

IEEE Region 3 – Region Committee Meeting  
SoutheastCon 2024 Atlanta, GA  
24 March 2024  
8:00am-12:00pm

Minutes

Attendees (voting member\*):

Director – Eric Grigorian *	x	Director Elect – Sonya Dillard*	x
Secretary – Pat Donohoe*	x	Treasurer – Joe Pennisi*	
Past Director – Theresa Brunasso*	x	Area 1 – James Imanian*	x
Area 2 – Wyman Williams*	x	Area 3 – Raul Ortega*	x
Area 4 – Paul Kuban*	x	Area 5 – Daniel Diaz*	
Awards Chair – Nelson Lourenco*		Member Communications – Andy Seeley*	x
Conference – Joe Juisai*		Finance – Joe Pennisi*	
Section Support – Kristin Bing*	x	Nominations and Appointments – Theresa Brunasso*	
Operational Audit – Gregg Vaughn*	x	Professional Activities – Sharlene Brown*	
Strategic Operations and Support – Dave Green*	x	Student Activities – Bailey Heyman*	
Alabama Section – Glenn Jones*	x	Atlanta Section – Tamseel Syed*	x
Broward Section – Marlon Clarke*	x	Canaveral Section – Macaulay Osaisai*	
Central Georgia Section – Jake Hopkins*	x	Central North Carolina Section*	
Central Savannah River Section – Dennis Moen*		Central Tennessee Section – Howard Frederick*	x
Central Virginia Section*		Charlotte Section – Sam Shue*	x
Chattanooga Section*		Coastal South Carolina Section – Nancy Tsai*	x
Columbia Section* - Stevo Bozinovski*		Daytona Section*	
East Tennessee Section – Tom Karnowski*	x	Eastern North Carolina Section – Bruce Magruder*	x
Evansville-Owensboro Section – Brad Kicklighter*	x	Florida West Coast Section – Hermann Amaya*	x
Gainesville Section*		Hampton Roads Section – Demetris Geddis*	x
Huntsville Section – Will Goins*	x	Jacksonville Section – Butch Shadwell*	x
Jamaica Section – Christopher Udeagha*	x	Lexington Section – Adam Ward*	x
Louisville Section – Jim Graham*		Melbourne Section – Mary Lynn Smith*	x
Memphis Section – Elizabeth Hayes*	x	Miami Section – Osama Mohammed*	
Mississippi Section – Rajeev Agrawal*	x	Mobile Section – Mohamed El-Sharkh*	x
Northwest Florida Section – Stephen Hopkins*	x	Orlando Section – Masood Ejaz*	x
Palm Beach Section*		Piedmont Section – David Fillion*	x
Richmond Section – Allen Jones*	x	Savannah Section – Masoud Davari*	x
Tallahassee Section – Sastry Pamidi*	x	Tri-Cities Section*	
Virginia Mountain Section*		Western North Carolina Section – Kent Green*	x
Winston-Salem Section - Hussein Abdeltawab*	x	Patrick Kung	x
Jill Gostin	x	Ebonee Walker	x
Ahmed Elsayed	x	John Ball	x
Sunny Bellary	x	Andrew Sung	x
Arup Ghosh	x	Jennifer Ammentorp	x
Jim Conrad	x	Don Hill	x
Lee Stogner	x	Austin Albright	x
Devon Gayle	x	Vera Sharoff	x

Agenda:

- 1) Director Grigorian called the Region 3 Meeting to order after an Eta Kappa Nu induction ceremony that started at 8:00am EST.
- 2) The meeting agenda was approved after switching the order of the Section Chair Reports and the Action Agenda due to early flights.
- 3) The consent agenda, consisting of the minutes from the 11 August 2023 Region Committee Meeting and reports listed in the information agenda, was approved.

#### 4) Officer Reports

##### a) Director

Director Grigorian thanked the SoutheastCon 2024 team of volunteers from the Atlanta Section led by Alessio Medda for making the event such a success, and noted the high quality training provided by IEEE leaders and ExCom members. Director Grigorian provided details on upcoming events including the Congressional Visits Day (April), the VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony Gala (Boston, May), the Alaska Cruise organized by IEEE-USA, and the Innovation, Workforce and Research Conference for Aerospace and Defense (Huntsville, December).

##### b) Director-Elect

Director-Elect Dillard has worked with the Area Chairs to identify Region 3 Sections that are struggling. The goal is to personally contact representatives of these Sections to identify the specific needs and work to provide resources to reinvigorate the Sections. The Region is also stressing that all Sections should update officer information in vTools and Sections should hold annual elections via vTools.

##### c) Secretary

Secretary Donohoe encouraged everyone to sign the attendance sheet for the Region Committee Meeting and conducted a roll call to determine the attendance of Section delegates. All submitted reports have been posted to the meeting website. Secretary Donohoe noted that he is still accepting late reports and will continue posting these reports during the meeting.

##### d) Treasurer

Treasurer Pennisi was unable to attend SoutheastCon due to a personal matter.

##### e) Past-Director

Past-Director Brunasso continues to identify and recruit potential candidates for the 2026-27 Director-Elect. Anyone interested in the role should contact Past-Director Brunasso.

#### 5) Action Agenda

##### a) Region 3 Projects Proposal (ExCom Vote)

Allen Jones, the Region 3 Projects Coordinator, presented details for the submission of proposals for the MGA Surplus Funds Projects. The proposals, which involve more than one region, must be approved by the Region 3 ExCom and then negotiated by Director Grigorian with the other regions on the proposal. The following two proposals were recommended.

1. International Multi-Discipline Hackathon using Communications, Robotics, Computing, Cyber Security and AI technologies.
2. XRP Robots for STEM Outreach.

After extensive discussion, the following motions were made. Both motions passed.

1. Move that Director Grigorian, in consultation with [Director-elect Dillard, and Past Director Brunasso], be authorized to negotiate with the Directors of the other Regions for the purpose of submitting a request to the MGA for the funding of the "International Multi-Discipline Hackathon using Communications, Robotics, Computing, Cyber Security and AI technologies" activity. Director Grigorian is authorized to submit this proposal in the name of the Region 3 ExCom providing that the total Region 3 financial commitment does not exceed \$5,000.
2. Move that Director Grigorian, in consultation with [Director-elect Dillard, and Past Director Brunasso], be authorized to negotiate with the Directors of the

other Regions for the purpose of submitting a request to the MGA for the funding of the “XRP Robots for STEM Outreach” activity. Director Grigorian is authorized to submit this proposal in the name of the Region 3 ExCom providing that the total Region 3 financial commitment does not exceed \$5,000.

b) Approval of IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 Budget (ExCom Vote)

Stephen Hopkins, the Vice-Chair of the Region 3 Conference Committee, presented details of the budget for IEEE SoutheastCon 2025 to be held March 27-30 in Charlotte, NC. Virtual papers for the conference will be presented on March 22-23. Projected attendance for professionals, students, Region 3 Committee and ExCom members, and spouses were given along with the respective conference registration rates. The overall conference budget projects a surplus of \$134,385. A motion was made to approve the budget as presented. The motion passed.

c) Proposal to Host IEEE SoutheastCon 2026 – Huntsville Section

Huntsville Section Chair Will Goins presented details of a proposal from the Huntsville Section to host SoutheastCon 2026 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville on March 13-15 with virtual papers presented on February 21. The conference hotel will be the Embassy Suites adjacent to the conference center. Projected attendance for professionals, students, Region 3 Committee and ExCom members, and spouses were given along with the respective conference registration rates. The overall conference budget projects a surplus of \$91,517. The leadership team for the conference was provided along with a list of local companies and universities in support of the proposal. A motion from the Conference Committee was made asking the Region 3 Committee to approve the Huntsville Section proposal to host SoutheastCon 2026. The motion passed.

6) Section Chair Reports

Sections provided a short summary of activities including Section (a) goals, (b) milestones, and (c.) obstacles.

7) Discussion Agenda

Preparation for Section Officer Elections

Director Grigorian led a discussion on the upcoming Section officer elections in 2024. The Region will require vTools nominations for Section officer elections this year. Director Grigorian is requiring that each Section provide Region 3 with the names of the Nominating Committee members by June 30.

8) Old Business

There was no old business.

9) New Business

There was no new business.

10) Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next scheduled Region 3 Committee Meeting is set for 30 March 2025 in conjunction with SoutheastCon 2025 in Charlotte, NC. The next scheduled Region 3 ExCom Meeting is scheduled for 22 April 2024 (Webex).

11) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.