Director's Report
To: Region 3 ExCom, R3 Committee, R3 SOSC
Subject: Region 3 Director's Report
Date: 21 December 2020

*Next Region 3 ExCom webex will be **25 January 2021**, 8-10 pm eastern*
Next Region 3 Committee meeting is 14 March 2021 (with additional content on 13 March)

We are almost done with 2020 – in spite of the challenges of the year, we still managed to hold meetings (even some "new events"!), expand our virtual offerings to include training and information on IEEE beyond Region 3, create two new Region 3 YouTube channels, re-start our newsletter, reinvigorate our Social Media presence, work on a new and improved website, initiate a monthly eNotice to all Region 3 members about upcoming meetings across the Region that anyone can join virtually, add a new YP award, update our governing documents, provide information to the Sections about the meeting activities within their Section over the past 3 years, quickly recover from a cancellation of SoutheastCon and pivot to a virtual event, offer $1000 of funding per Section for a COVID-19 project… and that's just part of what was done! The many accomplishments within the Region show the dedication and spirit of our Region 3 volunteers – that is, all of you reading this report (and of course, there are others that aren't on these email lists). I offer my sincerest THANK YOU to everyone who has helped us not only get through 2020, but be successful in 2020!

I do want to recognize Kristin Bing who has served as our Awards and Recognitions Committee (ARC) Chair for the past 3 years. She will be stepping down to focus on running IEEE AESS Radar Conference 2021. Kristin has done an amazing job of running our awards program, representing the Region on other IEEE awards committees (USA and MGA), and coordinating the nomination and submission of candidates and selection of winners. Her leadership and management skills are great examples for all of us. Kristin, you will be missed! I am pleased to have Nelson Lourenco as our new ARC Chair. Nelson has been serving as the Vice Chair of the ARC, and in other ways has already been supporting the Region. I have worked with Nelson on the Georgia Tech Research Institute Awards Council, of which he is currently Chair, and I know he is a great selection to follow Kristin in this important role.

As you hopefully saw earlier, we will not be meeting in December. Enjoy your Monday evening with your family and friends, or catch up on holiday activities/shopping, or watch TV and sip hot chocolate – whatever is needed! We will meet again on the 4th Monday in January (25th), and will have several important items to cover at that meeting.

If a new Section Chair will be in place in 2021, please forward this email to them. ALL – make sure you update your Officers in vTools as soon as possible. Enter a start and end date for all positions.

Things that will most likely be on the agenda in January:

    Discussion on reduction to 5 Areas (down from current 9)
    Review and vote to approve bylaws / ops manual changes
    Review/approval of small change to R3's goals
    Review/endorse 2021 budget that was approved by 2020 ExCom
    Review/approve changes to conference reserve funding
    Potential presentation about changes to the SoutheastCon award funding for students
    Two committee member positions that remain open

Section WebEx accounts
Upcoming changes to IEEE financial reporting – NextGen training is/will be available
Executive Session will be held at end of meeting, to approve R3 Award winners – we need all voting ExCom members to stay on the line to participate in the discussion/vote

Regarding the first item listed above (reduction of number of Areas), we have had multiple committees review and assess our Area structure over the last several years, and we spent last year doing another assessment PLUS working directly with the Area Chairs to provide them more support (a copy of the most recent report will be sent to you soon from the committee chair). Based on the previous assessments and the outcomes from 2020, we will be working towards reducing the number of Areas from 9 down to 5. Of the 10 Regions spanning the world, 5 Areas is a much more typical number (Region 3 currently has the most Areas with 9). By reducing the number, we will be able to include all of our voting ExCom members as voting Region 3 Committee members. Also, this restructuring will provide Areas that each cover approximately the same number of Sections, whereas currently that number varies widely across the Areas. Since the main duty of the Area Chair is to support the Section leadership, it makes sense to have more equivalent Areas (with respect to number of Sections). At the January meeting, we will review the reasons for the change. Changing the number of Areas will require changes to our Bylaws and our Operations Manual; we hope to vote on those changes (or at a minimum, the Bylaws changes) in January. The plan is to continue with 9 Areas in 2021, while making all the necessary changes so that in 2022 we will start the year with 5 Areas. It is important to note that these changes do not affect Councils – the existing Councils can continue as they are, and new Councils can be formed if Sections would like to join together as a Council.

Thank you again for all that you do; it's inspiring to see the number and commitment of volunteers across IEEE. I am honored to be a part of such a great organization!

Respectfully submitted,
Jill I. Gostin, Region 3 Director/Delegate 2020-2021
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ExCom and Committee Meetings, 2021 (typically the meetings will be on the third Monday of the month at 8:00 pm Eastern):

CANCELLED ExCom telecon: Dec 21
ExCom WebEx: January 25, 2021 (4th Monday, to avoid Martin Luther King Holiday)
ExCom WebEx: February 15, 2021
R3 Committee Meeting WebEx (SoutheastCon): March 14, 2021 (training/info content on March 13)
ExCom WebEx: April 19, 2021
ExCom WebEx: May 17, 2021
ExCom WebEx: June 21, 2021
ExCom WebEx: July 19, 2021
ExCom WebEx: August 16, 2021
ExCom WebEx: September 20, 2021
ExCom WebEx: October 18, 2021
ExCom WebEx: November 15, 2021
ExCom WebEx: December 20, 2021