

## It's Going to Cost You

Tom Coughlin  
Region 6 Director

At a recent IEEE Board of Directors meeting an increase of the member assessment for Region 6 members was approved. The assessment will increase from \$1 per member to \$3 per member (a \$2 per member dues increase for Region 6 IEEE members) starting with the 2016 IEEE membership year. I wanted to let you know why we have taken this step and what we plan to do with the additional Region 6 money that this increase will provide.

IEEE Region 6 was for several decades supported by very successful industry conferences, in particular the annual Wescon (Western Electronics Show and Convention), which provided connections between component and system manufacturers and design engineers. Region 6, in combination with the Los Angeles IEEE Council and the San Francisco Bay Area IEEE Council were the owners of Wescon. Wescon provided money not only for Region 6 and the two councils, but for all the sections throughout Region 6. This was a rich source of funding for all types of IEEE activities in our region. The last Wescon was held in 2005.

In 2004 the IEEE approved a \$1 assessment for IEEE members in Region 6. There was no assessment before that date. Region 6 has had the lowest assessment of any of the 10 IEEE regions for many years. This assessment money provided funding to partially replace the much larger influx of money that Wescon used to provide and to fund that various activities we have in Region 6 to develop technology for the benefit of humanity as well as promote the value of the IEEE and IEEE membership.

Region 6 has embarked on a number of activities to add value to our members and to create technology for the benefit of humanity. These include our conferences: the annual Global Humanitarian Technology Conference, the Sustainable Technologies Conference, the Rising Stars Conference for young engineers and our new on-line Career and Talent Expo, now underway. We have also embarked on a chapter meeting recording initiative, including training and hosting the presentations in a searchable web site and we have been funding more PACE activities in Region 6 than every before in the recent history of the Region. We think these activities are investments in our members that will eventually pay for themselves, but it can take a bit of time to get these activities off the ground.

So your \$2 membership dues increase for Region 6 will help us to create more value for you and other IEEE members and create opportunities to create a better world. We welcome any thoughts or suggestions that you may have and if you would like to work with us on any of our projects please let us know. The real value that our members contribute is their time, in the end this is a much greater investment than their membership dues. If you wish to contact me my email is [tom@tomcoughlin.com](mailto:tom@tomcoughlin.com).