

To: Region 3 ExCom
From: Eric Grigorian, Region 3 Director
Subject: Director Report
Date: 20 January 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to all. Hope you all had a great Holiday celebration with family and friends and are now fully engaged and ready for the busy activities in 2024! As I took on the rein as the Region 3 Director, the year has started full of activities. I started the year by participating at the 2024 Rising Stars which also included IEEE-USA's BoD retreat in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was the 10th anniversary of Rising Stars and it was filled with energy by students and YP from several IEEE Regions, with over 350 participants which far exceeded Region 6 organizers expectations.

President of IEEE-USA, Keith Moore, is actually from Kiln, Alabama, so he does have some Region 3 in his heart 😊. IEEE-USA has several activities planned for the year, including the upcoming Congressional Visit Day (CVD) scheduled for 10-11 of April, 2024. IEEE-USA has also been very busy developing several mini-series informative videos that highlight IEEE. Additionally, with the success of the 50th Anniversary Cruise last year, they have made arrangement for an Alaskan Cruise in September. Seems like this is going to be yet another successful venture as the booking has already started and the original allocation of cabins are going fast! If interested, please make sure you start making your reservations soon.

IEEE-USA BoD meeting was followed by IEEE BoD retreat and meetings in Montego Bay, Jamaica. President of IEEE, Tom Coughlin, is very much concentrating his efforts toward engagement at various level, particularly, with students and YP. The retreat included moderation by McKinley with various topics and exercises geared toward enhancing IEEE's strategy moving forward. I am looking forward to see the recommendations by McKinley at IEEE's next BoD meeting series. IEEE retreat was followed by a workshop titled "Towards Expanding Access to Quality Engineering Science Excellence Opportunities in Jamaica", which was a joint activity in making since last year that include Jamaica Section, IEEE MCE, IEEE Technical Activities, Region 1, and Region 3. The workshop showcased IEEE leaders globally, technical professionals, industry experts who, through panel discussions, discussed Jamaica's vibrant technical landscape and future collaborative opportunities where both faculty members and Lecturers could benefit. The primary intent of the workshop focused on avenues for developing and retaining local talent; mentoring rising stars; explore pathways for engaging youth and growing the pipeline of future technical professionals in Jamaica. This was a very great event with eager high school and university students interested in becoming engaged. Special thanks go to all individuals that helped with pulling this event together, including IEEE Executive Director Sophia Muirhead. Additionally, I would like to thanks Christopher Udeagha, Sharlene Brown, Damith Wickramanayake, and Marie Hunter for reaching out and make sure we had over-capacity participation.

January 2024 is still not over yet and we have plenty of new activities to tackle. Next IEEE BoD Series is scheduled for mid-February, and of course, our premier event, SoutheastCon 2024 is shaping up to be a

great event, with large number of technical submissions. The Atlanta hosting committee is actively busy to welcome us to Atlanta! If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do not hesitate to register now at <https://ieeesoutheastcon.org/> as early registration and hotel room block deadline is February 14th, 2024. As usual, Region 3 will cover the cost of each Section's primary delegate for the early registration.

Other activities during the year include 2024 VIC Summit & Honors Ceremony Gala, May 3, 2024 in Boston, and IEEE June Board Series in Toronto, CA. We are also working with IEEE-USA to host the Innovation, Workforce, and Research Conference (IWRC) in Huntsville, AL in late October/November timeframe.