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**Florida West Coast  
Section (FWCS)**

**The SunCoast SIGNAL Newsletter**

**The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.**

This Newsletter is Now  
**DISTRIBUTED  
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from the FWCS website:  
<https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/newletter-archive/>

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**PE Corner**

**Art Nordlinger, PE, Life Senior Member**

**The Steps to Professional Licensure, Part 3**

Last month I discussed the experience necessary to qualify to apply to become a Professional Engineer. Now I'll address the last piece of the PE puzzle, the Principles and Practices of Engineering exam, also called the PE exam, and the final steps to licensure.

Recent Florida statute changes "decoupled" the experience requirement from qualifications to take the PE exam, removing the potential four-or-more-year time lag between graduation and taking the exam. That leaves only receiving an accredited degree and passing the FE as a hurdle to sitting for the PE, and paying the exam fee of \$400 for most disciplines, of course.

As of 2024, both the FE and PE exams are now exclusively computer based and given in a designated testing center. Many exams are no longer restricted to a twice-per-year schedule that was the practice for the pencil and paper exams. A schedule of when the exam for a specific engineering discipline is available may be found on the NCEES website in the Examinee Guide on Page 16. Florida-specific information may be found on the Board's website at

<https://fbpe.org/licensure/application-process/principles-practice-examination/>

*Continued on Page 2*

**Next ExCom Meeting  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026  
Google Meet  
Register with vTools**

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/522013>

**IEEE FWCS ExCom Members**

**CHAIR:** Michael Mayor, michael.mayor@ieee.org  
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**PES/IAS Power & Energy/Industry Applications Joint Chapter:** Chair, Kayla Allemang, kallemand@ieee.org  
**RAS Robotics & Automation Chapter:** Chair Sean Denny, venner20@ieee.org.  
**SP/COMM Signal Processing / Communications and Blockchain Group, Chair, Michael Ramalho, PhD,** mar42@cornell.edu  
**WIE Women in Engineering Affinity Group:** Chair, Diana Aristizabal, dianaaristizabal@ieee.org  
**LIFE MEMBER Affinity Group:** Chair Richard Beatie, PE, r.beatie@ieee.org  
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**CONSULTANTS NETWORK:** Hermann Amaya, hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org  
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**SENIOR MEMBER COMMITTEE:** Hermann Amaya, hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org  
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 CS - Anzhelika Kurnikova, akurnikova@usf.edu  
 EDS - Luis Quevedo, lquevedo@ieee.org  
 PES - Nguyễn Hồng, nguyenhahong@usf.edu  
 HKN - Roberto Montero, roberto.montero@ieee.org  
**Florida Polytechnic University Chairs**  
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 CS - Cyler Gabel, cgabel3645@floridapoly.edu  
 PES - Will Carroll, wcarroll4993@floridapoly.edu  
 RAS - Sahil Talwalkar, tsahil@outlook.com  
 HKN - Jacob Brescia, jbrescia4902@floridapoly.edu  
**WEB MASTER:** TJ Ross, a.j.ross@ieee.org

**WEB PAGE:** <https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/>

**PE Corner - Cont'd from page 1**

The PE exam is discipline specific, and most disciplines include sub-disciplines. For example, the Electrical and Computer exam includes three sub-disciplines: Computer Engineering, Power, and Electronics, Controls and Communications. The NCEES website includes statistics for each sub-discipline exam, including the number of people who took it and the pass rate, both for first-time examinees and repeat examinees. This may be found at:

<http://ncees.org/engineering/pe/>

The PE exam format is 8 or 8 and a half hours long depending on discipline, with a 50-minute break. The exam has either 80 or 85 questions. Like the FE exam, a reference book is provided for use during the exam. No other materials other than an approved calculator are allowed, a list of which is on the NCEES website. Exam grades are typically available about 7-10 days after the exam is taken. Examinees are notified by the Board if they pass, or provided information on retaking the exam if they don't. The Florida Board allows an examinee three tries to pass the exam. If the examinee fails three times, the board will typically require the examinee to take some classes at the college level in the appropriate subject matter before another attempt.

With the PE exam decoupled from the experience requirement, the potential licensee, having obtained a qualified degree, passed both exams, and obtained the required experience will submit all of this information to the Board, along with the required personal and professional references. The Board will then evaluate the submittal and if everything passes muster, the Board will certify that the licensee has completed all the requirements and issue their license number.

To learn more about the examination and application process for the FE and PE exams go to the *Application Process* page under the *Licensure* section of FBPE's website at [www.fbpe.org](http://www.fbpe.org). Questions regarding licensure may be directed to the Board office at (850) 521-0500. Ask to speak to someone in the *Licensure* department.



## Reworld Waste To Energy Facility - Pasco County

- Date:** Friday, January 30, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00AM – 11:30PM (EST/EDT)  
**Location:** ReWorld Facility - 14230 Hays Road Spring Hill, FL 34610  
**Cost:** \$20 Members/\$50 Non-Members/\$10 Student & Life Members  
**CEH Credits:** None  
**RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/522000>  
 \*\*\*Seats are limited to 20 attendees\*\*\*  
**Questions:** Kayla Allemang - [Kallemand@ieee.org](mailto:Kallemand@ieee.org)  
 Regan Sink – [Rsink@ieee.org](mailto:Rsink@ieee.org)  
 Richard Beatie – [R.beatie@ieee.org](mailto:R.beatie@ieee.org)  
 Hermann Amaya - [hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org](mailto:hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org)

The IEEE Florida West Coast Section Power & Energy Society/Industry Applications Society (PES/IAS), in partnership with IEEE FWCS Life Members, IEEE FWCS student chapters, and Pasco County Reworld, invites you to an exclusive tour of the Pasco County Reworld Waste-To-Energy (WTE) Facility. Explore how Reworld's Waste-to-Energy Facility converts everyday refuse into reliable, renewable power. The program begins with a 30-minute presentation on the facility's technology, grid integration, and role in sustainable energy. Attendees will then walk the tour route to see waste intake, combustion systems, turbine operations, and emissions controls firsthand. The event concludes with an interactive Q&A, offering insights into real-world applications and the future of waste-to-energy.

Directions and parking details will be sent to attendees closer to the event.

**Participants are required to wear** Long pants, Long sleeved shirt, Closed-toe shoes (preferably boots), No free-flowing garment, Long hair must be worn "up"

**Required PPE:** Hard hats, eye protection, gloves, and hearing protection. Reworld will provide the required PPE if you are unable to bring your own.



## Substation Connectivity: Practical Guidelines for Reliable IT-OT-Telecom Integration

**Date:** Friday, February 20, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00AM – 3:00PM (EST/EDT)  
**Speaker:** Adrian Zvarych, PE – Qualus, Supervisor  
**Location:** Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
 16313 N Dale Mabry Hwy Tampa, FL 33618  
**Cost:** Members: \$100; Non-Members: \$250; Students: \$20  
**CEH:** Four (4) CEH Credits  
**RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/516195>  
**Questions:** Kayla Allemang - [Kalleman@ieee.org](mailto:Kalleman@ieee.org)

**Abstract:** The need for IT-OT-Telecom connection connectivity at electric utility substations has only increased over the past 15 years. In certain cases, a communication circuit dropping out of service may trigger cyber security or Grid Operations processes, lead to an inter-utility transmission tie line circuit being opened, or trigger other more time and resource consuming efforts. It is therefore necessary for Relay and Substation design engineers and installers to understand critical success factors needed to develop and install highly reliable connectivity. It's not 'Rocket Science', however, basic industry guidelines, once understood and applied, can lead to a more appropriate level of equipment communication circuit reliability.

**Adrian Zvarych, PE**, is a Field Services Supervisor who has spent the last four decades making electricity behave itself, usually by threatening it with protective relays, fiber optics, and the occasional strongly-worded spreadsheet. A 1982 Carnegie Mellon BSEE grad and a registered PE in the State of Florida, Adrian made his first notable industry impact in 1988 by developing Florida Power & Light's still-in-use Dual Transmission Substation Bus de-

sign, then kept the innovation train rolling in 1999 as the guy who dreamed up the relay and fiber network for Duke Energy's groundbreaking International Drive Distribution Automation project—the one that made other utilities go “wait, we can do THAT?” He's also a presenter. IEEE Working Group Chair and a Senior Life Member of the IEEE. Just means he's old... (his words)

In between, he's worn every hat from hands-on relay geek to IT/Telecom wrangler to manager of teams up to 50 engineers, techs, and electricians while keeping a cool \$14M revenue stream flowing with one of the highest department retention rates in the company. Creative, mildly rebellious, and allergic to the phrase “but we've always done it this way,” Adrian sees his real job as clearing the runway so smarter people than him (again, his words) can take off and look brilliant. When he's not busy dragging the industry into the future, he's a loving and supportive husband and father, and also keeps his musical talents flowing in various jazz combos or the Pieces of 8 Chicago Tribute Band.



# TAMPA BAY E-WEEK BANQUET

This premier event celebrates excellence in STEM across our community. Local leaders and engineering professionals come together to honor outstanding Engineers, Science and Math Teachers, Students, and Young Professionals. The banquet also features the Lignell Awards, presented to exceptional high school educators advancing STEM education and inspiring future engineers. Hosted through the combined efforts of the Engineering Societies of West Central Florida, this event unites professionals from across Tampa and Florida's west coast to recognize achievement and promote the next generation of innovators.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

4:30 - 6:30 PM Networking & Exhibition  
6:30 - 9:00 PM Dinner Program & Awards



SHANNA & BRYAN GLAZER

SHANNA & BRYAN GLAZER  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER  
522 N. HOWARD AVE  
TAMPA, FL 33606

**REGISTER NOW**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Carissa Gudenkauf  
E-Week chair, USF EAS and SWE  
carissa@mvp-results.com

**John "Jay" B. Rogers, Jr.**  
CEO & CO-FOUNDER

**The Hard-Won Lesson:  
Transforming Challenge into Success**

In this candid and inspiring keynote, Jay will reveal how turning over the reins to Local Motors - which he poured everything into - became the essential experience that fueled his latest, most ambitious endeavor. Join this opportunity to learn how to extract insights from challenging experiences, embrace unexpected transitions, and find the courage to Transform Your Future.



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### SPEAKER LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$2000

- Front Row Center Table with Speaker at Your Table
- Company logo displayed on signage at the event
- Receives up to 10 tickets
- Presents the Lignell Award
- Recognition at Speaker Sponsor level on event slideshow & program
- Recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website. Information about company and special acknowledgement will be made on the website
- Display Table in Reception Area

### PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$1500

- Company logo displayed on signage at the event
- Receives up to 10 tickets to the awards banquet
- Recognition at Platinum Sponsor level on event slideshow & program
- Recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website. Information about company and special acknowledgement will be made on the website
- Display Table in Reception Area

### GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$1200

- Company logo displayed on signage at the event
- Receives up to 5 tickets to the awards banquet
- Has company logo displayed at Gold Sponsor level on event slideshow & program
- Recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website
- Display Table in Reception Area, (if space available)

### SILVER LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$900

- Company logo displayed on signage at the event
- Receives up to 2 tickets to the awards banquet
- Has company logo displayed at Silver Sponsor level on event slideshow & program
- Recognition and link to website on the TBEWB website

### BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$750

- Receives display table to present company products during the Pre-Dinner Social
- Recognition at the Bronze level in program and on the TBEWB website
- receives up to 1 ticket to the awards banquet

### VENDOR LEVEL SPONSORSHIP \$500

- Receives display table to present company products during the Pre-Dinner Social.
- Recognition at Vendor level in program and on the TBEWB website

### COMPANY SPONSOR TABLE \$1000

- Receives up to 10 tickets to the awards banquet

**\$900 EARLY BIRD PRICING**

\*If purchased before 1/31/2026\*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
**Carissa Gudenkauf**  
**E-Week Chair, USFEAS and SWE**  
[carissa@mvp-results.com](mailto:carissa@mvp-results.com)

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
 IEEE FWCS  
 PO Box 176  
 Land O Lakes, FL 34639

**NOTE:**  
 All donations may be tax deductible.  
 FIN #13-1656633

# Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet

[www.tbewb.com](http://www.tbewb.com)

## Lignell Awards: Outstanding Teacher Recognition Program

For some years now the IEEE Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) has sponsored the Lignell Award Outstanding Teacher Recognition Program to recognize and honor outstanding contributions by Public High School teachers to pre-college education in Mathematics and/or Science pre-college education in Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sarasota Counties.

This program is open to all individuals teaching classes in Mathematics and/or Science in the public high schools during the current school year. We are presently seeking nominations for this year's awards that will be presented at the Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet 2025 at Jewish Community Center in Tampa on Thursday, February 26, 2026. The Banquet Center is at 522 N Howard Ave, Tampa, FL 33606. Please call (813) 575-5900 for more directions.

There will be three best recipients of this award from the twelve counties and the winners will be invited to attend the banquet, with a guest, to be presented with the award and an honorarium.

If there is a teacher at your school who you think should be considered for this prestigious award, please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to the above address no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

It is important to submit your nomination form and any supporting materials in digital format through your email account (in lieu of a signature).

An electronic version of the form can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/W7cZ2rvwpvn5MvdQ8>.

and return to me via mail or e-mail to

[venner20@ieee.org](mailto:venner20@ieee.org)

We also encourage an additional narrative along with the nomination form that justifies the individual receiving this honor as the "Outstanding Teacher of Math and Science" in the entire county where they teach. We would like to receive a number of nominations of "deserving and qualified" candidates throughout the county. Please do not have a narrow screening process before the nominations are forwarded to me. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely,  
Sean Denny,  
[venner20@ieee.org](mailto:venner20@ieee.org)  
IEEE FWCS Teacher in Service Chairman



## GE Vernova / ITI Instrument Transformer & Capacitor Facility

- Date:** Friday, April 17, 2026  
**Time:** 9:00AM – 1:30PM (EST/EDT)  
**Speaker:** Ryan Alkire – GE Vernova  
**Location:** GE Vernova - ITI Clearwater Factory - 1925 Calumet St, Clearwater, FL 33765  
**Cost:** \$20 Members/\$50 Non-Members/\$10 Student & Life Members  
**CEH Credits:** Two (2) CEHs  
**RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/521344>  
 \*\*\*Seats are limited to 30 attendees\*\*\*  
**Questions:** Kayla Allemang - [Kallemand@ieee.org](mailto:Kallemand@ieee.org)  
 Regan Sink – [Rsink@ieee.org](mailto:Rsink@ieee.org)  
 Richard Beatie – [R.beatie@ieee.org](mailto:R.beatie@ieee.org)  
 Hermann Amaya - [hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org](mailto:hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org)

The IEEE Florida West Coast Section Power & Energy Society/Industry Applications Society (PES/IAS), in partnership with GE Vernova / ITI, invites you to an exclusive tour of the Clearwater Instrument Transformer Facility. This facility is GE Vernova's primary manufacturing site for instrument transformers rated below 69 kV, producing over 500,000 dry-type transformers annually for utility and industrial applications. This event will feature two key components:

### Classroom Session (2 hours):

Gain a deeper understanding of instrument transformers, including what sets them apart, their various types, applications, and how to interpret nameplate data. The session will also explore their role in the industry's future and include an introduction to capacitors.

### Factory Tour (1.5 hours):

Experience a guided walk-through of the factory floor, observing key processes such as component production, core manufacturing, transformer winding, casting, and final testing. As a special addition, the tour will include a brief visit to the capacitor production area, located in the same facility.

A complimentary lunch will be provided following the tour.

**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 a Senior Engineering Manager for GE Vernova. In this role, he manages a team of engineers whose key responsibilities are designing, maintaining existing designs, and supporting production for the instrument transformers manufactured in Clearwater. Prior to 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 been an IEEE member for over 10 years.



## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Colby Bradford [colby.bradford@ieee.org](mailto:colby.bradford@ieee.org)

As the Fall 2025 semester winds down to a close, Florida Poly IEEE made sure we still had some awesome opportunities for our members! We are now moving on to planning how to hit the ground running for Spring 2026!

**HKN- IEEE HKN Mu Omega** has completed 2 highway cleanups this semester, with a total of 200 lbs of trash collected off of State Road 33. IEEE HKN Mu Omega hosted a Professional Engineering Speaker Event at Florida Polytechnic University on Thursday 11/13. A professional electrical engineer from TEAM-WORKnet spoke 40 of our students about transitioning from college to the workforce & gave some insights into his experiences. We will be hosting another speaker event in Spring 2026. IEEE HKN Mu Omega will be hosting our yearly Induction Ceremony early Spring 2026.

-Jacob Brescia, IEEE FL Poly HKN Chair

**R.A.S.-** The month of November has been a mix of understanding robotics for our competition coming up and seeing applications in the industry. Our society has visited the Harvest CROO Robotics team to learn about their strawberry harvester. Its an amazing tool that can not only save the fresh strawberries but also prevent commingling with the disease affected ones. We also have finished designing our teams robot in a hardware sense! Next semester is going to be our testing and iteration phase to make sure everything is functional!

-Sahil Talwalker, IEEE FL Poly RAS Chait



*Continued on Page 10*

*Student Activities - Cont'd from page 9*

**P.E.S-** Last month we held the mock circuit competition, designing a morse code decoder. This competition existed with the intention of getting teams familiar with each other for the actual competition and allowing us to conduct a better competition for the Spring semester. With research and a budget being built for it, PES is looking into transformer monitors and supplemental material for future projects. January also holds opportunities for social events for PES, allowing students to get familiar with others interested in the society as well as the E-board members.

**-Will Carroll, IEEE FL Poly PES Chair**

**C.S.- Computer Society** has been hosting workshops to improve upon their awesome Escape Room Project. They want to be able to create a full-fledged custom escape room by the end of Spring 2026, and will be hosting sessions in the semester! To ensure our note taking skills are sharp for midterms, they'll be hosting a workshop on Notion, an organizational website for projects and notes! With the awesome new Notion-powered notes, our members can also attend the Computer Society's Soft Skills Workshop to ensure they can advertise their awesome skillsets.

As the semester winds to a close, the **Symposium Committee** has been formed at FL Poly to start the planning of our Engineering and Science Student Research Symposium in late Spring 2026! Be sure to [be checking](#) vTools throughout Spring for the event, and come see what mind-blowing research the Phoenixes of FL Poly have been up to! Set aside our amazing conference, we have been moving along with our preparations for the Southeast Conference, and are excited to show Region 3 what we've got in the Student Competitions.



**Year 2026 - Florida West Coast Section - Upcoming Events Summary**

**A\***

<b>Date / Time</b>	<b>Organization Contact</b>	<b>Description email / Registration / Website / Venue</b>	
<b>Sat. Jan. 17, 2026</b>	<b>FWCS - STEM</b>	<b>STEM Explorer Fest</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Sean Denny</b>	<b><a href="mailto:venner20@ieee.org">venner20@ieee.org</a></b>	
		<b><a href="https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/event/stem-explorer-fest-2026/">https://r3.ieee.org/fwc/event/stem-explorer-fest-2026/</a></b>	
<b>Tue. Feb. 26, 2026</b>	<b>Tampa Bay Engineers Week Banquet</b>	<b>Celebration of STEM in our Community</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>10:00 am - 2:00 pm</b>	<b>Carissa Gudenkauf</b>	<b><a href="mailto:carissa@mvp-results.com">carissa@mvp-results.com</a></b>	
		<b><a href="http://www.tbewb.com/">http://www.tbewb.com/</a></b>	

*\*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](mailto:michael.mayor@ieee.org)**

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



*IEEE Florida West  
Coast Section  
(FWCS)*

**IEEE FWCS  
P. O. Box 65  
Bradenton,  
FL 34206-0065**

**January 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
		*FWCS ExCom →Page 1				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	*Signal Inputs Due End of Day					*STEM Explorer Fest -> Page 7
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
					*Reworld Facility Tour ->Page 3	

**THE SUNCOAST SIGNAL**, is **ELECTRONICALLY** distributed monthly to all active members of the Florida West Coast Section (FWCS) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE). 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.

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