Six Providence Section Chapters are actively hosting many technical meetings. Chapters and their chairs include Signal Processing (David Hague), Ocean Engineering (Sandy Williams), Engineering in Medicine and Biology (Gary Dahrooge), Computer Science (Charles Thangaraj), Power & Energy (Debo Onifade), and a Reliability Chapter which is joint with the Boston Section.

We have four active student branches at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, Brown University in Providence, RI, the University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth, MA and the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, RI, and are in the process of forming two more Student Branches at Johnson & Wales and the New England Institute of Technology. A group of graduate students also meets at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Falmouth, MA.

Our STEM Coordinator, Bill Horan continues to work closely with the award-winning Sea Perch underwater Robotics Team at Rogers High school in Newport, RI. Other Robotics support includes hosting an IEEE table at the 2017 Robotics Block Party at Brown University where an IEEE Student Branch Micro Mouse Competition is also held. The Section also supports various events with the First Lego League and many other initiatives, including the annual Yankee Steam-Up at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum in East Greenwich, RI.

The Providence Section will host the IEEE President, Jim Jefferies to award an IEEE Milestone at the French Cable Station Museum in Orleans MA on 5-7 September to commemorate the French Transatlantic Telegraph Cable of 1898. The French Atlantic telegraphic cable project was a bold engineering endeavor in which a submarine telegraphic cable was laid across the North Atlantic Ocean, connecting the United States and France. When completed in 1898 by La Compagnie Française des Cables Télégraphiques, it spanned 3174 nautical miles (5878 km), making it the longest and heaviest cable in service. A corresponding Milestone was also dedicated in July 2017 in Brest, France.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Ann Clark

Providence Section Chair