REGION 6 DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Region 6 Members and Volunteers,

As we look toward the 2026 IEEE Sections Congress in Glasgow, Scotland, I want to express my deepest gratitude for the extraordinary energy you bring to the Western United States.

From the success of our recent Joint Meeting in Las Vegas to the inaugural orientation seen at the Maui Region Conference, it is clear that our volunteers are the engine that drives our strength and of our Sections. Sections Congress is our biennial opportunity to ensure the voice of Region 6 resonates at the global level. As you prepare your reports and your delegations for the upcoming Congress, I ask you to focus on the impact we have had on local chapters, emerging new volunteer leaders, and collaborations that are actively building the value to students and young professionals. Transformative technology thrives in collaborative environments like Region 6.

I ask that the nominations from the past year be reviewed, and volunteers be offered new collaborations. Our Sections Congress delegation represents the collective voice of our Region. I encourage you to utilize your diverse region, from Alaska to West Mexico, and championed on the world stage this August.

Joseph Yott

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Key Chapter Recipients!

On September 8, 2025, the IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Outstanding Chapter Award recognizes outstanding chapters for demonstrating excellence by participating in activities identified as best practices of successful Chapters. Chapters are recognized for their efforts in the areas of Leadership, Service, Outreach, Professional Development, and celebrating outstanding Chapter information, along with active engagement in Honors and Awards.

1. We are proud to highlight the 4225 Region 6 Key Chapter recipients who have gone above and beyond in representing IEEE in areas of scholarship, character, and leadership:
   - Delta Omicron, University of Hawaii, Manoa (4225) Hawaii Section
   - Gamma Omicron, Cal Poly Pomona (4225) Los Angeles Section
   - Gamma Sigma, University of Utah (4225) Utah Section
   - Iota Gamma, University of California, Los Angeles (4225) Los Angeles Section
   - Kappa Omicron, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (4225) Santa Clara Valley Section
   - Omicron Omicron, University of California, Irvine (4225) San Francisco Section
   - Theta Kappa, California State University, Fresno (4225) Central Arizona Section
   - Upsilon Omicron, Cal Poly Pomona (4225) Los Angeles and Separated Section

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu Outstanding Chapter Recipients!

On February 15, 2025, IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu (HKN) proudly announced the approval of 25 university chapters as recipients of the 2024-2025 Outstanding Chapter Award (OCA). This prestigious award recognizes HKN chapters for their exceptional contributions to the IEEE community, including Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering Department Heads Association Annual Meeting on March 27, 2026, in Santa Clara, California. The OCA program underscores the dedication and impact of these chapters in fostering a vibrant community within the IEEE. The following chapters have been selected for this year's award, each exhibiting a commitment to excellence and leadership:

1. The outstanding IEEE Region 6 Chapters recipients who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and contributions to HKN excellence:
   - Delta Omicron, University of Hawaii at Manoa (4225) Hawaii Section
   - Gamma Omicron, University of California, Los Angeles (4225) Los Angeles Section
   - Iota Gamma Chapter - University of Washington (4225) Seattle Section
   - Kappa Omicron, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (4225) Santa Clara Valley Section
   - Lambda Delta Chapter - California State University, Northridge (4225) San Fernando Valley Section
   - Omicron Omicron, University of California, Irvine (4225) Orange County Section
   - Upsilon Omicron, California State University, Pomona (4225) Los Angeles Section

Congratulations to these outstanding chapters! Your dedication and impact have set a benchmark for excellence within the HKN community. We look forward to witnessing more exceptional contributions from these chapters in the coming years.

KEY UPDATES

Cross-Region Collaborations Driving Impact

On March 27, 2026, the **Maui Section** hosted **Sam** from Cupertino, CA (Region 6) for a remarkable experience at the **2026 IEEE Sam Conference** in Boulder (Region 5), where they collaborated with Section leaders from Denver and Boulder to plan future events. Sam, a member of Maui Section, Epsilon, is recognized for Section and Chapter Distinction, for students presenting at Section Conferences, and for Section Leadership. Sam's presence underscored the value of cross-region leadership sustainability exports. This collaboration gave the team valuable technical feedback and strengthened relationships between Section leaders, ensuring the lessons learned will benefit future conferences. The strategic partnership between Maui Section and Sam's Section will take root in late summer, and will continue supporting their efforts.

The collaboration of Region 5 and Region 6 reflects the spirit of OneIEEE, with Sam displaying exceptional leadership to inspire and engage their next generation.

A 4-operable organization, stand the stalwart Region 6's support for the **2026 Rocky Mtns LATAM conference** in Quito, Ecuador (September 4-5, 2026), during his address to the IEEE Region 6 Leadership Forum at the Joint Meeting in Las Vegas. Jorge Gonzalez, Section Chair, Ecuador Section, presented Ecuador's capabilities and commitment to hosting a successful conference, and highlighted the Ecuador Section's Region 6 Section Distinction Award. Jorge also introduced the **Amazon Digital Conference** in Mexico and Chile, encouraging Region 6 to participate in the Amazon Digital Conference and strengthen connections between industry and IEEE's technical community.

Continuing a meaningful tradition, Region 6 and Region 5 Directors exchanged their regional pennants—a gesture Gaetz hosted the week of March 23 during the Joint Meeting in Las Vegas. Both Directors shared Bronzeway hosted pennant.

Together, Region 5, Region 6, and Region 3 are creating opportunities, building connections, and empowering the next generation of leaders.

IEEE MOVE-3 Track on Display at the First Annual American Red Cross (ARC) Southern California Regional Logistics/Shoulder Services Technology (EST) Summit

The IEEE MOVE-3 track was active and on display at the first annual American Red Cross Southern California Regional Logistics/EST Summit held on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at the Southern California Regional Headquarters in San Diego, CA. The summit was from 7:0 am - 2 pm and attended by about 100 participants from the Southern California Region.

EST Chief Bob Bond gave an introduction of the IEEE MOVE program and how it supports disaster relief efforts. Bob also gave a presentation on the Amazon Digital Conference and encouraged participation. Bob also spoke about the IEEE MOVE-3 track capability for providing power and communications to Red Cross shelters to support disaster relief and Bob and Bill encouraged other regional IEEE officers to attend the IEEE MOVE-3 track at the Red Cross Southern California Regional Summit. Bill Hoffman, one of the ARC regional officers, stated he would support the IEEE MOVE-3 track to attend the Southern California Regional Summit. Bill also stated he would support the IEEE MOVE-3 track to attend the IEEE MOVE Venture Beta Workshop and continue supporting their efforts.

The collaboration of Region 5 and Region 6 reflects the spirit of OneIEEE, with Sam displaying exceptional leadership to inspire and engage their next generation.

2026 Annual Affinity Group Face-to-face meeting

The annual IEEE MOA affinity group face-to-face meeting on March 5-8, 2026 brings together global leaders from groups like Young Professionals, Student Activities, Women in Engineering, and Life Members to foster collaboration and strategic planning. The event focuses on leadership development, sharing successful member initiatives, and developing program frameworks for the professional experience for members worldwide. By participating in workshops and networking events, volunteers gain valuable insights into IEEE governance and the latest technological trends, ensuring the organization remains relevant. Region 6 Young Professionals Affinity Group chair Ali Hashemi said, "the meeting was an amazing opportunity to meet other Young Professionals and volunteers and exchange ideas."

IEEE Congressional Visit Day (CVD) 2026

On March 17 and 18, 2026, IEEE-USA brought over 370 IEEE members — from across 30 states — to Washington, D.C. for the annual IEEE Congressional Visit Day (CVD). This year's theme was "Advancing Innovation in Congress and the Decade on critical science and technology policies." Participants advocated for stronger federal investment in key innovation-driving agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Department of Energy's Office of Science research, and IEEE. In the days, IEEE emphasized the importance of strengthening the U.S. technology workforce through high-skilled immigration, supporting science such as the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, and expanding STEM education.

A participant example of IEEE advocacy regarding its advance technology, Ali Hashemi, an IEEE member at the national level.

Global Semiconductor Alliance and IEEE Photonics Society Present "Bridging Silicon and Light: Innovations at the Intersection of Semiconductors and Photonics"

The **Global Semiconductor Alliance** (GSA) and the **IEEE Photonics Society** partnered on March 31, 2026, to host a hybrid event titled "Bridging Silicon and Light: Innovations at the Intersection of Semiconductors and Photonics" in Los Angeles, California, bringing together leading minds across the semiconductor ecosystem to advance advancements in silicon photonics and the technologies enabling next-generation connectivity.

The sessions were organized and moderated by **Rajiv Ramaswami**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Global Semiconductor Alliance, and **Ali Hashemi**, Chair, IEEE Young Professionals Affinity Group, Region 6, Pacific Railway. Principal Keynote Speakers included Dr. Christopher Tomkins, Aurora Semiconductor, Scientist & Engineer, Aurora Semiconductor, Dr. Ashkan Seyedi, Senior Director, Silicon Photonics, Ayar Labs, and speakers from NVIDIA, Cohesive, Broadcom, GlobalFoundries, and Ayar Labs. Discussions covering critical topics including the convergence of silicon and optical innovation. The recording of the session can be viewed on the **link**.

IEEE Milestone Recognition for Xilinx

On March 31, an IEEE Milestone for Xilinx for its invention of the Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) was dedicated IEEE on San Jose, CA. This event celebrated the Xilinx Milestone for its invention, dedicated in the 1984 invention, which was launched by Stanford Linear Technology, Xilinx Partners Scientists & Engineers, Xilinx Leadership, and Xilinx Alumni. Speakers included Xilinx Founder Ross Freeman, Xilinx Co-Founder Bernie Vonderschmitt, Xilinx Co-Founder Bernie Vonderschmitt, Xilinx Co-Founder Bernie Vonderschmitt, IEEE Affiliate Kathleen Kramer and Brian Berg, and IEEE Affiliate Chris Ho and Bart Rogo affiliated at the Computer History Museum. Xilinx Leadership Bernie Vonderschmitt and Xilinx Partners Freemont Fifield, Kathleen Kramer, and Bart Rogo. Xilinx Partners Scientists & Engineers.

For further information, visit here: **Milestone webpage**

MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

Stay Connected with IEEE Region 6!

Looking for updates and the latest activities happening across our region? Our September and LinkedIn pages are your go-to sources to stay informed, engaged, and inspired—right as things happen.

- Follow IEEE Region 6 on LinkedIn: **Link**
- Follow IEEE Region 6 on Facebook: **Link**

From sounding events and conferences to leadership opportunities, awards, and member spotlights—there's always something happening in our region.

Here's what you'll find:

- Real-time updates on events & conferences
- Leadership opportunities & volunteer roles
- Celebrate member achievements & awards
- Stay connected with engineers and innovators across the region

Don't miss out—stay in the loop and be part of the conversation!

We are excited to announce the **Student Leadership Training (YoLT) Program** for the upcoming graduates' season! Undergraduate and Graduate Student members across Region 6 are invited to apply for this program. The program is designed to empower student leaders with the skills and confidence to drive impactful, inclusive, and sustainable change. This transformative program emphasizes self-reflection and the impact of IEEE students and young professionals throughout our region. Join us as we celebrate this milestone and empower the next generation of IEEE leaders!

1. Applications from **March 1 - April 30**
2. Applications due by **April 30th, 11:59 PM (PST)**

For More details can be found on the Region 6 Student Activities Committee and Young Professionals Committee Sites and Towards linked below!

- **Student Site**
- **Young Professionals Site**
- **YoLT Site**
- **Student Email:** gtowards@ieee.org
- **YoLT Email:** yolt@ieee.org
- **Young Professionals Email:** yp@ieee.org
- **Visit Site**

Call for Nominations: 2026 MGA Awards

Nominations are now open for Region 6 Member Geographic Unit awards! Please share with your colleagues and celebrate the following awards:

- **Outstanding Student Branch Chairperson Service Award**
- **MGA Outstanding Section Awards**
- **MGA Industry Section Award**
- **Outstanding Section Young Professionals Representative Award**
- **Nomination deadline: 11 May 2026**
- **Project of IEEE MGA Awards**
- **Nominations Committee Chair Award**

Nominations are open for a second combination, **visit our Awards webpage here.**
For questions, please reach out to **mga-awards@ieee.org**

IEEE Volunteer Leadership Training (YoLT) Program

The IEEE Young Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the **2026 Volunteer Leadership Training (YoLT) Program**. The YoLT Program invites volunteers who seek to develop their leadership skills and volunteering, and feel that they could complete the program's prerequisite courses, and to apply.

1. The program starts in early September and ends in early December. During the program, participants will complete a series of self-paced courses, attend a kick-off and a closing ceremony, and participate in a course-related act. Time Management, Stress Management, Leadership Skills, Geeking With Ethical People, Ethical Decision Making, Conflict Resolution, and Communication are the courses offered this year. Participants will go through the YoLT experience alongside their peers and fellow students in a cohort, which will help them stay on track.

2. Applications will be accepted from **1 May onwards through 30 June 2026.**
3. For complete application requirements, please see the **Application Checklist**.

If you have questions about YoLT, please feel free to reach out to us at **yolt@ieee.org**

Interested in the IEEE Rising Stars Conference

1. We're starting big dates to keep in track for next year - The IEEE Rising Stars Conference will take place January 2-3, 2027.
2. Interested in attending? Be sure to sign up for our mailing list to receive the latest updates as details become available.
3. The IEEE Rising Stars Conference is a dedicated volunteer-run conference, many of whom were past attendees! Want to get involved and be part of the team? We'd love to have you.
   - Reach out to Volunteer Chairs, and we'll reach out in December.
   - **Application form**

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Upcoming conferences

SusTech 2026 Program Committee

The **13th IEEE Conference on Technologies for Sustainability** (SusTech 2026) will take place in beautiful scenic venues at the Hotel Teatro in Denver, located at the corner of 1100 Welton Street, Denver, Colorado, USA, from April 15-17, 2026. The conference is designed to explore development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It brings together researchers, engineers, and practitioners from multiple disciplines to build a dialogue on environmental issues and collaborate on ideas to develop and utilize innovative tools and technologies to address the need for Sustainable Infrastructure. This year's focus is on Climate Resilience.

1. Organization is open - **Early attendee rates end April 15.**

Visit the SusTech 2026 **Registration page** for details on fees and options.
Visit the **SusTech 2026 Program** page for details. Four day program with workshop, poster contest, keynotes, panel discussions, and technical presentations on Climate Resilience.

The yearly conference will also include a VP Membership Night on April 20th, a great way for young professionals to network and learn about IEEE opportunities. Stay tuned for more details.
For more information, check the website **SusTech 2026**

2026 IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference Call for Papers

At the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC) is now accepting extensions!

The conference provides a global forum for sharing research, innovation, and practical solutions to challenges in underserved communities worldwide. This year's theme, "Technology for Resilient Communities," emphasizes how technology can support communities facing climate, infrastructure, and other interconnected challenges.

1. Conference: University of Colorado Denver, USA
2. Conference Dates: October 5-8, 2026
3. Submit your work by April 30, 2026

Submissions contribute from research, industry, government, and nonprofits across areas such as:

- Healthcare & well-being
- Infrastructure resilience & connectivity
- Water & food security
- Climate resilience & disaster response
- Education, workforce development, and capacity building

Whether you're sharing research, case studies, or lessons learned, this is an opportunity to make a meaningful impact through technology.

- Learn more and submit at **Call for Papers**
- Let's work together to connect technology to humanity.

Booking Now Open | IEEE-USA Bahamas Cruise (Oct 5-9, 2026)

BAHAMAS
CRUISE
October 5-9, 2026
Nassau, Bahamas
Sailing Round Trip from Miami
Cruise Port: Nassau, Bahamas
Cruise Ship: Celebrity Apex
Cruise Line: Celebrity Cruises