IEEE Region 6

Bi-Monthly Newsletter
ISSUE: November 2025

REGION 6 DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Volunteers,

Region 6 volunteers have been actively supporting both students and professionals through innovative outreach efforts—from engaging students at hackathons to showcasing IEEE's impact at major industry events like SEMICon West in Phoenix, which welcomed over 35,000 attendees.

I'm pleased to announce that **Region 6** and **Region 4** will host a **joint OpCom meeting** from **January 31 to February 1, 2026**, in **Tempe, AZ**, continuing our cross-regional collaboration. Region 6 will fund the participation of each Section Chair or a designated delegate, and I strongly encourage Sections to support additional leaders using Section funding. This gathering presents a valuable opportunity for Section leadership to exchange ideas, strengthen networks, and explore new ways to serve our members. To help participants prepare effectively, officer training sessions have been scheduled across three separate weeks leading up to the OpCom. Officers may select the session that best fits their schedule, ensuring they receive foundational guidance ahead of the meeting. The OpCom itself will center on collaborative discussion and ideation, with the goal of developing impactful activities that advance IEEE's mission.

We're also excited to announce the upcoming launch of the newly **redesigned Region 6 website**. The updated navigation is tailored to serve our three primary audiences: IEEE volunteers, academic institutions, and industry professionals. Our goal is to make information more accessible and intuitive, helping visitors quickly find the resources they need.

I deeply appreciate the invitations from other **Region Directors** to participate in their events, and from **TAB** and the **IEEE Board** to attend regional meetings, the **Tech Summit**, and **Innovation Workshops**. It's inspiring to witness the growing momentum behind cross-organizational collaboration in support of the **One IEEE** vision.

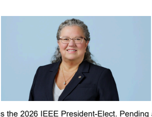
In addition to organizing an IEEE exhibit at the **SEMICon West**, I was honored to attend the First Global **Robotics Competition** in Panama City as a VIP guest of First founder **Dean Kamen**. The event brought together 190 high school robotics teams in a spirited competition reminiscent of the Junior Olympics. I look forward to exploring a strategic partnership between IEEE and First, as there are many areas of synergy that align with our shared mission to inspire the next generation of innovators.

Thank you for your continued dedication and your interest in volunteering opportunities. I welcome your feedback and look forward to working together to enhance how we serve you—our valued members and volunteers.

Joseph Wei

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Jill I. Gostin Elected as 2026 IEEE President-Elect



Jill I. Gostin has been elected as the 2026 IEEE President-Elect. Pending acceptance of the IEEE Tellers' Committee report by the IEEE Board of Directors on 24-25 November, Gostin will begin serving as IEEE President-Elect on 1 January 2026. Gostin will succeed 2026 IEEE President Mary Ellen Randall.

Jill Gostin retired in 2025 as a Principal Research Scientist at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), and the Systems Engineering, Integration, and Test Lead in her Division. Her work focused on sensor systems and software. Her publications, service and technical awards, large program management, and leadership of groups including industry, government, and academia have contributed to her career success. She has also served IEEE extensively, including as 2023 IEEE Vice President, Member and Geographic Activities, chairing the MGA Board. She served three years on the IEEE Board of Directors, and in multiple IEEE roles, including Board roles in two Societies and one technical Council. She has served or led multiple units and Committees across IEEE, including Local to Global roles. Her leadership has been recognized by being named 2016 *Woman of the Year* by Georgia Women in Technology and receiving the 2025 *IEEE Women in Technology Leadership Award*.
* Read more in the link.

Kathy Herring Hayashi Elected as 2026 IEEE-USA President-Elect

Congratulations to **Kathy Herring Hayashi**, IEEE Senior Member, for being elected by the U.S. IEEE membership to serve as the 2026 IEEE-USA President-Elect. Pending acceptance of the IEEE Tellers Committee's report to the IEEE Board of Directors in November, Hayashi will begin serving as IEEE-USA President on 1 January 2027. She will succeed 2026 IEEE-USA President Barry Tilton.

Kathy has been involved in the semiconductor industry her entire career – developing, deploying and analyzing advanced software tools used to create computer and mobile phone chips. At Unisys Corporation, she worked in research and development, designing advanced in-house CAD software tools. Through acquisition, she transitioned to Cadence Design Systems where some previous tools were incorporated into commercial EDA tools. She then brought her professional leadership as Director at Syntricity, a San Diego based semiconductor startup. Later, at Qualcomm Inc., she optimized semiconductor workflows in global compute environments. Kathy has held a variety of leadership roles in technical development, applications engineering, and information technology. She currently teaches computer science curriculum at local San Diego Community Colleges and consults on semiconductor technology related to EDA workflows. Kathy served on the Executive Board for the San Diego Dance Theater and has been on Technical Advisory Boards for local community colleges. She has also been a member of the San Diego Athena Forum for Executive Women.
* Read more in the link.

Simay Akar Elected as 2026 IEEE WIE Chair-Elect

We're thrilled to congratulate Simay Akar Koehler. Simay will begin serving as the IEEE Women in Engineering Chair-Elect starting 1 January 2026.

Simay Akar Koehler is a multi-award-winning sustainable energy expert and entrepreneur. As the CEO and Founder of AKEC, a Sustainable Energy Transition & Environmental Consulting Firm, Simay works with clean energy manufacturers and startups. Simay has received highly acclaimed awards, including the 2022 Women in New Energy Entrepreneur of the Year Award and the 2024 IEEE Theodore W. Hissey Outstanding Young Professional Award. With deep expertise in photovoltaic manufacturing, battery storage, electric vehicles, and renewable energy systems, Simay has held leadership roles in multinational enterprises. Having lived in Türkiye, China, and Indiana, USA, and traveled to over 70 countries, she brings a rich multicultural perspective, a globally connected mindset, and an extensive network. She has built strong connections with global women STEM organizations, advocating for inclusion and empowerment to drive positive change. Simay holds a degree from METU, Türkiye, and Energy Innovation and the Emerging Technologies Program at Stanford University.

KEY UPDATES

Summary of Region 6 Activities

- Student Branch reporting rose significantly, from 14 branches in 2024 to 44 branches in 2025, under the leadership of Student Activities Chair Alberto Tam Yong.
- The Region 6 Young Professionals group continued to engage members and promote collaboration across local sections.
- A new IEEE San Francisco Women in Engineering Chapter was successfully established.
- Region 6 supported several key events, including major IEEE conferences such as the Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) in Golden, Colorado, and the Generative AI Summit in San Jose, California, as well as industry events like the CASPA Annual Conference, Wearable Technologies Conference, and SEMICon West.
- The Region 6 website has been redesigned to improve accessibility, communication, and visibility. Public launch of the new design is targeted for January 1, 2026.
- The bi-monthly Region 6 newsletter, launched in March, received positive feedback and generated new volunteer interest.
- The Region 6 LinkedIn page achieved over 1,000 followers, expanding outreach and engagement across the IEEE community.

Call for Nominations for the 2027 Region 6 Director-Elect

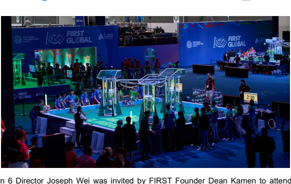
The **Call for Nominations** for the **2027 IEEE Region 6 Director-Elect** is now open! We're seeking outstanding candidates to help lead and shape the future of IEEE Region 6. The elected candidate will serve as **Director-Elect (2027–2028)** and **Region 6 Director (2029–2030)**, representing our region on the IEEE Board of Directors.
🗓 **Nomination Deadline:** December 31, 2025
📍 **Apply Here:** IEEE Call for Nominations – R6 DE
📧 If you cannot access the form, please email **kathyh@ieee.org**.
🔹 **Qualifications:** Senior Member or higher, Region 6 member in good standing, and proven IEEE leadership experience.

Learn more: Full Job Description
Join us in advancing IEEE's mission—nominate yourself or a colleague today!

IEEE Reaches 500,000 Members Worldwide

IEEE has officially surpassed **half a million members** for the first time in history! 🎉
This remarkable achievement reflects the unwavering **commitment, passion, and collaboration** of our global community — from dedicated volunteers and members to the hardworking IEEE staff who continue to support our shared vision every day.
For more than a century, IEEE has brought together engineers, scientists, educators, and innovators with a common purpose: **advancing technology for humanity.** Today's milestone is not only a number — it's a celebration of the collective impact we've made across industries, communities, and generations. As we continue to grow, our mission remains clear: to **inspire innovation, empower the next generation of engineers, and drive technological progress** that benefits society worldwide. Let's celebrate this incredible accomplishment and the powerful community that made it possible. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more connected future. 🌏💡

🌎 IEEE at FIRST Global 2025! 🤖



IEEE Region 6 Director Joseph Wei was invited by FIRST Founder Dean Kamen to attend the FIRST Global Challenge in Panama City, held from October 29 to November 1, as a VIP guest. He was joined by Jamie Moesch from IEEE Educational Activities and Kohava Mendelsohn from IEEE Spectrum, who also represented IEEE at this inspiring global event. During the event, IEEE representatives explored opportunities for a strategic partnership between IEEE and FIRST, aiming to further strengthen global STEM education, inspire young innovators, and expand hands-on learning opportunities for students worldwide.

This year's FIRST Global Challenge brought together teams from 190 countries for three days of creativity, collaboration, and friendly competition — all focused on using technology and innovation to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. Events like FIRST Global embody IEEE's mission of *advancing technology for the benefit of humanity* — empowering the next generation of engineers, scientists, and innovators to build a brighter, more connected future. 🌏✨

🔗 Learn more about FIRST Global: https://first.global

Joint Northeast/Northwest/Central Fall 2025 Area Meeting

The Joint Northeast/Northwest/Central Fall 2025 Area Meeting was held at **UC Berkeley on October 18, 2025**, offering an excellent opportunity to connect with passionate and dedicated IEEE volunteers—both new and experienced—who continue to strengthen our region's network and community. The meeting brought together **over 50 IEEE professionals and students** for a day of collaboration and inspiration.
This year's meeting introduced a **new format**, combining semi-formal presentations with **interactive discussions and idea exchanges**, fostering deeper collaboration among attendees. In parallel, a **student training session** was organized by **Region 6 Student Activities Coordinator Alberto Tam Yong**, with two preparatory workshops conducted ahead of the meeting to support student participants.
Overall, the meeting provided a **meaningful and inspiring experience** that strengthened professional relationships, encouraged cross-sectional collaboration, and reinforced our shared mission to **advance technology for humanity** across the IEEE Region 6 community.
For further reading, check this link.

IEEE Bay Area Anniversary Celebration

The IEEE Bay Area celebrated a remarkable milestone event, honoring the **50th anniversaries of the Santa Clara Valley and Oakland East Bay Sections and the 121st anniversary of the San Francisco Section. This special occasion highlighted the long-standing legacy of inno**vation, leadership, and community that IEEE has fostered across the Bay Area for more than a century.
More than **160 attendees**, including Life Members, Senior Members, Members, and student members, joined the celebration. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, friends, and mentees, reflecting on the strong sense of community and mentorship within IEEE.

Wearable Technologies AG Conference in September

Over **110 IEEE Santa Clara Valley Section members** attended the **Wearable Technologies AG Conference** on **September 16–17, 2025**, held at the **Computer History Museum**. The conference brought together innovators, researchers, and industry leaders to explore the latest trends and breakthroughs in wearable technology.
Local chapters of the **IEEE Consumer Technology Society (CTSoc)** and the **IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (EMBS)** sponsored an exhibit at the conference, highlighting **IEEE's contributions to wearable technology** and the **benefits of IEEE membership**.
A special thanks to **Wearable Technologies AG** for their partnership and to the **dedicated IEEE volunteers** at the exhibit table, whose enthusiasm engaged attendees, inspired future volunteers, and helped attract new members.
The conference was a fantastic opportunity for IEEE members to connect, learn, and showcase how our community continues to **advance technology for humanity**.

MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

Renew Your IEEE Membership and Stay Connected!

Thank you for being part of IEEE! Your membership plays a vital role in **advancing technology and improving lives around the world.** Every member contributes to a global network of innovators, engineers, and professionals who are shaping the future through collaboration, research, and innovation.
By renewing your IEEE membership, you continue to:
✅ **Access cutting-edge knowledge** through IEEE publications, conferences, and standards.
✅ **Expand your professional network** across industries, disciplines, and continents.
✅ **Develop leadership skills** through volunteer opportunities in your local section and technical societies.
✅ **Inspire the next generation** of engineers, scientists, and technologists.
✅ **Support IEEE's mission** of advancing technology for humanity.

Set yourself apart from your peers — **renew today** and continue to grow, lead, and make a difference in our global community.
🔗 **Renew your membership here:** https://www.ieee.org/membership/renew.html

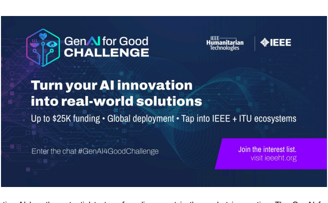
EPICS in IEEE Call for Committee Members!

Are you passionate about **service learning** and **engineering for humanity**? Here's your chance to make an impact!
In **2026**, several seats on the **EPICS in the IEEE Committee** will open as members complete their terms. We're seeking dedicated volunteers to help shape the future of EPICS in IEEE.
As a committee member, you'll play a vital role in:
✓ Reviewing projects
✓ Making funding decisions
✓ Guiding strategic initiatives for the program
If you'd like to learn more about the commitment and responsibilities, feel free to reach out: **epicsinieee@ieee.org**
👉 Ready to apply? Submit your application here: Apply Now
Join us in empowering communities through engineering-driven solutions! ☀️

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Upcoming conferences

GenAI for Good Challenge
Applications are Open! Submit by 1 December 2025



Generative AI has the potential to transform lives—not in theory, but in practice. The GenAI for Good Challenge, powered by IEEE Humanitarian Technologies and ITU, is designed to help innovators turn ideas into deployable AI solutions.
Winning teams will access up to $25,000 in funding, collaborate with global partners, and follow a clear pathway from prototype to real-world impact.

This year's use cases focus on urgent national priorities aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals:
- AI-Chatbot for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) – The Gambia: Scale prevention advice to reduce the growing burden of NCDs.
- AI-Powered Agricultural Extension Chatbot – Lesotho: Equip agricultural advisors and smallholder farmers with timely, localized guidance to strengthen resilience and outcomes.
- AI-Powered Extreme Weather Advisor – Bangladesh: Deliver early warnings and preparedness tools that help households respond to climate shocks.
Read more in this link: **https://bit.ly/4kiBJ4w**

2025 IEEE New Era AI World Leaders Summit- Uniting Satellite, Humanity & a Smart World

Welcome World AI Top Leaders,

Honorable Maria Cantwell
The United States Senator

Dave Baker
Nobel Prize Laureate 2024

DR.Dr. Siavash Alamouti,
2022 Marconi Prize Winner

Prepare to be inspired by a powerhouse lineup of global visionaries:
- **U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell,** *Chair Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation* – A leading voice in science and technology policy, championing innovation and AI leadership on the national stage.
- **Dr. David Baker**, *2024 Nobel Prize Laureate* – Celebrated for his groundbreaking work using AI to reprogram protein structures, unlocking cures for diseases that have eluded science for centuries
- **Dr. Siavash Alamouti**, 2022 *Marconi Prize Winner* – Inventor of the legendary Alamouti Code, embedded in billions of wireless devices worldwide and foundational to modern communication

And many more trailblazers from academia, industry, and government will join us to shape the future of AI for humanity.

🚀 **Registration Opens November 5, 2025 — Don't Miss Out!**
Register & Learn More: https://attend.ieee.org/neweraai25/

☀️ **Event Highlights:**
• **Extraordinary Participation:** Over 230 speakers, including U.S. academicians from Harvard and Johns Hopkins, medical school professors, corporate executives, startup CEOs, and IEEE Past and Incoming Presidents – all contributing to the community.
• **Celebratory Welcome:** A local high school band will escort keynote dignitaries to the main stage featuring the 2025 **World FIRST Robotics Champion Team** from Henry Jackson High School and their world-title robots! 🤖
• **Round-Table Career Lunch** with industry managers
• **Best Speaker Prizes**
• **Six "Smart World" Symposia** and **Three "Smart Technology" Tracks:**
– Intelligent Commerce & Economy
– AI for Industry & Infrastructure
– AI in Medicine, Vitality & Longevity
• **Cutting-Edge AI Interactive Workshops**
• **Immersive UAV, Humanoids & Robotics Expo – The Future in Motion**
☀️ Don't miss this chance to innovate, connect, and make an impact with AI for humanity!

2026 IEEE Rising Stars Conference

Register now for Rising Star! Don't miss out—next price increase for registration is November 23.
🎰 All happening in the heart of Las Vegas!

💾 Save the date and refer to the website link for more information:
https://lnkd.in/gZe8nmhU
📝 Sign up for the mailing list to get notified when registration launches:
https://lnkd.in/gspgTuUK

IEEE SusTech 2026 Call for Papers
Submission Deadline Extended - 15-Nov-25

The **13th Annual IEEE Conference on Technologies for Sustainability (SusTech 2026)** will be held **April 19–22, 2026 in Santa Ana, CA** (hybrid). SusTech 2026 is designed to explore technical development that meets the needs of the present without compromising future generations. The conference brings together scientists, engineers, technologists, and scholars to explore emerging technologies and intelligent systems that support sustainable development—meeting the needs of today without compromising the future.

ℹ️ Conference website: https://ieee.org/sustech
🔎 **Focus Areas include:**
✅ Agriculture & Food Technology
✅ Green Computing & Climate-aware ICT Infrastructure
✅ Next-Generation Power Grids
✅ Sustainable Electronics
✅ Sustainable Communities and Quality of Life
✅ Intelligent Transportation Systems
✅ Social Innovation
✅ Biosphere preservation
✅ Circular Economy, Waste reduction and management
✅ Water Resources Management

We welcome submissions from **industry, government, academia, and students** in the form of papers, posters, and workshops.
📢 **Submission Deadline: November 15, 2025**
📄 **Download the CFP:** https://shorturl.at/0gAMI
🌐 Author guidelines & submission: https://ieee-sustech.org/authors
Let's work together to create **innovative, impactful, and sustainable solutions** for our shared future!

SusTech 2026 Student Poster Contest

SusTech 2026 invites undergraduate and graduate students to submit abstracts for the Student Poster Contest. NOTE: Abstracts cannot be based on any paper submitted to SusTech 2026.
Students are encouraged to present ideas or designs for projects and products that support the sustainability topic areas of the conference. Selected posters will be showcased during the Virtual Student Poster Session on Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 4:00 – 6:00 PM (Pacific Time).

🗓 **Important Dates**
Abstract submission deadline: February 15, 2026 (11:59 PM US Pacific Time)
Notification of acceptance: February 28, 2026
Accepted posters must register for the contest and pay a **$50 submission fee**.
📄 Download the 1-Page Call for Posters Flyer (PDF)
Note: SusTech 2026 reserves the right to cancel the contest if there are insufficient entries.

👥 **Who can participate?**
Poster authors must be either undergraduate or graduate students at the time of submission and may be members of a team comprising up to four students. At least one student author must be an IEEE student member at the time of the submission of the poster to the Contest. The poster should be fully the work of the student or students and completed before they have received the engineering or scientific degree. Posters should not be regarding an accepted submitted paper to SusTech 2026. At least one author must attend the Contest to present the poster. Remote presentation options will be available.

🏆 **Awards**
Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places as determined by the judges. First place $1000; second $750; third $500, honorary $250.

For full contest details and the list of conference topics, visit:
🔗 https://ieee-sustech.org/student-poster-contest/

2026 IEEE Sections Congress

The **triennial gathering of IEEE Section leadership** is back in 📍 Glasgow, Scotland on 🗓 August 21–23, 2026
This premier event will bring together **hundreds of delegates from all 10 IEEE Regions** to:
🤝 Network with global peers
📚 Share knowledge & best practices
🚀 Collectively shape the future of IEEE

🌐 The official website is now live: 2026 IEEE Sections Congress

Upcoming local events

High Performance Inferencing for LLMs | **Santa Clara Valley Section**
🗓 Date: 01 Nov 2025
📍 Location: Online
💻 Event Format: Virtual

2025 Silicon Valley Area Workshop on EMC Design of High-Speed Systems (PAID) + FREE Exhibits + FREE TC10 on Signal and Power Integrity mtg | **Santa Clara Valley Section Chapter, EMC27**
🗓 Date: 04 Nov 2025
📍 Location: San Jose, California
💻 Event Format: In-Person

IEEE Region 6 and Comsoc Joint chapters virtual meeting: Learn how to be elevated as an IEEE senior member | **San Diego Section Chapter, COM19**
🗓 Date: 04 Nov 2025
💻 Event Format: Virtual

The Worst Day of my Professional Engineering Life or How I Learned to Love Multipath Propagation | **Utah Section Joint Chapter, SP01/COM19**
🗓 Date: 04 Nov 2025
📍 Location: Salt Lake City, Utah
💻 Event Format: In-Person

From Mg to Be: Rethinking P-Type Doping Strategies in Wide-Bandgap III-Nitrides | **SCV/SF Joint Section Chapter, ED15**
🗓 Date: 07 Nov 2025
💻 Event Format: Virtual

Beyond the Degree: Preparing for Success in the Professional World | **IEEE WIE Boise Section**
🗓 Date: 19 Nov 2025
💻 Event Format: Virtual

More local events can be found here: Link

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

IEEE New Initiatives Program

The New Initiatives Program is designed to support potential new IEEE programs, products, or services that will provide significant benefit to IEEE members, the public, the technical community, and customers, or which could have a lasting impact on the IEEE or its business processes. Initiatives must be of strategic importance to IEEE.
📍 Details on specific procedures for the submission can be found here.

IEEE Future Directions

The IEEE Future Directions Committee (FDC) seeks to identify, develop, and promote projects that are value-added for IEEE and its members, bringing together multiple Societies and Councils to provide broad and deep perspectives on a particular topic, application, or technology. These projects range from short-term activities to reach a specific goal to Future Directions Initiatives seeking longer-term cross-collaborative engagement among industry, academia, and government, striving to develop and deploy various future technologies.
📍 Details information can be found here.

Please follow the Region 6 LinkedIn page for real-time updates