Member and a recipient of the 2021 IEEE Florida Council Outstanding Engineer Award. Dr. Ramalho has extensive experience as a director, lead/chief architect, and principal investigator in networking, media signal processing, unified communications, packet-based error correction, acoustic spread-spectrum communication and blockchain/crypto mechanics.

He holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and a Masters in Engineering, E.E. from Cornell University. He holds over 59 patents. He has authored many standards in the ITU-T, IETF, and IMTC, and many foundational input documents to ETSI, 3GPP, and ANSI Committee T1 standards



NFPA 70E Compliance Series, Session 3: Simple lockout/tagout Procedures and System Diagram Reading (Qualified Workers)

Session 1: Date: Friday, August 15, 2025

Session 2: Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Session 3: Date: Friday, October 24, 2025

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST/EDT)

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (EST/EDT)

Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 PM (EST/EDT)

Speaker: AJ Khazami & Steve Antman, Sigma C Power Services GM & Application Engineer

Location: Virtual: Google Meet – Link to be sent to registrants prior to event

Cost: Free

CEH Credits: One (1) CEH Each

RSVP: Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/488903>

Questions: Steve Antman - steveantman@ieee.org

Abstract This training is geared towards anyone who is occasionally exposed to electrical hazards as well as employees that are working with electrical daily. This will be a three part series that builds from exposure to qualified workers. This class includes Look-out / Tagout (LOTO) Protocols, work permits, and one-line diagrams.

- NFPA 70E's hierarchy of controls and the effectiveness of deployed countermeasures
- Case studies in electrical hazards and their impact on personnel
- Understanding PPE systems and their correct usage

Session 1 (Exposure, All) – Friday August 15, 2025

- OSHA & NFPA 70E – Requirements for compliance and awareness of electrical workers
- Accident statistics and safety programs
- The “Qualified” person and their role in electrical work
- Hazard identification, and understanding of countermeasures
- Shock protection boundaries and the hazards of electrical shock
- Arc flash hazards to personnel and equipment

Session 2 - Friday, September 26, 2025 Basic understanding of hazard warning labels (Moderate Hazard Exposure & Qualified Workers)

Session 3 - Date Friday, October 24, 2025 Simple lockout/tagout procedures and system diagram reading (Qualified Workers)

- In depth PPE usage and equipment handling
- Complex lockout/tagout procedures and establishing lockout points
- Verifying as de-energized and creating equipotential zones
- Energized electrical work and energized work permitting
- Task based qualification and safety countermeasures
- Establishing electrically safe work conditions, Special conditions & additional potential safety concerns

Continued on Page 7

*NFPA 70E Compliance - Cont'd from page 6***BIOGRAPHIES:**

Steve Antman is an experienced Account Manager at Sigma C Power Services, bringing in over three decades of expertise in commercial and industrial power applications. His career began in the U.S. Army as a Signal soldier, supporting 82nd Airborne communications

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from the University of South Florida, he transitioned into application engineering. Throughout his career, Steve has specialized in low and medium voltage upgrades, maintenance strategies, Arc Flash assessments, and breaker repair & replacement services.

He works closely with clients to address switchgear needs, develop upgrade paths, and explore life extension alternatives. His knowledge spans NFPA 70E/70B, NEC, OSHA compliance, and predictive maintenance, helping organizations optimize their maintenance plans and integrate advanced test equipment strategies for improved reliability and safety.

AJ Khazami is the General Manager of Sigma C Power Services' Florida Regional Operations, bringing over 25 years of experience in sales, service, and project management within the power industry.

A seasoned organizational leader, AJ has a strong background in client management, utility sales, and the execution of complex, multimillion-dollar projects. Prior to joining Sigma C, he held leadership roles including Proposal Manager, Account Executive, and Executive Director at several field service and engineering firms.

AJ studied Management Information Systems at Hillsborough Community College and the University of South Florida. He has been married for 21 years and is a father of two.



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Florida Laws & Rules and Ethics for Professional Engineers

Date: Friday, November 14, 2025

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM (noon)

Speaker: Mr. Art Nordlinger, PE,

IEEE Representative to the Florida Board of Professional Engineers

Location: These seminars will be presented virtually

Cost: \$30 IEEE Members / \$60 Non-Members / \$10 IEEE Student Members

CEH Credits: One (1) Rules & Laws CEH will be awarded; and

One (1) Ethics CEH will be awarded, which will meet the current requirements for PE Renewals.

Be sure to enter your name and PE number on the signup website as it appears on your license.

IEEE Florida Provider Number is 0003849.

RSVP: Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/496020>

Questions: Art Nordlinger: a.nordlinger@ieee.org or Regan Sink: rjsink@ieee.org

Abstract:

The Rules and Laws That Govern the Practice of Engineering in Florida. This course is at a basic to intermediate level.

- ◆ " Florida Statute 471 – Engineering
- ◆ " FBPE and FEMC
- ◆ " Florida Administrative Code
- ◆ " Updates from NCEES and FBPE

Ethics and the Practice of Engineering in Florida. This course is at a basic to intermediate level.

- ◆ " Basic Engineering Ethics Precepts
- ◆ " Florida Administrative Code 61G15
- ◆ " Recent Cases and Examples

Art Nordlinger, PE, retired after a rewarding career in the electric utility industry, was most recently the Manager of Transmission Tariff and Contracts at Tampa Electric Company.

Art earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Northwestern University in 1979 and his Master of Engineering degree in Electric Power Engineering in 1988 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Art is a Life Senior Member of IEEE, Past Chair of the Florida Engineers Management Corporation (FEMC), and a registered PE in the State of Florida



Our Open House is packed with engaging activities for all levels.



September 14th
2 PM - 3 PM

Code Wiz North St. Pete - 956 62nd
Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33702



- Hands-on coding activities
- Cool demos led by experts
- Fun, engaging challenges



CODE WIZ

September 14, 2025

St Petersburg, FL

Article by Sean Denny (STEM Champion/RAS Chair),

Barrett Werner (RAS Recording Secretary)

IEEE Florida West Coast Section Robotics and Automation Society Chapter were invited to *Code Wiz's Open House* on September 14th, 2025 to celebrate their one year anniversary. Code Wiz is an educational program franchise that teaches children, ages 6 to 17, about coding and robotics. RAS Officers interviewed the owners, Scott and Jennifer Callison about their business. They offer a variety of courses ranging from Scratch, Lego Robotics, Minecraft and Roblox video game development, to Java and Python coding courses. Code Wiz provides after school programs and week-long summer camps to empower kids to apply these technical skills.



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Scott also explained they are partnering with local schools to supply their coaches/after school programs on-site. The event was packed, and Scott expressed his desire to expand and open a second location in the Pinellas County

area. We congratulate CodeWiz for their mission of improving the technical literacy of tomorrow's leaders. We are looking forward to working with them.

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- Build your own **robot**
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Sean P Denny venner20@ieee.org
IEEE Senior Member
Teacher In Service, R3 Florida West Coast Section
Chair, IEEE FWCS Robotics and Automation





Student Activities – Florida Polytechnic University

Student Branch Chair, Colby Bradford

colby.bradford@ieee.org

IEEE Florida Poly is planning lots of exciting events to look out for on vTools! Since we are a partnership of multiple IEEE societies, we have many different skills we're building here! Here is some words from our awesome society chairs on what's new with them.

PES - Power and Energy Society - Will Carroll. A general body meeting was held to discuss E-board expectations and events that will help get students engaged to the club. So far, PES has hosted two PCB design competition meetings in collaboration with RAS where students will learn the basics of KiCad and circuit theory in order to design a PCB for a UAV. PES will also be holding a soldering workshop late next month, working with Dr. Kames in the FL Poly Skills Lab. Lastly, we have a mock circuit competition late in September to look forward to, and it will most likely be a morse code decoder circuit.

CS - Computer Society - Cyler Gabel. Started the semester by collaborating with the Florida Poly Campus Activities Board to host a home-made Escape the Tech Takeover escape room. Recently we also collaborated with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers to host a GitHub workshop and teach the basics of Git and GitHub, a skill typically brushed over in classes. Coming up soon we will be hosting a 3-part Rust workshop, practices for the IEEEExtreme programming competition, and are excited to welcome Ron Ambrosio, Andy Seely, and Antra Malhotra from IEEE FWCS to our General Body Meeting coming up!

RAS - Robotics and Automation Society - Sahil Talwalker. We planned a lot of workshops to teach skills that aren't usually taught in school. These skills can develop our engineers in numerous CAD softwares and allow us to work as a team to collaborate. The electrical team on the robot is learning all about custom designing and making the best circuit for real life projects. The programming team is learning the complex programming language Rust, which requires a lot of background knowledge on other programming skills. These skills will help us teach and keep our legacy going in RAS so future generations will be able to continue this experience and be able to go to events like Southeast Con.

HKN- IEEE HKN Mu Omega - Jacob Brescia. HKN at Florida Polytechnic University will have a variety of events this semester. Beginning in September, Mu Omega is hosting a Resume Workshop on September 17th for the Florida Polytechnic University Career Fair. A workplace benefits & tax documents workshop will be hosted in partnership with Florida Polytechnic's Career Services on October 15th, with a Highway Cleanup event on October 18th.

The IEEE FL Poly student branch had our introductory General Body Meeting with the student body to introduce IEEE and fill the students in on who we are, and what they have to look forward to for this semester and school year. Coming soon on October 23rd we will be collaborating with the FL Poly American Society of Mechanical Engineers Student Branch here to host Lakeland Electric Engineers to table and talk to students about a day in the life of an engineer, some skills and tools that would behoove them to learn for the Utilities industry, and their personal journeys throughout their careers!

SAVE THE DATE FWCS End of Year Gala Banquet

When: Saturday, October 25, 2025

@ 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Where: St. Petersburg Yacht Club

11 Central Ave.,

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Contact: Hermann Amaya,

hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org

Register Here:

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/488122>

**Celebration of FWCS
Speakers, Recognitions & Awards
Opportunity to Network with
IEEE Members**

**Connect with Student Branch
and Young Professionals
Amazing Yacht Club Dinner**

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



Year 2025 - Florida West Coast Section - Upcoming Events Summary

Date / Time	Organization Contact	Description email Registration / Website	A* V P V & P
Tuesday, Oct 14	FWCS - PACE	COBOL	V
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dr. Jim Anderson	jim.anderson@ieee.org https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/501439	
Wednesday, Oct 8	Cryptocurrency	Introduction to Blockchain, Crypto Mechanics	V & P
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Michael Ramalho, PhD	mar42@cornell.edu https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/500636	
Wednesday, Oct 15	Cryptocurrency	Decentralized Finance, Stable Coins	V & P
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Michael Ramalho, PhD	mar42@cornell.edu https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/500639	
Friday, Oct 24	FWCS - PES/IAS	NFPA 70E Compliance Series	V
12:00 pm - 1:00pm	Steve Antman	stevenantman@ieee.org https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/488903	
Thursday, Oct 30	FWCS - PES/IAS	ExCom	V
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Kayla Allemang	kallemang@ieee.org https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/450357	
Friday, Nov 14	FWCS - PES/IAS	Florida Laws & Rules and Ethics for PEs	V
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Art Nordlinger	a.nordlinger@ieee.org	
	Regan Sink	rjsink@ieee.org https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/496020	
*Attendance: V: Virtual --- P: In Person --- V & P: Virtual and In Person			

Florida West Coast Section - SunCoast SIGNAL Advertising Rates

Contact: Michael Mayor michael.mayor@ieee.org

Size	1 Month		6 Months		12 Months	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
1/4 Page	\$50	\$75	\$250	\$450	\$350	\$450
1/2 Page	\$75	\$100	\$350	\$550	\$650	\$750
3/4 Page	\$125	\$150	\$550	\$750	\$950	\$1,250
Full Page	\$150	\$200	\$750	\$950	\$1,250	\$1,450



*IEEE Florida West
Coast Section
(FWCS)
Tampa, Florida*

**IEEE FWCS
P. O. Box 176
Land O' Lakes,
FL 34639-9998**

October 2025 - Calendar of Events (For more information see "Inside the SunCoast Signal" → Page 1)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		*FWCS ExCom →Page 1	*Introduction Cryptocurrency →Page 5			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	*Signal Inputs Due End of Day	*PACE - COBOL →Page 4	*Cryptocurrency →Page 6			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
					*NFPA 70E Compliance Series 3 →Page 7	*FWCS Year End Gala →Page 13
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