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IEEE Region 3 Area 6 Report – Ron Ogan rtogan@ieee.org

On April 5, I attended the Alabama Section meeting at Birmingham meeting in Hoover, AL which is 124 miles south of Huntsville. The meeting had about 35 attendees and was on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) presented by Subramanian Nambi, Atlas RFID. No Region 3 funds were used.

Last Wednesday 4/28 and Thursday 4/29/10, I attended the 2010 Science, Engineering and Technology Congressional Visit Day in Washington DC as arranged by IEEE-USA. The training included briefings on Research & Development that was held at the American Association for the Advancement of Science [www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org) Check the AAAS website for career development information, trends on R& D funding (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/>) and other interesting topics on STEM cells and climate.

No Region 3 funds were used for the CVD meeting.

I visited congressmen in Mississippi where I worked for Raytheon last year  
Met with staff of MS Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker staff  
Met personally with MS Congressman Gregg Harper

I visited congressman where I work GTRI in Huntsville, Alabama  
Met personally with AL Congressman Parker Griffith, M.D., 5th District  
Met with staff of AL Congressman Robert Aderholt, 4th District

IEEE-USA provided position statements, brochures and "leave-behind" packets for the Congressional staff contacts. The U.S. legislative issues that I discussed were America COMPETES which reauthorizes R& D funding for NSF, DOE, NIST and DoD agencies. The four year R& D authorization initially made in 2007 was for \$43B. I also, discussed, the U.S. Patent Reform act changes from "first to discover" to "first to file" to avoid lengthy litigation and delays in getting patents issued to make the process more efficient. Logon your IEEE web account and go to the IEEE USA URL shown below for details and other hot issues. I talked with Congressman Parker Griffith, in person, about the privatization of space initiative. He is strongly against this idea and would like to see America go back to the moon and not have to depend upon Russian rockets for space travel after the Space Shuttle vehicles are retired later this year.

<https://www.capitolconnect.com/ieee/ssl/takeaction.aspx>

Congress introduced the Patent Reform Act, S. 515 and H.R. 1260, in mid-2009. The bill sat quietly from March 2009 to March 2010, when Senate leaders announced that they wanted to pass the bill quickly. IEEE-USA now expects the bill to be voted on in the Senate within a month, followed by consideration in the House of Representatives.

I showed the Research & Development trends for each state and district as compiled by [ASTRA](http://www.astra.org)  
ASTRA, The Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America  
Room 320, Othmer Building, 1155 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036  
202 872 6160

Check this link for more details.

The SEWTG Congressional Visits Day State R&D Sheets are now available. To access them immediately, please click on the following link and download the PDF's of states that you are interested in... See this URL

[http://www.usinnovation.org/state/state\\_rd\\_list.asp](http://www.usinnovation.org/state/state_rd_list.asp)

At Southeastcon2010. I met with Catherine Anderson, MS IEEE Section Chair and discussed progress with the replacement of their dear program chair John Marshall who died in March. The Mississippi IEEE Section is moving ahead with meetings and have held three so far in 2010. I plan to attend a MS Section meeting when possible.

Finally, I am supporting the Huntsville IEEE Section in two areas - Awards and Industry Relations. We are seeking award nominations for Professional Of the Year for the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies (HATS) for recognition at a June banquet.

## ISSUES

### 1. Inactive - Montgomery Sub-Section and Mobile Section Actions

Emails and phone calls to the listed officers for the Montgomery Sub-Section and the Mobile, AL Section with no response to date(4/30/2010). My concern is that the IEEE members in these geographic areas are not being served! Also, according to IEEE MGA Charter, the lower Mississippi geographic region below Hattiesburg, MS was assigned to the Mobile, AL IEEE Section which adds to the membership disconnect problem.

2. Some good news - the Society officer reporting has been improved to allow four officers to be listed - Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and treasurer. This still leaves out the important program chair, industry relations and awards but progress has been made with the roll out of vTools.

Sincerely,

Ron Ogan  
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