

# IEEE Rochester Section

Serving Rochester Engineers  
for over 100 years

May 2020 Newsletter

## Section Officers

### Chair

Eric Brown

### Vice Chair

Cristian Linte

### Treasurer

Harish Gupta

### Secretary

Paul Lee

## Chapters & Groups

### AES & COMSOC

Cristiano Tapparello

### CS & CIS

Bo Yuan

### EDS & CSS

Sean Rommel

### EMBS

Cristian Linte

### GRSS

Emmett Lentilucci

### LIFE

Mark Schrader

### APS & MTTs

Jayanti Venkataraman

### Photonics

Bruce Smith

Parsian K. Mohseni

### PES & IAS

Jean Kendrick

### SPS

Ray Ptucha

### TEMS

Paul Lee

### Young Professionals

Eric Brown

## Student Groups

### Univ. of Rochester

Tom Howard

### RIT

Gill Tsouri

## Committees

### Awards

Jean Kendrick

### Communications

Christine Frayda

Howard Bussey

### Newsletter

Howard Bussey

### PACE

Alex Loui

Bruce Rubin

## Liaisons

### RES

Harold Paschal

### RCSS

William Brewer

## Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

The world is a very different place than it was a month ago. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered daily life and forced professional organizations, like IEEE, to adapt to the new realities of social distancing to slow the spread of the Coronavirus.



On April 7th IEEE Rochester held its first entirely virtual Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting recapped many of the spring and early summer IEEE events rescheduled for later in the year or postponed until 2021 and discussed resources to enable future virtual events. The Rochester IEEE Joint Chapters Meeting (JCM) is now scheduled for the afternoon of October 27th and will feature the same collection of speakers, including a keynote by Dr. Katherine Duncan, IEEE-USA President-Elect. The IEEE Region 1 Board of Governors meeting was canceled and will be replaced with several virtual meetings to bring the IEEE Region 1 leadership and section chairs together. IEEE Sections Congress, a triennial gathering of IEEE Section leadership from around the world, remains scheduled for August 21-23 in Ottawa, Canada while the organizers await further developments. Our next virtual ExCom meeting will take place on May 5th at noon (see vTools 228620 for details).

Students and sponsored student activities were also impacted by measures taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The 2020 E3 Fair for middle school students was canceled. The Terra Rochester Finger Lakers Regional Science & Engineering Fair (TRFSEF) for middle and high school students was rescheduled and held as a virtual science fair with each student project presented to a panel of judges via video conferencing. Our IEEE student members were sent home to complete the semester online as college campuses closed. This, in turn, forced many professors to put in late nights to adapt their courses for virtual learning and assessment. The 2020 IEEE Region 1 Student conference, which was to be held at the University of Maine in Orono on April 17 to 19, 2020, was also cancelled.

The sudden shifts in education due to COVID-19 precautions are mirrored in industry. Telecommuters are no longer a minority as companies with a traditional central office location suddenly adjusted to a distributed workforce with a majority of employees working from home. While the current changes and environment are difficult, a sustained shift to a telecommuting workforce may prove to be a great opportunity for the Rochester Region to grow and diversify.

In the meantime, IEEE strives to bring its members together through virtual events and online training until we can resume in-person events that connect the local engineering community.

Stay healthy, and best regards,

## Terra Rochester Finger Lakes Science and Engineering Fair

On Saturday, April 4, a virtual Terra Rochester Finger Lakes Science and Engineering Fair took place. Approximately 56 students presented their projects, each in one of seven assigned virtual rooms. In each virtual room a supervisor and about five judges scored the 4 presentations assigned to that room. The morning sessions saw and heard project presentations from senior-level (high school) students, and the afternoon sessions had 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade student presentations. The judges individually scored the presentations using an online form and made special award recommendations after group discussions. The top presenter from each senior session room went on to the second round.

Judging for the second round took place Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, in evening. The finalists presented their projects to a select group of judges who determined the highest level awards for the virtual fair. Rochester IEEE Section members Mark Schrader and Ram Dhurjaty Ph.D. served as judges in the first round, and Ram served as a judge in the second round. Both Mark and Ram are founding (IEEE) Terra Rochester Finger Lakes Science and Engineering Fair members and serve on the Organizing Committee.

## IEEE Member Benefits

The IEEE provides many benefits to members, and some of them may be of particular interest during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Tips for these times, when working from home is the new normal: <https://insight.ieeeusa.org/articles/working-remotely-the-new-normal/>
- Free IEEE Learning Network Resources: <https://innovationatwork.ieee.org/iln-promotions/>
- IEEE continuing education courses to learn from home: <https://innovationatwork.ieee.org/ilnfive/>
- IEEE Standards Association white papers and reports: <https://standards.ieee.org/products-services/standards-related/whitepaper/index.html>
- Free IEEE-USA E-Books: <https://ieeeusa.org/ieee-usa-ebooks-now-free/>
- Enhanced IEEE Member Digital Library access (for subscribers): <https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/>
- The IEEE App for mobile devices: <https://app.ieee.org/>

IEEE membership may be required for these resources.

## Save the Date: October 27, 2020 IEEE Rochester Section Joint Chapters Meeting

The IEEE Rochester Section is rescheduling its joint meeting for all IEEE chapters, which was to be held in April. It is being rescheduled for Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We apologize to our members who were looking forward to this. Plan ahead to save \$20—early registration closes September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## IEEE Rochester Section Events

Please check the events to ensure they are as scheduled below. Visit [events.vtools.ieee.org/m/vtools#](https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/vtools#) for details about any of these events.

Event	Vtools #	When	Where
<a href="#">EXCOM Meeting</a>	228620	May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 11:50 – 13:00	Via Webex
<a href="#">2020 Joint Chapters Meeting</a>	220441	October 27 <sup>th</sup> , 15:00 – 21:00	Louise Slaughter Hall, Rochester Institute of Technology
<a href="#">Body Language and Networking</a>	225078	October 27 <sup>th</sup> , 17:30 – 18:30	Louise Slaughter Hall, Rochester Institute of Technology