

As we are preparing for fall with cooler weather to start, I hope you and your families had an enjoyable summer. We started the summer with a sad news on one of our esteemed members. William (Bill) Ratcliff, IEEE Life Senior Member and former Region 3 Director (2008-2009), passed away on 20 June 2024. Bill made a significant impact on IEEE MGA through his efforts to emphasize the importance of the member, leading the drive to change the Regional Activities Board to the Member and Geographic Activities Board. Bill was also known for strategic thinking and for encouraging teams to determine the root cause of a problem before seeking solutions. He led IEEE Strategic Planning Committee, Region 3 Strategic Planning Committee, and helped the IEEE MOVE project develop and execute its strategic plan. Our condolences go to Bill's family.

Now that schools and classes are starting to get back in fall session, this is a great opportunity for all Sections to reach out to their affiliated Student Branches and bring them into the fold of Section activities. Most, if not all of the Student Branches have new leadership that may not be aware of all that IEEE can do for them, including multitude of technical meetings that they can participate in.

End of summer and beginning of fall also brings about annual elections at all levels within IEEE. You should have already received information and voting for the IEEE Annual Election for selection of President-Elect candidate. This year we have 3 very great candidates and I urge you to cast your vote prior to the deadline of 12:00 noon ET (16:00 UTC-04) on 1 October 2024. You can cast your vote at ieeef.org/elections. Additionally, we have our Section election processes gearing up. This year, I have opted to open up the nominations process to all members within the Region, soliciting anyone within the Region to reach out to their Section Nomination Committee or their Region's Area Chair if they have interest to serve in any capacity in their respective Section. Except for some Sections that were proactive had already started their nominations, deadline for nominations for all other Sections in September 19th, 2024. These are all part of expanding the reach and getting potential new leaders in each Section, or even better, identify individuals within dormant Sections in our Region that are interested in becoming active. I am committed to rejuvenate any Section within the Region and if you have any ideas and suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

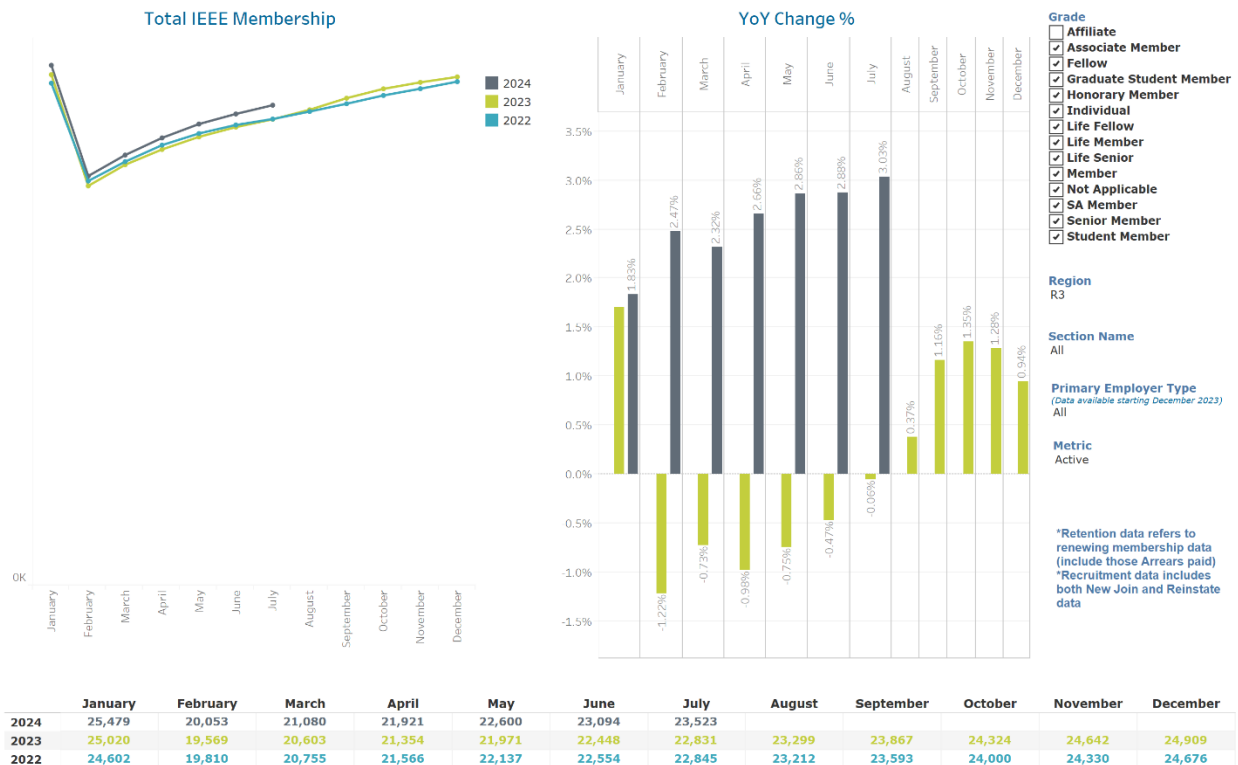
While we are talking about elections, I hope that you have taken advantage of many online training classes that have been posted by IEEE Member Geographic Area (MGA) on the new election process. If you are not familiar with the new unit election process, please visit [MGA](#) site and familiarize yourself to this new process immediately, including using vTools Elections. **All Sections within Region 3 that have an election during this year, and in the future, shall use vTools Elections for the nominations and elections.** This should not be a surprise to the Sections as we had talked about this during Region 3 meeting at SoutheastCon 2024 in Atlanta.

With all the activities that the Region has been involved with, several accolades are in order. First of all, congratulation to Atlanta Section for being selected as 2024 Large Section of the year. Atlanta Section continues to be very active across the board in many

areas including K-12 STEM and member engagement. I urge all Sections within the Region to start considering nominating themselves for section awards, no matter what the size of the Section is. I am sure all of our active sections are engaged with great engagement for their members and their community and should highlight this for recognition by IEEE. Additionally, I would like to recognize the Region’s Project team as 2 of the submitted projects for MGA Excess Funds that was submitted right after SoutheastCon, was funded. If your Section is interested in getting engaged with XRP STEM Project or Cyber Project, please reach out to Allen Jones or Region 3 Projects Committee for more info. We can’t also forget about Sharlene Brown, as she was featured in the recent issue of the Institute. More details on this recognition is included in this newsletter.

Our cross regional collaboration activities has also been increasing. Damith Wickramanayake just recently organized a Region 3 – Region 10 2024 Educational Activities Best Practice Webinar. We have also been trying to review and finalize a Region 3 – Region 10 MOU for Caribbean Conference (CaribCon) that would alternate among Region 3 and Region 9 Sections that are in or near Caribbean nations. In coordination with other regional YPs, Binesh Kumar also helped in organizing “Generative AI: Friend or Foe for Students & Young Professionals” that was just recently held.

Based on updated regional vitality reports, we are seeing growth in membership within the region. As a Region 3 has continued to excel its membership out of the six US Regions. Our membership in July was up 3% Year-over-Year (YoY), with a total membership of 23,523.



Thanks to our own Jacob Kulangara, we are also continuously adding new Life Member Affinity Groups to our Sections within the Region. Please take advantage of Life Members and get them engaged with your Student Branches, Young Professionals, and members within your Section. Binesh Kumar has also been active in identifying in implementing new initiatives, activities, and presentations for our YP group, trying to get them engaged. Please get your Section's YP representative to get with Binesh to get them engaged and take advantage of the great young talents available to your Sections.

On other fronts, we are continuing to work with IEEE-USA on hosting the 2024 Innovation, Workforce, and Research Conferences (IWRC) in Aerospace and Defense to Region 3. The event is scheduled for December 3rd & 4th, 2024 in Huntsville, AL. [IWRC in Aerospace and Defense](#) intends to bring together stakeholders from industry, government, and academia in Huntsville, Alabama, to meet, learn, talk, and discuss the CHIPS Act and other government programs that promote innovation and small business in the southeast. If your Section is active in activities related to the CHIPS Act, or are interested in being engaged, please contact me or Melissa Carl, m.carl@ieee.org.

As always, thanks for all you do for IEEE!

Eric Grigorian, P.E., PMP
2024-2025 IEEE Region 3 Director