Vol. 09 | No. 7-8

IEEE Foothill Section

July-August 2026 Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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What's Inside

IEEE Foothill Section July ExCom-OpCom Meeting
page 1

IEEE Foothill Section August ExCom/OpCom Meeting
page 2

Student Branch
page 3

Section Congress 2026
page 4

LA Con 2026
pages 5 -6

Upcoming Events
page 5

This newsletter is brought to you by:

IEEE Foothill Section July ExCom/OpCom Meeting

Prepared by: Max Cherubin | Proofread by: Prof. Gerald Herder

The IEEE Foothill Section July ExCom/OpCom Meeting was held as scheduled. However, due to unforeseen circumstances in the schedules and computer connections of the three leaders, the meeting did not go as planned. Some members were present, and David Gonzalez tried to facilitate the meeting.

Because of the officers' situation, there wasn't an official meeting because, according to the bylaws, leader officers are not available. It is considered informal and unofficial.

IEEE Foothill Section August ExCom/OpCom Meeting

The IEEE Foothill Section held its August monthly meeting on August 13 via Zoom. All the leaders were present, and the meeting went on as planned.

The section now has a new meeting schedule. It will be on the second Thursday of every month. That was actually proposed last June and would take effect by July. It started last July; however, due to unforeseen circumstances involving the officers, they were unable to acknowledge the new schedule. So by this month, it went as planned.

The chair also announced that the section finally received its annual rebates for both the section and its students. He also reminded the chapter and student officers of the requirements to qualify for the yearly rebate.

The section also includes a new rule for those applying for senior elevation. They must attend at least 3 OpCom meetings (either virtual or in person) and a meet-and-greet with the section officers/members.

The chair also mentioned that the MOU for SusTech 2027 was signed and approved.

The section also has a ready-made certificate or certificate template for event speakers and attendees. He also reminded the student branch to have an active website.

Membership Development

Kim Mosley reported. We had a good turnout. We are at 959, up from last month's 915. We also had two senior elevation candidates who are looking for references. As noted in the Chair's remarks at the start of the meeting, the new rules require that they attend at least 3 OpCom meetings and a meet-and-greet. We had two candidates present: Lokesh Ramesh and Rakan Alhourani.

Technical Committees

Ed/CASS. Bo Chen and Richard Fung reported. The chapter will receive $1,640 in funding from CASS. This award was recognized for the chapter's continued development, including in academia and the professional industry. Bo is still planning the next events for the chapter that would benefit not just the chapter but also the section. Topics that include semiconductor devices, photonics, advanced photonic integration, or optical interconnects for AI infrastructure. They will also receive funding from FET100 Committee.

MTT/APS. Osman Ceylan reported. There's an upcoming conference in Japan that is a student design competition. If he can't organize a team, he will organize the oscillator one, and it is supported by TC3. TC3 will provide a $1,000 sponsorship for this competition. The winner gets 50,000 yen, which is roughly $300. There will also be a full-day workshop consisting of 12 speakers.

ComSoc. Tamer Omar reported. His vice chair, Sanjoy Moulik, was supposed to report but left early due to other errands. He said there will be an event that Sanjoy is working on. It will be around the third week of September, Wednesday or Tuesday evening, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Probably just a virtual setup. The topic is *"How should Young Students Prepare to face the Job Market in the Age of AI."* It's like a panel-discussion-type presentation. More details will be presented at the next meeting.
Regarding SCSET, he has some good news and some bad news. For some reason related to renovation, Kellogg West will not be able to host the venue. That is one thing that Prof. Tamer is working on these days since they still have a few months to prepare.
The good news, on the other hand, is that he had 50 submissions. They are also checking methods to work with IEEE Explorer.

PES. Koji Yamashita reported. They had a webinar last month, and he invited one speaker from Serbia. She talked about the Fundamentals of Load Modeling and Power Quality in Modern Distribution Systems. They had a total of 10 people attend. They had two cancellations from one speaker, but he finally confirmed his availability to speak by the end of this month, specifically on August 26. Until the end of this year, he has reserved speakers from Samoa, Fiji, Brazil, the UK, and the US.

Last month, Koji attended the PES Chapter training during the HRP General Meeting on July 19, where he learned how to use vTools and OU analytics, and how to write up the annual report to earn more awards. So they're currently in the mid-tier, and they got $400 last year or this year, but hopefully by next year they will receive $1,000. During the training, he met a potential speaker; he is the chair of the San Francisco Section. Koji is the first to send out a certificate template from the section.

CN. Nick Ng reported. They had the consultants' meeting with Robert Assa as the speaker for the Basics of Business Startup. The feedback is good. He wants to transfer all the recordings to the website, but Osman said the website only has limited megabytes for recordings. They suggested having it saved on YouTube. On September 2, they will have Dr. Rakan Alhourini as the speaker.

Art Sutton will go to Glasgow, Scotland, to represent the section at the Section Congress 2026. We wish him all the best of luck for this trip.

Student Branch

CBU. Jacob Jones reported. They held an event last semester where a South Edison engineer came to review some resumes. They also plan to have them every semester, hope to recruit more members for the club, and might fly some drones.

CPP. Tirth Thakkar reported. They are proposing to have a room or office renovation with the help of section funding. Their goal is to improve asset management and secure the appropriate space and resources to house all the equipment they purchased for the club, and the section is willing to support them in this effort. They just have to follow the appropriate process to request funding. Ryan Mascola also reported. He presented their Mechanical Keyboard project. It is a student-led design project. It's designing a mechanical keyboard. It is a type of keyboard that uses mechanical switches instead of a rubber membrane, and it is something so popular with students these days because they are customizing or creating different variations. It is something they are looking for just on the PCB, and they are trying to turn this into a PCB Design Project where they actually lay out how the keyboard switches are placed on the board.

Last year, they ran this project for one semester; they had about 40 participants, and most of them had no experience with PCB design before. They learned many basic skills and used them to create a keyboard. As for the skills taught, they had 11 meetings throughout their spring semester. Those meetings focused on introducing members to PCB design software and bringing them to a level where they could use software like KiCAD and Altium to design these keyboards.



DeVry University-SoCal. Prof. Nazila Safavi reported. She successfully filed all event reports in vTools. The section sponsored their Mini Project on AI, Cybersecurity, and Robotics, and Nazila presented their robot, although it's not finished yet. She also asked what the minimum number of members needed to qualify for a rebate is, and Prof. Herder said they need at least 12 active members.

IEEE SCSET Conference 2026:
Call for Student Posters

Poster Submission Deadline: Nov. 10, 2026
Finalist Notification: Nov 20, 2026
Final Poster/Presenter Confirmation: Nov. 20, 2026
Live Contest Session: Dec. 2, 2026

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Reported by: Art Sutton, IEEE Foothill Section Section Congress 2026 representative

Every three years IEEE holds a Section Congress and 2026 was the year for a Congress. The Section Congress was in Glasgow, Scotland. Every section is encouraged to have a representative and it was well attended. IEEE is a transitional organization and is readily apparent. The region that seemed without as much representation was now forming north Asia.

A major function of the congress is to acquaint attendess on the many functions and organizarions of the IEEE. There were many, many booths and presentations doing that.

Candidates for 2026 President made presentations. Voting ends October at 12 eastern time. To make sure your vote counts, vote by the end of September. One can vote on-line.

In one sense voting seems unimportant. The IEEE procedure pretty much ensures that any candidate making it to the ballot excellent. But the more the membership has a part in the procedure, the more likely this will continue.

A major task of section congress is to choose three priorities to be accomplished in the three years before the next Section Congress. Each one will be discussed in future articles.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) was founded in 1962 when the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the Instiurte of Radio Engineers (IRE) merged.

While the AIEE was geographical oriented due to the many members associated with local utilities, the IRE was by its nature transnational and having the IRE meant that the IEEE started as transnational organization with 10 regions.

The United States formed Regions 1-6, Canada, Region 7, and the rest of the Western Hemisphere, Region 9, Europe and Africa, Region 8, Asia and Region 10.

This will change, January 1, 2028. There will still be 10 Regions, now numbered 2-11. The United States now forms five regions, Regions 2-6. (California remains in Region 6). Regions 8 and 9 are unchanged, but Asia will be split into Region 10 (North Asia) and Region 11 (South Asia and the Pacific).

IEEE joins Animatronics at the 2026 Worldcon in Anaheim California

Reported by: David Gonzalez, Chair of SoCal Council



David Gonzalez and to the right personnel from Garner Holt Education

Report from Anaheim Convention Center, August 27-31, 2026

Members from IEEE Southern California Council representing Orang County and Foothill Section successfully engaged a broad audience at the 2026 World Science Fiction Convention, LA Con, continuing its outreach efforts. Spearheaded by David Gonzalez, chair of Southern California Council and Rebecca Orens, IEEE Staff, the booth featured a unique collaboration with Garber Holt Productions, bringing mechatronic characters like Spark-E (Garner Holt Education Automation) and Grogu (from Star Wars *'The Mandalorian'* movie) were brought to life. These animatedfigures captivated attendees, effectively communicating IEEE's mission and sparking interest in technology. A student Science Fiction (SciFi) writing competition, organizedby Alberto Tam Yong, further enriched the events, with winners My Le and Arthur Alcocer showcasing "The Memory Cartographer", a groundbreaking concept blending neuroscience and AI. IEEE leaders also actively particiapted, staffing the booth and contributing to panels on AI ethics and digital storage, reinforcing the organization's commitment to technological advancement and public engagement.

We had many volunteers from the member sections of the Southern California council as well as some dignitaries from IEEE, like Tom Coughlin, Tim Lee (both past IEEE presidents), Kathey Herring Hayashi (IEEE USE President-Elect), and Scott Tamashiro (IEEE Region 6 Director-elect). They helped "man" the IEEE booth and chat about IEEE with the public.

We distributed IEEE magazines, swag, brochures, and flyers. Our goal was to get the word out to the public and educate then on who and what is IEEE. We even had some active and past IEEE members from the public come by to chat about science and past experiences with IEEE. The convention was geared towards SciFi writers, artists, and fandom of all that SciFi. Many were impressed by our booth and posed with Gorgu, including some questionable characters.

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Left to right: Dr. Osman Ceylan, Ralph Hogan, Kathy Herring Hayashi, Dale Constable (Garner



Ralph Hogan and Tom Coughlin posting next to Spark-E



Grogu I am your Father

It took months for the organizing committee to make this happen, and we were able to pull this off with minimal complications. I would like to thank our IEEE volunteers and IEEE Region 6 and IEEE Galactica (pun intended) for working with organizing group. I would also like to thank the IEEE Foothill and Orange County sections for their generous donations to help fund our participation in this event.

the organizer of this year's event was so impressed with our participation, professionalism, exhibitions, and out booth. They asked that we participate next year. FYI: Next year will be the 85th World Science Fiction Convention will be in Montreal Canada, September 2-6, 2027. Even the neighboring booth from Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) were impressed with our booth and exhibits. All in all, considering the short time to organize and get IEEE participate in this events, it turned outto be very scuccessful.

Upcoming Events

IEEE FOOTHILL SECTION CONSULTANTS NETWORK SEPTEMBER MEETING

September 02, 2026

IEEE FOOTHILL SECTION EXCOM/OPCOM SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

September 10, 2026

IEEE FOOTHILL SECTION CONSULTANTS NETWORK OCTOBER MEETING

October 07, 2026

IEEE FOOTHILL SECTION EXCOM/OPCOM OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

October 15, 2026

SOCIAL MEDIA





Due to the unfortunate circumstances at Kellogg West, the conference won't be held there. It is still under discussion where it will be held. We will keep you posted. Rest assured, the conference committee is working on it, but all other events of this conference will go as scheduled.

You can also visit the SCSET website https://www.ieeescsetech.com/ to be updated on the latest happenings.