



IEEE Region 3



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

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Winter 2023

A New Year Brings Opportunities and Challenges

As 2022 comes to an end, I hope you and your families are healthy and have enjoyed the holiday season. I was very pleased with the increase in membership that we experienced this past year, and I look forward to even more events, conferences and meetings in 2023.



*Theresa Brunasso,
Director, Region 3*

Soon it will be time to register for [SoutheastCon 2023](#) in Orlando. The Orlando team is working hard to put on a good conference for us, and I've invited our new Executive Director, [Sophia Muirhead](#), to join us. Since she is from Jamaica, I think of her as an honorary member of Region 3. She said she would love to join us, so our Director Elect, Eric Grigorian, will see if we can make that happen. At SoutheastCon, we will meet the Director Elect Candidates, Sonya Dillard and Pat Donohoe. In addition, we will select three recommendations to take to [Sections Congress 2023](#) in Ottawa. The Sections Congress will be face to face for the first time since 2017, and I am happy that each Section can send one candidate at no cost to the Section. I know that some Sections send multiple volunteers, and I encourage you to consider doing that. The Congress is a great opportunity to meet, collaborate, and learn from Sections around the world.

In January I will attend the Board Retreat, where the plans of our incoming president, [Saifur Rahman](#), will be discussed. He is focusing on climate change and sustainability. As engineers and technologists, we have both the opportunity and the skills to help solve these serious problems. I hope to see more Sections plan to use the R3 Project Funds for Climate Change projects.

As always, thanks for all you do for IEEE!

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Brunasso
IEEE R3 Director

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Past Director Update ... N&A Report

Jill Gostin [jgostin@ieee.org]
IEEE R3 Past Director, Nominations &
Appointments Chair

As the Past Region 3 Director, I serve as the Region 3 Nominations and Appointments Chair. Later this year, we will begin working with the 2024-2025 Director-Elect, Eric Grigorian, to identify potential volunteers for the 2024-2025 ExCom and committees. I invite you to go to the Region 3 website at <https://r3.ieee.org> and select the Committees link at the top to see all the committees – you can click on each one to view more details. If you have specific questions about any positions or committees, please reach out to me at jgostin@ieee.org and I'll get you the information or put you in contact with someone who can do so.

additional information. We end up with many names submitted each year, but only about 20% of the people nominated submit the additional information needed in order to be considered. I believe we can increase that number if the individuals know why someone nominated them. Region 3 could really use stronger representation on our committees and in leadership positions within MGA, so please consider submitting nominations. A second round of nominations will happen in June-August, for the committee member positions. To read about the available positions and submit a nomination go to <https://mga.ieee.org/board-committees/available-mga-positions>.



IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) is currently requesting nominations for Committee Chair positions, MGA Vice Chairs, and for the MGA VP-Elect position. Please nominate colleagues (or your self – self-nominations are fine!) for these positions – and then reach out to them to let them know why you think they are a good candidate! That second step isn't required, but it does help people feel more confident that they really are ready for such positions. After a name is submitted, MGA will reach out to the individual to let them know what they have been nominated for, and to request some

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*A New Year of Connections and
Impact for Florida West Coast Section*
Andrew Seely andrew.seely@ieee.org
R3 Florida West Coast Section

The Florida West Coast Section is a vibrant and energized section with multiple projects and activities planned in 2023, impacting the local community and members and students in the Florida West Coast, Region 3, and across the world.

The Section is supporting the 2023 Engineers Week Banquet in February, an annual event co-sponsored by all engineering societies represented in the Tampa Bay area. FWCS sponsors an annual awards slate at the banquet, recognizing two influential area high school teachers with cash awards, as well as awarding the achievements IEEE students and members.

FWCS continues to be a world-leader in membership development, particularly with respect to IEEE Senior Membership. The Section is partnering with Region 3 to support and expand the FWCS-developed Senior Member Roundup concept, which regularly supports members from all ten regions in IEEE by providing the means to become Senior Members. Continuing the momentum of the 2022 Senior Member Awards and Recognition Gala, FWCS is planning a broader membership recognition event at the end of 2023.

FWCS's Women in Engineering is enhancing meaning and purpose in membership and drawing in new members through a 2023 events and communications plan. WIE will continue to grow the value of FWCS membership through sponsoring events that will be jointly hosted with other FWCS chapters, and WIE is planning to empower women globally and contribute to the greater impact of FWCS through event collaboration with other chapters outside of Region 3. The WIE chapter will publish plans and accomplishments regularly in the Region 3 newsletter and in the FWCS Signal newsletter. Women in Engineering group is contributing to the Senior Member Elevation process by connecting with the women who are eligible for Senior Membership and providing the means to

become a Senior Member through the Senior Member Elevation Committee Roundups.

The FWCS Power and Energy Society is implementing a communications plan to increase social media presence for communication about upcoming events, as well as updates/pictures of past events to engage the IEEE community and bring more awareness and attention to the local section and chapters. PES is encouraging and reinvigorating chapter participation in the section and continue to lead Section cross-coordination/joint participation amongst the chapters within FWCS. PES will host at least two Distinguished Lecturer presentations in 2023, with one being from a female presenter.

The FWCS STEM Champion and Teacher in Service is a major contributor to the STEM Explorer Fest at Largo Central Park, carrying on the momentum from several significant STEM events in 2022.

FWCS's Robotics and Automation Society is contributing significantly to the Bay Area Robofest in March, carrying on a tradition of connecting FWCS professionals with area students. RAS is also hosting a Distinguished Lecturer, Mario Guerrero of the Broward Section, and organizing a tour of the Tampa Bay Advanced Manufacturing and Robotics Center.

The FWCS Computer Society, jointly operating with the Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society, is preparing for a significant revitalization with new officers and activities. CS is planning to host a Distinguished Lecturer, CS President-Elect Jyotika Athavale, in partnership with the University of South Florida Computer Society and Hillsborough County school district. CS is partnering with the USF CS student chapter on a grant proposal for CS funding to support a major initiative for expanding the impacts of emerging technology into the Society.

The USF Student Branch of IEEE will continue tradition of hosting an annual IEEE picnic and an annual end of year banquet, in addition to regular speaking events hosted at the university. In 2022 the Student Branch collaborated internationally on two projects, co-hosting

(Continued from page 3)

an internationally recognized speaker on Artificial Intelligence and the Law with the Student Branch at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and co-hosting the then-president of IEEE, Kathy Land, with the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Continuing that momentum, the Student Branch will conduct a joint research project on engineering challenges around landmine identification, a project in progress with the Student Branch of the Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco in Peru. The Student Branch will also continue the Student Interviews project from 2022, in partnership with FWCS Senior Membership, with a goal to connect students with Section senior members and publish interviews written by students.

The USF Student Branch of the IEEE Computer Society will undergo a major chapter revitalization this year. The Student Branch hopes to greatly increase participation by establishing fun new student events, such as a Hardware Hackathon with FPGAs, and a *Demystify* series of talks from researchers and industry leaders in core Computer Society areas. The Student Branch also plans to build closer ties with the FWCS chapter through a new mentorship program and interviews with senior members. The USF CS chapter is starting the year off with a \$50k grant proposal to the Computer Society Emerging Technologies fund, a project that, if funded, will impact 10,000 students over the lifetime of the project.

At Florida Polytechnic University, the IEEE student branch is encouraging students to join IEEE by hosting different workshops like career development and soldering workshops on campus. The club is also reviving the RF/Amateur Radio Committee and planning to and host certification exams for members.

MOVE Disaster and Outreach Support Grayson Randall [grandall@ieee.org]

A second MOVE truck has been added to our program thanks to a CISCO donation in August. Our plan is to locate this 2nd truck (called MOVE-2) to support the western United States. We are working with the Region 6 leadership to form a team to support the care of the 2nd truck when transferred.

In 2021, MOVE responded to 4 separate disasters/ 6 deployments this season. Mobile Outreach using Volunteer Engagement (MOVE) has deployed to support the disaster in Brunswick County, NC in February, the floods in Tennessee in August, to Louisiana in support of Ida and Nicholas three times (once with MOVE-2) and recently to Kentucky to support the hurricanes in the area.

The MOVE teams are still looking for volunteers to support both trucks at both locations (east and west). If you are interested in volunteering in any of the teams below, please fill out the below survey <https://forms.gle/4YZz31xmC9gtPUfJ7>

Available positions are:

- Radio Team supporting all radios on the truck
- Radio Club is a new “team” that will support disaster communications by amateur radio operators
- Maintenance team spends many hours keeping the truck in top condition and always ready for deployment
- Network team supports all the digital communications and digital devices on the truck
- Weather team is key to tracking storms and providing deployed teams with the latest updates
- Training team provides education for drivers, disaster deployment teams,

Upcoming IEEE Award Events and Deadlines:

- **Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Awards:** 15 October 2022
<https://mga.ieee.org/awards>
- **2023 Region 3 Awards:** 1 December 2022
<https://r3.ieee.org/committees/awards/>

and Stem/Outreach teams

- STEM/Outreach team supports our student/public education mission
- Disaster Deployment team supports deployments into disaster areas
- Communication Team updates our followers with the latest MOVE information
- Leadership team provides project management for the MOVE Program

MOVE is supported by donations and with a second truck, your donations are needed more than ever. Please consider a donation today to assist your fellow IEEE Volunteers as they respond to those in need. Visit <http://bit.ly/DONATION-MOVE>.

Join the MOVEment today!!!



MOVE trucks side-by-side



Two MOVE satellite communications trucks in USA

MOVE Operations at Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers Florida



Interested in Addressing Climate Change?

Allen Jones [allen.jones@ieee.org]
R3 Projects Coordinator

For several IEEE Region 3 is offering grants of up to \$1000 to Region 3 Sections and their Chapters, Affinity Groups, and Student Branches to work on projects that address Climate Change. This is a topic which involves many complex problems and technical challenges. That makes it an excellent opportunity for us to demonstrate IEEE's commitment to "Advancing Technology for Humanity."

What Kinds of Projects can We Do?

Because Climate Change affects different areas in very different ways (see, for example, NOAA's <https://statesummaries.ncics.org/>), your groups have a wide latitude regarding the details of the project that you do. Any project that can be associated with Climate Change is a potential candidate. Some general categories of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Projects to measure the effects of Climate Change.
- Projects to avoid Climate Change.
- Projects to adapt to Climate Change.
- Projects to remediate Climate Change.

These are just some general examples. Use your members, Chapters, Affinity Groups, Student Branches, and local businesses to create your own project. Just tie it back to the Climate Change in some way.

Since projects funded by Region 3 are meant to encourage collaboration and engagement, your team must include at least three IEEE members of your Section and if possible, should include local Chapters, Affinity Groups, Student Branches and local businesses. If your project involves working with minors, be sure to follow the IEEE rules for working with children. These can be found at this [link](#).

To help ensure that each Section and its Chapters, Affinity Groups, and Student Branches gets an opportunity to participate before funds are exhausted, each Section initially will be limited to one grant. You are welcome to do multiple projects with that grant. You can also work together with other Sections on a project, but each Section must submit an application to receive funding.

Applying for Funding

Applications for funding should be in the form of a PDF of five pages or less and must include the following information:

- Team Name
- Section Name
- Contact person
- Project description
- Names and IEEE member numbers of at least three IEEE members from your Section who will be working on the project. (You may add others to your team after the project begins.)
- Expected outcome
- Expected costs (Region 3 will cover up to \$1000)

- The endorsement of the Section Chair indicating that the Section agrees to be responsible for the financial management of the funds.

Applications should be emailed by the Section Chair to Allen Jones, allen.jones@ieee.org.

Each application will be reviewed by a review board for compliance

Photo collage: NOAA.gov



WIE Forum Experience
Ibtissam Kharchouf ikhar002@fiu.edu

I am Ibtissam Kharchouf, a Ph.D. student and Graduate Research Assistant in the Energy Systems Research Laboratory (ESRL) at FIU, Miami, USA. I am the chair of IEEE PES FIU Student Branch Chapter, the vice-chair of IEEE PES Chapter, the secretary of IEEE IAS FIU Student Branch Chapter, and the chair of IEEE WIE and YP Miami section Affinity Groups.

Attending the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) forum USA EAST in Providence, Rhode Island on November 3-5, 2022, was an incredibly valuable and enriching experience for me, both professionally and personally. I was fortunate to be a sponsored attendee, thanks to the support of IEEE Region 3 and the IEEE Miami Section.

The conference featured three tracks: Professional Growth, Empowerment, and Leadership, and I had the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions from each track. One of the most impactful sessions for me was “Female Entrepreneurship; Opportunities and Challenges,” where I gained valuable insights from the speaker, Abir Chermitti. She shared her personal journey of how her first opportunity to come to the US through IEEE led to her opening her mind to the big opportunities that US can give her. She shared how she was able after that to become an entrepreneur and reached her first \$1M in her business. As a Moroccan North African Ph.D. student with my own aspirations for success in the US, her story was particularly inspiring and motivating.

During the event, there was also a career fair where I had the opportunity to talk to various participants and share my current research and career endeavors. I learned about the current engineering job market, and I was fortunate to receive internships offers from some of the participants.

In addition to attending the educational sessions, I also had the opportunity to connect with other attendees and speakers. For example, I met Dianna Deeney around a dinner table where we shared our thoughts and she offered to introduce me to a connection in my field of research. I also attended other sessions such as “building confidence and belonging in the Classroom/Workplace” and also attended the panel discussions like: “How to Take

the WIE Forum Back to you Workplace”. Although I regret that I could not attend all the sessions as some of them were in parallel, I was able to arrange for one of the speakers to give the same talk for the IEEE WIE Miami Section that I will be organizing in 2023.

The IEEE WIE forum USA EAST was not only an opportunity to develop and improve my leadership skills but also a unique and valuable experience for networking, sharing ideas and making new connections with like-minded individuals. On the first night, I even got to experience a ghost tour of the Providence city, which was both fun and unique. I also had the chance to chat with Ms. Evelyn Licona, IEEE Region 3 WIE Coordinator, and I really appreciate her help in attending the event. At the end of the event, I was even lucky to win an iPad, which made the trip even more memorable.

One of the highlights of the trip was an excursion organized with some of the new female engineers’ friends I made at the forum. We explored the state of Rhode Island, visiting New Port and experiencing the Providence city at night. Overall, I am deeply grateful to IEEE Region 3 and IEEE Miami Section for sponsoring my trip and stay and I am looking forward to attending more IEEE WIE events in the future. The conference has been an invaluable experience that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on my professional and personal growth.

IEEE Region 3 Executive Committee – 2023

Director <i>Theresa Brunasso</i>	Director Elect <i>Eric Gergorian</i>	Secretary <i>Pat Donohoe</i>
Treasurer <i>Joe Pennisi</i>	Past Director <i>Jill Gostin</i>	
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Area 4 Kentucky & Tennessee <i>Paul Kuban</i>	Area 5 Mississippi, Alabama, & Jamaica <i>Patrick Kung</i>	

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Section Representative 1 <i>James Imanian</i>	Section Representative 2 <i>Wyman Williams</i>	Section Representative 3 <i>Raul Ortega</i>
Section Representative 4 <i>Paul Kuban</i>	Section Representative 5 <i>Patrick Kung</i>	

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Past Conference Committee Chair	Regional Student Activities Chair <i>Bailey Ulferts Heyman</i>	Conference Operations Specialist <i>Charles Lord</i>
Treasurer <i>Joe Pennisi</i>	Former Region Director <i>Jim Conrad</i>	SoutheastCon2022, Mobile <i>Hulya Kirkici</i>
SoutheastCon2023, Orlando <i>Joe Juisai</i>	SoutheastCon2024, Atlanta <i>Alessio Medda</i>	

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Conference Committee Chair <i>Eric Ackerman</i>	Past Director <i>Jill Gostin</i>	

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Section Support Chair <i>Kristin Bing</i>	Life Member Coordinator <i>Jacob Kulangara</i>	Young Professional Coordinator <i>Binesh Kumar</i>
Women in Engineering Coordinator <i>Evelyn Licon</i>	Senior Member Elevation Coordinator <i>Andrew Seely</i>	Section Operations Specialist <i>Charles Lord</i>
Section Operations Specialist <i>Mark Torres</i>	Project Coordinator <i>Allen Jones</i>	Technical Activities Coordinator <i>Tamseel Syed</i>

IEEE Region 3 Executive Committee – 2023 (cont.)

Nominations and Appointments

Nominations & Appointments Chair <i>Jill Gostin</i>	Past-Director <i>Jim Conrad</i>	Past-Director <i>Gregg Vaughn</i>
Young Professional Coordinator <i>Binesh Kumar</i>		

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Committee Member 3 <i>Steve Kemp</i>	Committee Member 4 <i>Don Wright</i>	

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Government Activities Coordinator (USA-GAC) <i>Lee Stogner</i>	Student Professional Awareness Coordinator <i>Bailey Ulferts Heyman</i>	

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Treasurer (non-voting) <i>Joe Pennisi</i>		

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Student Activities Chair <i>Bailey Ulferts Heyman</i>	Student Activities Vice-Chair <i>Chase Battaglio</i>	Student Activities Past-Chair <i>Pat Donohoe</i>
Student Representative <i>Jiayi Lin</i>	Student Activities Liaison to PAC <i>Bailey Ulferts Heyman</i>	

Other

Humanitarian Activities Committee <i>Tamseel Syed</i>	Regional Vitality Coordinator <i>Eric Gregorian</i>	Admission and Advancement Committee <i>Sharlene Brown</i>
Education Activities Rep to EAB <i>Damith Wickramamayake</i>	Strategic Planning Rep <i>Dave Green</i>	A&A Rep <i>Maxine Cohen</i>

To contact any of the above members, please go to
this website
<https://r3.ieee.org/about/#1587483863309-20f649fe-cald>

Other Region 3 Address:
R3 Web Site: <https://r3.ieee.org/>
Facebook: Search for “IEEE Region 3”
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/r3ieee>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/r3ieee/?hl=en>



SoutheastCon is the annual IEEE Region 3 Technical, Professional, and Student Conference.

It brings together Computer Scientists, Electrical, and Computer Engineering professionals, faculty and students to share the latest information through technical sessions, tutorials, and exhibits. It is the most influential conference in Region 3 for promoting awareness of the technical contributions made by our profession to the advancement of engineering science and to the community.

As usual, attendance and technical program participation from areas outside IEEE Region 3 are encouraged and welcomed. IEEE Region 3 encompasses the southeastern United States and includes the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, areas of Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the country of Jamaica.



2023 Conference Chair

Joe Juisai

Joe.Juisai@ieee.org

Webmaster

Matthew Ackerman

matthew.b.ackerman@gmail.com