

Chair's Corner

It's hard to believe that two months have already gone by in 2019. First, I'm overdue in thanking the members of the Orlando Section for voting for section officers last November and December. On behalf of Chris, Warren, and Raj, I thank you for entrusting us with managing the section to meet the needs of our 1042 members, including 142 student and graduate student members (as of February 24) in the five counties that comprise the Orlando Section.

If you are part of the 394 members who did not renew in 2019, please consider renewing your membership, as we have an exciting year planned for you.

For those who do not know me, this is my second stint as the chair of the Orlando Section. I was previously your chair in 2005 and represented the section at Section's Congress in Tampa that year. Since then, I've moved out of the section and returned to the area in 2011. From 2012 until 2017, I was your membership development committee chair where I've personally helped elevate many section members to senior members. Even though I'm no longer the MDC chair, I'm always happy to assist our members who seek elevation to senior member.

Last year, under the leadership of Deb Hall, we moved our section executive committee meetings to the Dr. Phillips House in downtown Orlando. In conjunction with the section executive committee meetings, we partnered with our 11 society chapters and affinity groups to hold a technical talk right after our section executive committee. While this somewhat increased membership engagement, your executive committee is looking at other ways to get our local members excited and engaged in the section. While we are moving to quarterly in-person meetings at the Dr. Phillips House, we are planning to bring the society chapters and affinity groups together for a section-wide conference later this year. If you're interested in helping with this conference, please reach out to me and Daro Reach <sephandaro@ieee.org>.

The section executive committee is comprised of the four elected officers, appointed committee chairs, and elected chairs of the 11 society chapters and affinity groups and the three student branches in the Orlando Section. All of whom are member volunteers. The section executive committee is responsible for coordinating and managing IEEE activities in our five-county area. With your membership dollars, we provide funding for the society chapters, affinity groups, and student branches for their activities such as technical meetings, social gatherings, and conference support.

If you are looking to give back to the profession, we always welcome new volunteers for our committees. Whether you want to help with select a scholarship winner, plan our annual picnic or fall banquet, or work with students or other professionals in developing their soft skills, there's place for you to share your talents. Please reach out to me if you want to help with activities in our section.

Our March section executive committee meeting will be in person at the Dr. Phillips House, and we plan on having in-person meetings in June, September, and December as well. For March, we plan on having a speaker talk about resume writing and what hiring managers want to see on a resume. Please RSVP to me and Raj Gurupur <varadrajprabhu@gmail.com> if you plan to attend.

We plan on continuing to have our annual picnic in April. This will occur on April XX at <location>. We plan on having barbecue as in years past but will include vegetarian and vegan options as well. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, we are growing our social media presence. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/IEEEOrlandoSection>, on Twitter @IEEEOrlando, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8654043/>. We'll post our upcoming events on our web page at <https://www.ieee.org/orlando> as well as on our groups. Also, feel free to ask questions or start discussions on our social media pages.

That's it for this month. I look forward to seeing you at the Dr. Phillips House on March 19 at our next section meeting.