



# The Beacon



The Newsletter of the IEEE Maine Section

June 19, 2019

[www.ieee.org/maine](http://www.ieee.org/maine)

Lots has happened in the three months since the previous Beacon. And please send me your comments about this Beacon as well as happenings and other items of potential interest for the next. ...Ron Brown, [ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com](mailto:ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com).

The IEEE Region 1 Board of Governors meeting was April 5-7 at Southbridge, MA. Ron Brown and Ali Abedi attended, representing both the Maine Section and their Region 1 responsibilities. Ron reports that the IEEE has established a funded New Initiatives program. Ali Abedi worked closely with WIE representatives from other sections and initiated a discussion about having a joint New England event.

Stan Koski reported the 2019 Maine Section Rebate is \$4303.75 and the Section's April closing balance is \$40,889.26. There were two transactions in April.

The IEEE Maine Section welcomed Harold Belson, Region 1 North East Area Chair for his annual visit. Harold shared insights from his perspective, importantly, those on the importance of student activities to the long term success of the Maine Section and how to support and stimulate student activities.

The University of Maine Undergraduate Research Symposium was April 10 at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor. As we continue our efforts to increase community awareness, the section supported the event at the Silver sponsor level. Many thanks to Ali Abedi and his wife, Shahrzad Abedi, who's also an IEEE member, for organizing our section's representation at the event.

The spring dinner meeting at the Senator Inn in Augusta on May 23 was a huge success. Eighteen members attended, including six new IEEE student members from USM. Russ Harrison, IEEE Director of Government Relations gave an outstanding presentation of IEEE's position and efforts on topics ranging from technical information exchange with China, to immigration policy, to how IEEE members can influence public policy. Russ's observations on the changing political climate and how members of Congress reach the electorate were truly fascinating. Russ's contact information is available on the IEEE USA website.

Many thanks to all who attended and especially to Shengen Chen for making the arrangements.

The Maine PES/IAS presented a battery seminar on March 28, 2019. John Kim of Enersys presented new lead acid battery advancements and lithium ion batteries for substation applications. The presentation covered battery fundamentals, advances in lead-acid batteries, and the pros & cons of lithium-ion batteries. The presentation focused on the practical side of batteries, why lead-acid batteries will reign in the industrial standby power back-up market, and the future of lithium-ion batteries in standby applications.

The Northern New England IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Chapter met on May 30, 2109 via webex. The presentation was **Future of Medical IoT and Data Fluidity in Patient Monitoring**.

The University of Maine Student Branch, under the guidance of Ali Abedi, is preparing a proposal to host the 2020 IEEE Region 1 StuCon (student conference). A preliminary draft of the proposal has been prepared.

At the USM IEEE Student Branch Mackenzie Libby is currently working with Ron Brown on a proposal to establish the former RCA receiver station at Belfast, Maine as an IEEE historical milestone. It was here that the first commercial trans-Atlantic radio broadcast was received from the BBC's station 2LO at the Savoy Hotel in London and re-transmitted to commercial broadcast radio stations in New York City and Washington, DC. Also important to Maine is that the receiver antenna was a then revolutionary Beverage wave antenna. The inventor Harold H. Beverage of RCA was an early EE graduate of the University of Maine.

On April 22, 2019 the University of Maine's IEEE HKN-Delta Kappa chapter held elections. Officers are: President, Kenneth Seneres; VP, Derek Haas; Secretary, Dustin Knight; and Treasurer, Spencer Goulette.

Happy Summer!