


**JULY 2011**
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## From the Secretary

After serving as a volunteer in the Washington DC Section from 2005-2009, it is my pleasure to be working with the IEEE Denver Committee as the 2011 Secretary.

The Section Secretary acts as the gateway between Section members and IEEE, having a leadership role in bringing members' needs to the Executive Committee (ExCom). Part of this role involves having accountability and ownership of Section records and correspondence, including maintaining meeting records, reporting officer changes, and submitting reports to IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA).

The Secretary's role is much more than record keeping – I am also a steward of the Section's history and future, bringing critical data to enable ExCom decision making and deliver real value to members who keep the Section engaged, relevant, and sustainable in the long term.

Section records are maintained and reviewed as part of the Secretary's ExCom work. Meeting minutes, Section Bylaws, Strategic Planning and Officer Duties can be found on the [Denver Section homepage \(Officer Resources\)](#) website.

As part of the ExCom Officer Committee I will be working to offer insight and value to our local IEEE programs. Over the past 15

years, my work with IEEE (COMSOC, Computer Society, DC AdCom) has provided many opportunities and I look forward to sharing the benefits of my experience. This is my 2<sup>nd</sup> tour of duty here in Colorado. My own career in Computer Science and Communications began with a Heathkit Z-100 PC purchased on 38<sup>th</sup> St. in Denver back in the early 1980's and assembled in the basement of a country home outside Boulder. Let's say, things have changed a bit since then!

Here's a peek at my own IEEE career – '[Around the World With IEEE 2006-2010](#)'.

Let's work together in 2011 and maintain the excitement and enthusiasm that makes IEEE such a great organization. I look forward to hearing from our membership.

Tim Weil  
2011 Denver Section Secretary



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## IEEE Region 5 Meeting Focuses on Strategic Planning, Budget, Policy and Member Program Initiatives

The IEEE Region 5 (R5) meeting was held in Baton Rouge, LA in April with 35 members representing the sections in the region. The three section chairs from the South Area were present. The outgoing Region 5 Director, Sandra Robinson, presided over the meeting. The Denver Section was represented by new R5 Director-Elect, Jim Jeffries, IEEE-USA VP Government Relations; Jim Look, R5 Western Area Representative and IEEE-USA VP Professional Activities; Jennifer Kramer, Denver Section GOLD Chair; and Tim Weil, Denver Section Secretary.

This year's Regional meeting was co-located with the R5 Green Technology Conference and Student Professional Activities (SPACs) events which ran earlier in the week. At the Saturday R5 Business Meeting a wide range of topics were presented including – Officer Reports, Finances, Educational Activities, Membership Development, Affiliate Group Reports (WIE, GOLD), and Professional Activities Committee for Engineering (PACE). Other reports were given on Career Development, IEEE Congressional Visits Day, and the R5 History projects. The R5 Business meeting also hosted a talk by IEEE-USA President Ron Jensen and a Candidates Forum teleconference for IEEE-USA President nominees Marc Apter and Nita Patel.

The representatives received a presentation on the awards program and were asked to submit names of deserving members for consideration of recognition for their support to IEEE. The lunch program featured a talk on Clean Fuels and Energy Management from George Roe, Senior Manager, Boeing Research and Technology. Throughout the day, there was the opportunity to watch Student Robotics teams competing in the SPAC program. The evening banquet also featured a guest speaker and recognition of SPAC competition teams and IEEE programs across the 26 R5 membership sections.

Region 5 has about 25,500 members of all levels and represents 7.5% percent of the IEEE membership. This gives us the opportunity to prepare good policy recommendations to take to the IEEE Sections Congress 2011 (SC2011) in San Francisco on August 19-22. The section chairs should ask their representatives to submit suggestions to R5 prior to SC2011. A caucus meeting of Region 5 will be held at SC2011 and all section chairs should plan to attend. The R5 budget for SC2011 is expensive and the sections are encouraged to support additional representatives attending SC2011.



From L-R: — Jim Look, Tim Weil, Jennifer Kramer (with R5 Outstanding Individual Achievement Award), Jim Jeffries

The goal for the new Region 5 officers for the next two years is to improve communications between members and share ideas. To do this, Region 5 has set in motion two initiatives: (1) promote the virtual community website (already online), and (2) maintain the Region 5 web page. Both tasks have been started and current information is being posted to help members stay in touch. In fact, the agenda and presentations from the R5 spring meeting are online for members' review and comments.

On the final day of meetings, an R5 Conference committee was held which discussed the current programs (SPAC, Green Technology Conference, and the R5 Regional meetings) as well as other programs across the Region. Significantly, the Denver Section was awarded the R5 Annual Conference for 2013 and plans have begun to form an organizing committee to manage this event (over 300 attendees with the SPAC and Green-Tech programs). The 2012 R5 Regional meeting will be hosted in Tulsa, OK.

Region 5 members will be hearing more about new policy issues, regional strategic plans, and opportunities to volunteer for Region 5 positions supporting sections in our area. An overview of the conference is available at the Region 5 portal - <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/5/> and through the R5 Community Portal (login required) - <http://ieee-region5.oc.ieee.org/>. To learn more, contact the Region 5 Western Area Chair, Jim Look, at [jim.look@ieee.org](mailto:jim.look@ieee.org) or Tim Weil, Denver Section Secretary at [secretary@ieee-denver.org](mailto:secretary@ieee-denver.org).

-Tim Weil

## Career Workshop Summary

IEEE Denver section had the opportunity to host a career workshop at DeVry University on May 14, 2011. The workshop was very successful.

IEEE-USA Employment and Career Services (ECS) Committee sent a team of six to host the workshop. The theme of the workshop was “Managing Your Career as a Business.” As IEEE-USA states: “Most people spend more time planning vacation than they spend planning a career. A vacation is over in a week, a career lasts a lifetime.”

Two primary speakers: Peggy G. Hutcheson, President of the Odyssey Group, Inc. and Ed Kirchner, Chair of IEEE-USA ECS Committee, conducted a very informative and interactive workshop. The business plan of your career should include:

- Background information – your resume
- Operational plan – performance management
- Marketing plan – networking
- Financial plan – your retirement goals



You are the owner of your business. The workshop was well received by all participants. Ed wants to thank everyone who joined the workshop. He promised to support IEEE Denver section for any future career and employment related services. Thank you, Ed!

- Louis Tsai

## Individual Achievement Award

At the 2011 IEEE Region 5 Annual Business Meeting, Jennifer Kramer, RF engineer at Ball Aerospace, was awarded the IEEE Region 5 Outstanding Individual Achievement award for 2010. The award recognizes substantive projects or achievements that have left an undeniable imprint on the fabric of IEEE within the region. Kramer received the award for her work with GOLD, which stands for Graduates of the Last Decade, an affinity group of young professional engineers within IEEE. Kramer was noted for re-energizing the GOLD affinity group in the Denver area. Specifically, she organized monthly networking events such as company tours and social activities for members who are within 10 years of receiving their first degree.

Kramer worked diligently to re-establish the Denver GOLD chapter after attending a few IEEE conferences. “I met a few GOLD chairs from other sections and at the time I was looking to IEEE to help me find some engineering friends and networks,” she explained. “The Den-

ver section didn’t have a GOLD group, so I asked if I could start one up.” She created a viable network for young professionals in Electrical Engineering and looks forward to helping it grow even larger.

As the student branch counselor for all of the colleges in the Denver section, she works with student groups giving them event ideas and speaker contacts and ensuring they have the resources they need to stay active. Kramer said she “loves working with students and getting them excited about the profession.” She joined the IEEE Denver section after serving as IEEE Student Branch chair at Ohio State University. “IEEE enables people to see a different side of engineering,” explained Kramer. “You quickly realize there’s more to being an engineer than just doing your job. We push STEM education and volunteering with K-12 students and encourage college students to volunteer at local schools and get involved in their communities. It’s neat to see them become inspired.”

(See Jennifer with award - Photo page 2)



## Congressional Visits Day

In April, Jill Arnson and I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and participate in the annual Congressional Visits Day (CVD). CVD is a two day event with the goal to allow participants to meet their Congressional representatives. We were allotted about 15 minutes per meeting; this year our message was to encourage federal government financial commitment to science and technology R&D funding. CVD is an event sponsored by more than 30 different companies, associations, and universities, including IEEE-USA.

Our message was muted due to the fact that our trip coincided with the week long voting impasse in both the House and Senate on *last year's* federal budget bill (known as House Bill – H.B.– 1). In essence, late last year the America Competes Act (ARRP) was re-authorized (this act contained authorization for science and technology R&D funding); however, the appropriations for this act was tied into H.B.1. Subsequently, to pass the budget bill several of the original appropriations in the ARRP act were either reduced or eliminated.

Staff members of representatives that we met with were: Colorado Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran, Colorado Representatives Jared Polis and Diana DeGette, and Kansas Representative Mike Pompeo. While our message might not have had the desired impact, it was educational and fascinating to watch our government in action!

- Matt Oetting



From L-R: Mark Olive IEEE-Region 5 (Kansas), Sean Coleman, Staff for House Rep. Jared Polis (Co D-2<sup>nd</sup>), Matt Oetting IEEE-Region 5 (Colorado), Jill Arnson IEEE-Region 5 (Colorado)

## DSST Scholarship



IEEE Denver continues to support Denver School of Science Technology (DSST) Public Schools. DSST is widely considered to be one of the leading open-enrollment STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) school networks in the United States.

DSST student Devin Cockerille was presented on May 13 with an IEEE certificate and \$300 Scholarship for her leading efforts with the Go Green club for the past two years and making a tremendous impact.

## Spring Event Recap

The Spring Event was a grand success and a sold out event with over 70 people attending. The talk by Greg Holsclaw was fascinating and included facts about the LASP Mercury Messenger mission as well as planetary facts about Mercury. MESSENGER is an acronym for MERCURY Surface, Space, ENVIRONMENT, GEOCHEMISTRY, and RANGING. Did you know that since the first pictures in 1975, only 44% of Mercury's surface was mapped prior to the Messenger mission? The spacecraft was the first to orbit Mercury in March 2011 after 3 flybys and over 3 years since its launch in January 2008.

Employees of LASP gave attendees a tour of the facility including one of the largest clean rooms in the region. For more information on the mission, go to <http://lasp.colorado.edu/messenger/> or <http://messenger.jhuapl.edu>. Also stay tuned for info about our IEEE Fall Event coming soon!



Thank you to everyone that attended and thank you to Greg Holsclaw.

- Krista Hasling

## Colorado Governmental Affairs

The 120-day Colorado State Legislature adjourned on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, this year's legislative agenda was dominated by state budget finances. Specifically, the state was faced with another budget shortfall. This shortfall caused an acute reduction in state funds for higher education. The University of Colorado countered the reduction by raising tuition for full time resident undergraduates 9% at the Boulder campus, 7% at the Springs campus, and 9% at the Denver campus.

Although not as severe as higher education cuts, state fund reductions were also directed towards K-12 education. Currently Colorado faces a structural debt problem with K-12 education funding. Tax-base erosion under the Gallagher Amendment, property tax limits imposed by the school finance act and TABOR, and the mandated cost increases of Amendment 23 have shifted the burden of funding K-12 education substantially from local to state resources.<sup>1</sup> In an attempt to alleviate this structural imbalance, state senator Rollie Heath (D-Boulder) has proposed initiative #25 for inclusion on the November ballot. This initiative is to increase taxes for funding K-12 education. Specifically, this initiative would:

- increase state income tax from 4.63% to 5%
- increase the state sales-and-use tax from 2.9% to 3%
- limit the tax increases to a five-year period.



And finally, Governor John Hickenlooper recently co-chaired the "Bipartisan Governor's Summit" for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which issued a report that ranked Colorado second in the nation for the category of "top entrepreneurship and innovation." Within this category--one of five major categories--Colorado was <sup>2</sup>:

- First in small-business loan activity
- Second in research-and-development activity
- Second in high-technology business concentration
- Third in entrepreneurship activity
- Fifth in STEM-job growth (STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics)

### DID YOU KNOW ...

- Costs for the three largest General Fund State programs areas are: K-12 education, Medicaid, and corrections.

<sup>1</sup> General Fund Revenues and Expenditures: A Structural Imbalance, Center for Colorado's Economic Future, Feb. 25, 2011

<sup>2</sup> Enterprising States, Recovery and Renewal for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

- Matt Oetting

## IEEE Denver Section

### Mission Statement

Enrich the professional and personal lives of the Rocky Mountain Region members, developing them into valued contributors to society through quality programs, continuing education, career development and community service; in collaboration with IEEE, industry, government and academia.



The IEEE Denver Section is comprised of over 3600 engineers and technical professionals in the Denver - Boulder area.

<http://www.ieee-denver.com/>