

[R3-EXCOM2020] [IEEE R3] AREA 9 REPORT: DECEMBER 21, 2020

Area 9 Chair's Report

To: Region 3 ExCom

Subject: Region 3 Area 9 Chair's Report

Date: 21 December 2020

The Section's scheduled Annual General Meeting (AGM) for December 09, 2020 was postponed and instead held on December 16, 2020. The postponement was due to the election vTools voting was scheduled to end midnight December 09, 2020.

The Section is pleased with the election process and the members have shown tremendous appreciation towards the process of eVoting through vTools. The elected members for 2021 are as follows:

Chair – Erica Simmons

Vice Chair – Christopher Udeagha

Treasurer – Peter Spence

Secretary - No Candidate

Update on Activities:

1. New Event – Jamaica Section

IEEE Innovation Nation Jamaica 2020

- The Jamaica Section has managed to partner with the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). Training will be provided to the JSE participants via the IEEE Innovation Nation Platform.
- The entrepreneurship competition is in progress and pitch day is scheduled for January 28, 2020.

2. Region 3, Pandemic Project

- The Jamaica Section and WIE Affinity Group has each submitted to the Region 3 Pandemic Project Committee a project to be reviewed for consideration of access to the USD 1000 funding offered to Section/Affinity groups to support Projects relating to the Pandemic.

3. Technical Sessions Held

- Monthly Section Technical Meeting was held on November 9, 2020. “Wireless Systems Design Beyond 5G Era: Promises of Deep Learning” Virtual Distinguished Lecture (VDL) presented by Dr. Ekram Hossain of University of Manitoba.
- On November 19, 2020 we hosted another Virtual Distinguished Lecture “Smart Radio Environments Empowered by Reconfigurable Intelligent

Surfaces: How it Works, State of Research, and Road ahead” presented by Dr. Marco Di Renzo of Paris-Saclay University

4. New Area 9 Chair 2021

- The new Area 9 Chair for 2021 is Devon Gayle. Devon steps down as Section Chair. The Jamaica Section Bylaws in Section 1 (a) states that **“On the nomination of a new IEEE Jamaica Section Chair, the Immediate Past Jamaica Section Chair shall be appointed the IEEE Region 3 Area 9 Chair Elect, for recommendation to the IEEE Region 3 Director, barring no objections by the IEEE Jamaica Section Executive Committee”**.
- It was my pleasure to serve as Area 9 Chair.

Pending Item

The Section awaits confirmation/details on help requested from **Region, Member Communication Committee**, on whether or not the Jamaica Section could be facilitated with a website training session of the Volunteers. It is anticipated that the training will serve as a refreshers training session and also to develop a pool of potential volunteers to serve in this area.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr. Damith Wickramanayake - **Area 9 Chair**

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