

IEEE Region 3 – Region Committee Meeting
 Web Conference
 14 March 2021
 1:30-6:35pm EDT

Minutes

Attendees (voting member*):

Director – Jill Gostin*	x	Director Elect – Theresa Brunasso*	x
Secretary – Pat Donohoe*	x	Treasurer – John Balsam*	x
Past Director – Gregg Vaughn*		Area 1 – Steve Kemp*	x
Area 2 – Charles Lord*	x	Area 3 – Jenny Palmer*	x
Area 4 – Claude Pitts*	x	Area 5 – Justin Baba*	x
Area 6 – Danny Merkl*		Area 7 – Lee Stogner*	x
Area 8 – Don Hill*	x	Area 9 - Devon Gayle*	x
Awards Chair – Nelson Lourenco		Member Communications – Sonya Dillard	x
Conference – Eric Grigorian*	x	Finance – John Balsam	x
Section Support – Bill Marshall*	x	Nominations and Appointments – Greg Vaughn	
Operational Audit – Bill Harrison	x	Professional Activities – Jacquelyn Cunningham*	x
Strategic Operations and Support – Dave Green*	x	Student Activities – Bailey Heyman*	x
Alabama Section – Allen Zhang*	x	Atlanta Section – Wyman Williams*	x
Broward Section – Eric Ackerman*		Canaveral Section – Macaulay Osaisai*	x
Central Georgia Section – Erin Mullinax*	x	Central North Carolina Section – Tadilo Bogale*	x
Central Savannah River Section – Annette Burney*	x	Central Tennessee Section – Michael Puckett*	x
Central Virginia Section - Sathish Anabathula*		Charlotte Section – Aidan Browne*	
Chattanooga Section – Justin Kleinfeld*		Coastal South Carolina Section – Derek Pack*	x
Columbia Section – Angelo Ferraro*	x	Daytona Section – William Wilkerson*	x
East Tennessee Section – Austin Albright*	x	Eastern North Carolina Section – David Irons*	x
Evansville-Owensboro Section – Brad Kicklighter*	x	Florida West Coast Section – Paul Belussi*	x
Gainesville Section – Arturo Bretas*		Hampton Roads Section – Demetris Geddis*	x
Huntsville Section – Leandro Barajas*	x	Jacksonville Section – Robert Hobbs*	x
Jamaica Section – Erica Simmons*	x	Lexington Section – Don Hill*	x
Louisville Section – Jason Finn*		Melbourne Section – Nancy Mate*	x
Memphis Section – Patrick McGinnis*		Miami Section – Osama Mohammed*	
Mississippi Section – Randy Buchanan*		Mobile Section – Mohamed El-Sharkh*	
Northwest Florida Section – Stephen Hopkins*	x	Orlando Section – Joe Jusai*	x
Palm Beach Section – Hari Kalva*		Piedmont Section – David Fillion*	x
Richmond Section – Allen Jones*	x	Savannah Section – Steve Jackson*	
Tallahassee Section – Bruce Harvey*	x	Tri-Cities Section	
Virginia Mountain Section – George Williams*		Western North Carolina Section – Jeffrey Bevan*	x
Winston-Salem Section		Kristin Bing	x
Mary Ellen Randall	x	Sharlene Brown	x
Stephen Welby	x	Mark Torres	x
Joe Pennisi	x	Bill Ratcliff	x
Arup Kumar Ghosh	x	Hasala Dharmawardena	x
Michael Smith	x	Jim Conrad	x
Bill Ratcliff	x	David Sewell	x
Maike Luiken	x	Cecilia Jankowski	x
Antonio Luque	x		

Agenda:

- 1) Director Gostin called the meeting to order at 1:30pm EDT.
- 2) The meeting agenda was approved.
- 3) The consent agenda, consisting of the minutes from the 17 August 2020 Region Committee Meeting and reports listed in the information agenda, was approved.

4) Officer Reports

a) Director

Director Gostin thanked everyone on the SoutheastCon 2021 organizing committee for their hard work in transitioning the conference to the virtual format. Director Gostin presented the details of the IEEE Region 3 Strategic Plan for 2021 with the following goals: (1) increase members who are engaged in any aspect of IEEE, (2) ensure quality actionable data is provided to Region OUs, (3) encourage and enable Region OUs to provide more encouragement opportunities for their members, (4) assist the Sections in focused improvement, (5) strengthen R3 communications capability and usage, (6) support the Region 3 premier event SoutheastCon, and (7) ensure policies and processes are documented, findable and useable.

b) Director-Elect

Director-Elect Brunasso noted her work with the Atlanta team in hosting SoutheastCon 2021 and thanked everyone for attending. Region 3 will hold a series of Webex meetings covering topics not included in the SoutheastCon 2021 program. Director-Elect Brunasso continues her work with the Area Chairs and are focusing on Sections that may be struggling.

c) Secretary

Secretary Donohoe encouraged everyone to sign the online attendance sheet for the Region Committee Meeting.

d) Treasurer

Treasurer Balsam summarized the 2020 Region 3 budget. All Region 3 Sections completed their financial reporting by the deadline, with all but 10 Sections receiving the bonus. Treasurer Balsam summarized the activity to date for the 2021 Region 3 budget. The Region 3 Finance Committee is examining the possibility of moving the Conference Reserve account into the Long-term Investment account, where it will earn a much higher rate of return. The cash balance needed in the Main account is also being analyzed.

e) Past-Director

Past Director Gregg Vaughn summarized the activities of the Nominations and Appointments Committee, which selected three candidates the position of Director-Elect that were approved by the ExCom (Eric Grigorian, Mark Torres, Pat Donohoe).

5) Region 3 Director-Elect Candidates

Eric Grigorian, Mark Torres, and Pat Donohoe each presented his background, IEEE accomplishments and activities, and vision for Region 3 if elected to the position of Director-Elect. The three Director-Elect candidates then answered questions from the Region 3 Committee.

6) Section Chair Reports

Each Section provided a short presentation of (1) the greatest 2020 success, (2) the greatest 2020 challenge, and (3) the top 2021 goal.

7) Discussion Agenda

a) Training and Information Webinars

Director Gostin shared information on webinars for volunteers that have been generated via Leadership Wednesday Webinars and are archived on the IEEE Region 3 Volunteer Resources YouTube Channel. These webinar topics include section elections, succession planning, vTools voting, section subunits, community outreach, conferences and workshops, member development, mentoring, senior membership events, projects, and industry outreach. A

second webinar resource is the IEEE Region 3 Member Resources YouTube Channel which contains some general IEEE information such as an introduction to IEEE-USA and an introduction to Educational Activities.

b) YP Affinity Groups

Region 3 Young Professionals Coordinator Hasala Dharmawardena presented information on the status of the YP program in Region 3. Within Region 3, 12 out of 41 Sections currently have a YP Affinity Group. Coordinator Dharmawardena provided details on starting a YP Affinity Group, and noted that only six members are required. The benefits to the Section by having a YP Affinity Group were discussed.

c) Past SoutheastCon Finance Updates

Conference Chair Eric Grigorian presented information on the historical surplus for SoutheastCon from 2005 to 2021. Chair Grigorian encouraged previous Section hosts to examine the data and provide corrections where needed.

8) IEEE President-Elect Candidates

The three IEEE President-Elect candidates (Francis B. Grosz, Saifur Rahman and S.K. Ramesh) each made a video presentation on his background, IEEE accomplishments and activities, and vision for IEEE if elected to the position of IEEE President-Elect. Following the video presentations, the candidates fielded questions from the Region 3 Committee.

9) Action Agenda

a) Changes to Area Model

The Chair of the Strategic Operations and Support Committee (SOSC), Dave Green, provided information on the proposed change to the area Model in Region 3. After long study by Ad Hoc committees and the SOSC, Region 3 is proposing to restructure the current 9 Areas into a more balanced grouping of 5 Areas. The restructuring of the Areas will decouple the Area Chair and Council Chair position. Chair Green noted the pros and cons of the proposed Area restructuring and provided implementation details should the restructuring proposal be endorsed by the Region. Chair Green made the following motion from the ExCom: "Move to approve Region 3 ByLaw changes that modify the Area Chair model to reduce the number of Areas in Region 3 from nine to five and decouple the Area Chair role from the Council Chair role as detailed in the Bylaw changes with the listed Areas grouping the Sections as shown in the Operations Manual Changes." Discussion on the motion followed. The vote was taken by roll call with the following totals: Yes = 26, No = 12, Abstain = 3. The motion passed.

b) Updates to Bylaws and Operations Manual

SOSC Chair Dave Green presented information on proposed Bylaws changes and Ops manual changes associated with the membership in the Region 3 Committee, which is impacted by the change in the Area Chair structure for the Region. Chair Green made the following motion from the ExCom: "Moved to approve changes to the Bylaws to (1) update reporting requirements to present approach (Bylaws) and (2) elaborate process for filling the Region 3 Committee membership (Bylaws and Ops Manual)". The motion passed.

10) Old Business

A new Young Professional award was proposed at the last Region meeting. The new award was developed and approved, nominations were collected, and the award was presented.

11) New Business

There was no new business.

12) Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next scheduled Region 3 Committee Meeting is set for 3 April 2022 in conjunction with SoutheastCon 2022.

13) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm.