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# The SunCoast Signal

**The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.**

**Vol. 67, No. 6, June 2021**

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### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**EXCOM**

**Tuesday, June 1, 2021**

**Google Meet**

**Register with vTools**

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/271870>

## PE Corner

**Art Nordlinger, PE**

### **Senior Member Confusion Over CAs**

Once upon a time (I've been looking for an opportunity to begin a column that way) the Florida Statutes included an engineering license for engineering companies called a Certificate of Authorization, or CA for short. A firm performing Engineering as defined by statute was required to have a CA and renew that every two years, including paying a fee, just like licenses were renewed.

In 2019 the Statute (Section 471.023 F.S.) was changed, replacing CAs with a business registry maintained by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. All CAs were moved to the business registry and never need to be renewed. Even better news; the registry is free. New firms who don't have a CA register their business with the Board and are entered into the registry. Unfortunately, this has apparently created some confusion, as the Board's staff is fielding inquiries regarding CA and registry renewals. As I mentioned, no renewal is required.

However, the registry does have some new requirements that went into effect in 2019. The major one is that each registered firm must name one or more qualified PEs for their registration, referred to as the Qualifying Engineer, who must be licensed in Florida. The PE's license is linked to the registry entry. The Qualifying Engineer must notify the Board within 30 days after any change in the information contained in the application upon which the qualification is based.

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Additionally, a Qualifying Engineer who terminates an affiliation with a qualified business organization must notify the Board of such termination within 24 hours of the termination; a very short window.

If that Qualifying Engineer is the only qualifying agent for that business organization, the business organization must name another Qualifying Engineer within 60 days after the termination. Generally, the business organization may not engage in the practice of engineering until it is qualified by another Qualifying Engineer.

However, in the event a Qualifying Engineer ceases employment with a qualified business organization and that Qualifying Engineer is the only licensed individual affiliated with the business organization, the Board's Executive Director may authorize another licensee employed by the business organization to temporarily serve as its Qualifying Engineer for a period of no more than 60 days to proceed with incomplete contracts. The business organization is not authorized to operate beyond such period absent replacement of the Qualifying Engineer.

Hopefully, the details of this change will become more widespread and better understood, the confusion regarding the replacement of CAs will be in the rearview mirror, and the business registry with its Qualifying Engineers will live happily ever after.

Whether you are a PE looking to attain required CEHs, or an engineer looking to learn something new or keep current with the latest trends in the profession, IEEE has seminars that will meet your needs.



## **GRID EDGE TECHNOLOGY: TECO & EMERA TECHNOLOGIES PARTNER ON RESIDENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLOCK ENERGY SMART PLATFORM – LUNCH & LEARN**

**Date:** Thursday, July 8, 2021  
**Time:** Seminar: 12:00PM – 1:00PM – Lunch & Learn  
**Speaker:** Phil Zinck, M.Sc., PE, Senior Electrical Engineer, Emera/Tampa Electric  
**Location:** Online – meeting invitation will be emailed to attendees prior to seminar – Please ensure your email is correct on signup page.  
**Cost:** Free  
**CEH Credits:** No CEH's provided for this lunch and learn. Florida provider #0003849.  
**RSVP:** Online at: <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/269939>  
**Questions:** Robert DeMelo - [Robert.demelo@ieee.org](mailto:Robert.demelo@ieee.org)

### **Your local IEEE PES/IAS Chapter is offering this exciting Lunch and Learn:**

**Abstract:** The emergence of microgrids with embedded energy sources ("prosumer") to provide increased reliability and resiliency in the supply of energy to customers is not a new concept. One of the challenges with these systems - in particular, where the energy source is "behind-the-meter rooftop PV" - is the strain it places on the business structure that regulators require utilities to work within as these types of PV systems continue to grow.

Additionally, the "typical" microgrid is an extension of the utility AC distribution network when interconnected to the grid (normal configuration) thus prone to the power quality and resiliency issues that come with the AC grid.

A novel microgrid concept has been developed that addresses these issues and provides additional benefits by utilizing DC as its distribution network, with all energy sources owned and operated by the utility. Tampa Electric has embarked on a Pilot Project to implement such a system.

This presentation will walk through a general overview of this novel microgrid concept with a few of its key features highlighted, the processes and challenges in the creation of this Pilot Project, and some early lessons learned.

**Speaker:** Phil is a Senior Member of the IEEE and is Incoming Chair for the Cigre Canada Executive Committee. Phil has a progressive career spanning 33 years with demonstrated experience and expertise in industrial and utility power system design, power system analysis, start-up and commissioning with emphasis on Protection and Control systems and schemes.

He has successfully filled various major project contract management and Operations roles with power utilities and engineering consultants including engineering technical support, risk and interface management, QA/QC, site construction and commissioning lead. Most recently Phil was the Emera Contract Lead for the ABB HV<sub>DC</sub> and HV<sub>AC</sub> Stations as part of the 500 MW, +/-200 kV Maritime Link Project. Currently Phil is working for Emera Inc, managing the implementation of the first DC Renewable Microgrid into Tampa Electric's residential distribution network.

## So You Are Not A Senior Member Yet??

I would like to report that the month of April was an extremely successful month because we received the responses of many candidates who after reading my article in The Signal and my Eligibility Notification Emails, became interested in being elevated to the rank of Senior Member and we were energized by this response. We had 33 IEEE Members Elevated to Senior Member Rank on this occasion which brought about a remarkably interesting demand for change to the traditional method of elevating our candidates.

But before I tell you about what we did to upgrade the Senior Member Elevation Process, let me tell you who the new Senior Members are because we have various fields of action represented in their professional careers. We have Consultants, Electrical Engineers, Software Engineers, Security Experts, Network Engineers, Academicians and Juris Doctors representing the professions that IEEE supports in this Senior Member Program.

**Please join me in congratulating the following new Senior Members of IEEE and extending to them our congratulations and warmest wishes for a continued successful career under their Senior Member Rank:**

Abadia, Guillermo  
Adla, Rawa PhD  
Ambrosio, Ronald  
Aristizabal, Diana  
Banisakher, Mubarak PhD  
Baronet, Michael  
Booth, Francis  
Breen, John  
Cabuz, Cleopatra PhD

Carr, Raymond  
Chavan, Govind PhD  
Connelly, Patrick JD  
Denny, Sean  
Deyanju, Vincent  
Farquhar, Lou  
Field, Phillip  
Glynn, Kevin  
Gruberman, Randal

Haley, Tina M  
Hall, Steven  
Heidrich, Peter  
Helt, Robert  
Hess, Melvin JD  
Mahmood, Hisham PhD  
Mingzhu Lu PhD  
Paryag, Rishi  
Patruno, Dominic

Quiles, Gabriel  
Ramos, Paul  
Rocha, Leandro PhD  
Schmidt, Robert JD  
Yavuz, Attila PhD  
Zayas-Castro, Jose PhD

To accommodate so many candidates for the Senior Member interviews, Andy Seely/SMEC Vice-Chair recommended the use of Virtual interviews using the Zoom program so we followed this route and invited all candidates to participate on two separate dates, on a Saturday when everyone is free from work and other tasks to meet at a designated time so that they could meet their assigned Senior Member Reference providers and discuss their careers and resumes with them.

Fortunately, Zoom provides breakout rooms where all could be relegated to and have their conversations with their reference providers and through prior scheduled invitations every candidate was able to meet with them. Once this was done, the providers were able to fill out the candidates' applications and complete the elevation process on the spot. All new Candidates were approved and became Senior Members at the Admissions and Advancement Committee Review Meeting on April 17, 2021.

The new campaign will begin on 05/05/2021 and the next meeting of the A&A Committee will take place on June 26, 2021 when we expect all of you who are eligible to advance to the Senior Member Rank, to submit your request to me in writing including your newly updated resume showing the properly formatted dates showing your accomplishments (Start-End mm/yyyy) at which time I will respond to you and start your elevations process.

I look forward to receiving your Senior Member Elevation request.

**Hermann Amaya, Senior Member  
Senior Member Elevation Committee Chair/  
Founder  
[hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org](mailto:hermann.amaya.us@ieee.org)**

## ROBOFEST 2021

ROBOFEST 2021 was historic due to the fact it was the first virtual online competition. It was spread out between two weekends. On April 24th, the volunteers for *Robofest Virtual Part 1: The Game* logged on to ZOOM at 8:30am. The Game was officially referred to as "Stack and Roll." One of the student teams appeared to be at Clearwater Library and others were at homes or schools. The Students were instructed to stack rolls of bathroom tissue on a table. Michael Okneski was one of the judges.

Emma Alaba organized a ZOOM meeting for the *Robofest Virtual Part 2: Awards Ceremony* on May 1. The Award ceremony began at 9am and Robofest Director Dr. Christopher Cartwright and Shannan Palonis presenting the trophy to the winning team, Clearwater TEK, from the Stack and Roll Game on April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Memorial Certificates were presented for deceased volunteers like Bill Collins (IEEE), Juanita Andrews, Bill Waggener (IEEE), Stan Kowski, and Victoria Alaba who each helped Robofest throughout the last decade. Rose Mack described them as her angels after a memorial tribute video was run.

Emma posted the results on the Web:

***Congratulations to all the coaches, teams, parents and volunteers!!!***

***Hard work and perseverance got you to the finish line - Gold.***

***The 1st Online Robofest Qualifying Competition in the Tampa Bay area and Florida.***

***Teams, celebrate your STEM achievements, gift cards and prizes - - - and please, **ENJOY YOUR PARTY**, you earned it.***

***Congratulations Clearwater TEK, 1st Place Winner - Game StackRolls - Advance to World Championship.***

***Check out the videos on Facebook.***

***Advancing to World Championship US Teams***

- ***All Place Award-Winning teams from each US Qualifying competition will automatically advance to the World Championship Competition (Format and Date TBD)***

- ***Other teams from Qualifying competitions who would like a second chance to qualify for World Championship may register to compete again at one of several Round 2 (2nd chance) Online Qualifier Events to be scheduled during the months of May ~ July, 2021***

***§ Teams must register with a new team number and pay a new registration fee to be eligible to compete***

***§ Teams will be eligible to receive a Participation Certificate and Medal § Total number of teams advancing from the Round 2 Qualifiers to the World Championship will be decided by the team's scores. (Page 31 General Rules).***

***Thank you everyone and be safe.***

***See you on Zoom at the Online World Championship....***

***Emma Alaba***

## IEEE USF Student Branch Leadership Scholarship

Our USF Student Branch formally announces the creation of the IEEE USF Student Branch Leadership Scholarship. This initiative aims to reward students who are leaders amongst their peers, plan to better society for all through their engineering journey, and those of whom are actively involved with the student branch. This scholarship will award two (2) students a single \$500 allotment to aid their current university tuition payments.

Our USF Student Branch has donated \$5,000 for its creation and pledges to donate more funds each year until endowment (\$25,000) is reached.

We are seeking the support of the IEEE members both in the Florida West Coast Section and abroad. We are asking for donations to benefit this program. If you are interested in donating, please visit:

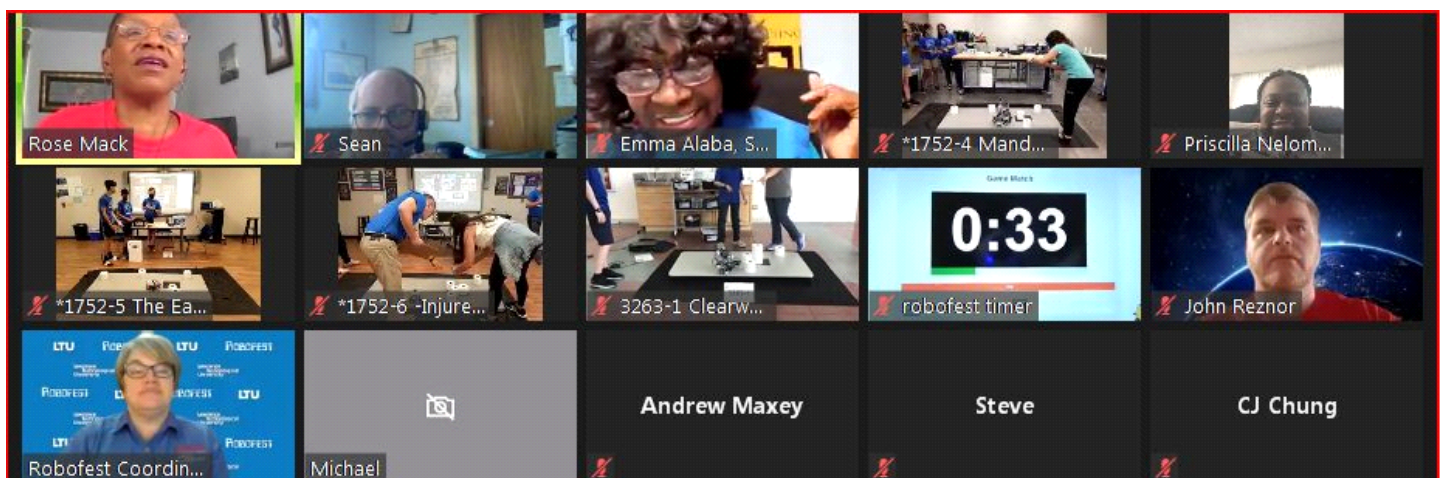
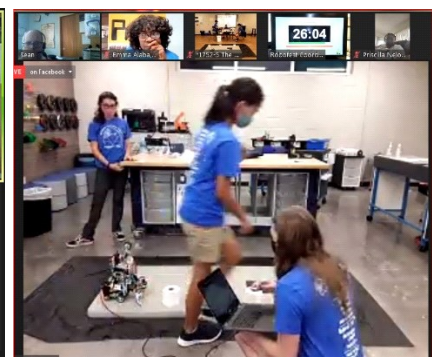
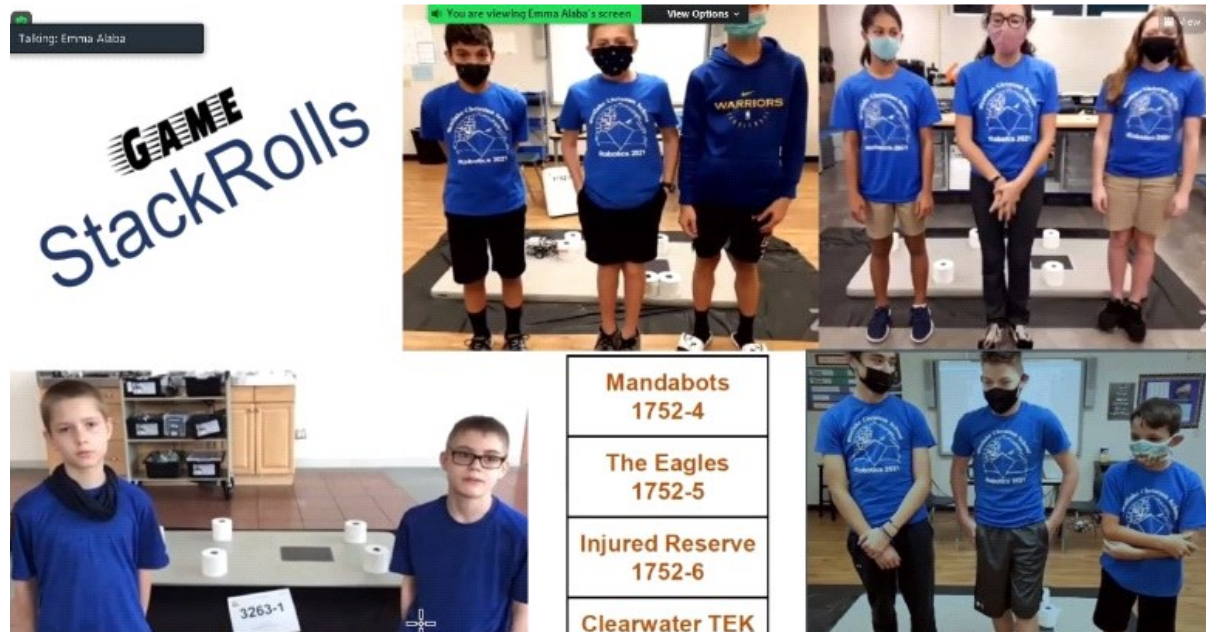
**<https://giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/220151>**

Due to our non-profit status as an organization, all donations are tax-exempt. If you have any questions or want to get more involved in our activities as a student branch, please contact:

**Noah Hamilton (Student Branch Chair) at:**

**[ieeeusfchair@gmail.com](mailto:ieeeusfchair@gmail.com)**





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<b>3/4 Page</b>	\$110	\$143	\$530	\$663	\$925	\$1,110
<b>Full Page</b>	\$140	\$182	\$670	\$838	\$1,175	\$1,410
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 Or Fax your address changes to (732) 562-5445

### June 2021 - Calendar of Events *(For more information see Page 1 in this Signal)*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		*EXCOM Google Meet				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	*Signal Inputs Due					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			