

## **No Limits**

There are limits to physical resources. There are limits to time and space (regardless of how many universes there are). But to the prepared mind, there are no limits to knowledge and imagination. This is what allows us to continue developing new insights into the way the world works and to develop new technologies that utilize these insights.

We can accomplish amazing things with a reasoned optimistic attitude. There is more to be learned than has ever been learned. There is more to do than has ever been done. There is a greater need than ever before for those who know how to make things and do things, the engineers. There is work to do, and you are the people who have the knowledge and experience to do it.

In today's world it is difficult to work for one company for all of your life. Company's change and people regularly move from one employment to another. It is also not uncommon to spend some time working as a consultant, either full or part time. More than ever before, having a network of contacts and sources and continuous education can help you continue to work and contribute.

You may not be able to stay with one employer for all your life, but you can remain an IEEE member, no matter your employment situation. The IEEE is the largest professional organization in the world and can provide you with continuing education to keep your technical and management skills sharp. It also provides you with networking opportunities as well as insurance and other services than can be important if you find yourself running your own business.

Our goal in 2016 is to reverse the trend of annual declines since 2001 in Region 6 IEEE membership. We want you to remain a member of the IEEE and hope that you can help us get fellow members to renew. For that reason we are planning to repeat the membership retention micro-volunteering activity that we started last year (email to sign up for participation is given below). There is much for us to do and we need you to help us make these things happen.

Retaining student and young professional members is a key element in our drive to increase IEEE membership in the region. We are offering a new service to our members, MentorNet, that allows experienced IEEE members to connect with student members and help us retain student members and young professionals (mentors may also learn a thing or two from the younger members). We will provide a link to participate in this program in the February Region 6 enotice.

Recognizing our members' achievements and contributions is another important element in member retention. This year we will be promoting senior member advancement in the Region and plan to exceed our 2016 senior membership advancement goal—we came close in 2015. We will also be spending more money on PACE activities in the region that provide networking and other opportunities for

regular members and student members and also supports STEM events for future members. We plan to get more engaged in Maker Faires and other STEM and technical hobbyist activities in 2016. Our efforts in humanitarian activities are expanding and the IEEE can provide you with ways to work with others to use technology to benefit humanity.

Below are some links to get involved in IEEE Region 6 activities that will increase our membership and enrich our community.

Email to join the Region 6 membership retention campaign in 2016: Chris Wright (wright.c@ieee.org)

Sign up link to volunteer for IEEE Region and Section activities on the Region 6 web site: <http://ieee-region6.org>

- Senior membership advancement (we need senior members to help other senior members advance)
- Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) activities for K-12 students and hobbyists in the region and local sections such as Maker Faires, Future Cities and First Robotics
- Humanitarian activities in the region and in local Special Interest Groups in Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT)
- Other IEEE Region 6 initiatives

We hope that you remain a member of the IEEE and join us to create a vibrant professional organization that meets your needs and advances technology for humanity!

**Tom Coughlin, IEEE Region 6 Director**