IEEE LIFE members newsletter

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APRIL 2026

# Chairman's Corner

*Teofilo Ramos*
*LMC Chair 2026*

Greetings to all,

As mentioned in the December Newsletter issue, my term as Chair LMC started on January 1, 2026 and first, I would like to recognize and thank the valuable contributions and excellent work done by the previous committee chaired by Rajendra Asthana and his entire team. As customary some members leave the committee every year and some new members Join, thus I wish all the best to outgoing members, Howard Wolfman Past chair and David Thomson and welcome new incoming members Manuel Castro and John Purvis. Details of Life Member Committee can be found here in the newsletter and in our LM website.

Welcome to the 3,372 new Life Members who by their length of IEEE membership and age have earned the status of IEEE Life Member. As January 1. 2026, we have 39,422 IEEE Life Members. The number of Life Members Affinity Groups (LMAG) grew by 19, making total of 200 LMAGs worldwide and a record 1,541 activities were reported by LMAGs. Please refer to the map contained in the LM website at: https://life.ieee.org/affinity-groups/ to locate your Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG). If your location does not have an LMAG, I encourage you to contact your local Section Chair and ask about forming an LMAG. For guidance in forming an LMAG, Peter Magyar, the LMC LMAG committee chair can be contacted at Peter Magyar <peter.magyar@online.de>.

The 2026 LMC Goals and Projects to better serve you, our members, the IEEE and Society, include some of the following (more about these goals and projects in the newsletter or other communications):

- delivering on strategic roadmap, a number Priority Life Member Program Initiatives aligned with the MGA Goals

IEEE Life members

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

and updating roadmap for 2027–2028;
- increasing Life Members' visibility, reach, and volunteering;
- expanding Life Members impact and fellowship through active affinity groups;
- enabling leadership development within IEEE;
- driving IEEE framework for career readiness in partnership with SAC and YP;
- launching reimagined Leadership Conference in partnership with WIE;
- promote Group Mentorship globally;
- expanding Life Members' philanthropic contributions to IEEE;
- conduct a study to identify several key LMC Special Interest Groups;
- newsletter and website communication.

*Teofilo Ramos*
*2026 Life Member Committee Chair*
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# 10 Reasons You Need to Make a Valid Will

Are you among the 60 percent of Americans who don't have a valid will or estate plan? Here are 10 reasons this task is too important to delay!

1) **If You Die Intestate, the Government Takes Over.** When you die without a will (intestate), the court will decide who gets what. It doesn't matter that you promised your classic car to your brother, or your house to your second wife; if it's not recorded in a valid will, the court makes the decision for you.
2) **It's Not Just For Rich People.** No matter how much or how little you have, you should make a plan to distribute your assets after you pass. If you have no heirs, you can gift your assets to benefit a cause in which you believe. If you don't, the court will decide where your money goes.
3) **It Settles Custody Disputes.** If you have children, you need to designate a legal guardian in case both parents/legal guardians die. If not, the court will decide for you.
4) **It's a Source of Comfort.** Writing a valid will means you'll know your final wishes will be respected and the people and causes you care about will be looked after.
5) **It Can Bring You and Your Spouse Closer.** Writing a will is a chance to reflect on your life together; the things you care about, the things you've accomplished, and the things you still hope to do.
6) **It's a Way To Take Care of a Spouse, Partner, Child, or Grandchild.** Writing allows you to make provisions to care for a loved one after you're gone. That can include support for the special needs of children or grandchildren, especially if they face costly illnesses or disabilities.
7) **It Settles Family Disputes.** If you designate who gets what

in a legal will, "Aunt Peggy" can't argue with "Cousin Fred" over who gets Grandma's cherished china set and basket collection.

8) **You'll Ease Your Family's Grief.** If you die without a will, your family will have to untangle your affairs, guess at any gift intentions, and spend a lot of time, money, and effort in probate court while the government settles your estate.

9) **You'll Be Able To Choose an Executor.** If you don't have a will, the court will decide who is in charge of handling your final affairs. It won't matter if you had a loved one or a trusted family friend in mind, because it wasn't recorded in a legal document.

10) **You Won't Lose Power Over Your Legacy.** If you die without a will, you'll lose the chance to invest in your own legacy by designating a gift to support your favorite causes. But if you create a will, you'll have the opportunity to have a big impact on the future of the IEEE Foundation, with no impact on your day-to-day cash flow. Additionally, everyone who includes the IEEE Foundation in their estate plan is welcome to join the Foundation's estate planning donor recognition group, the IEEE Goldsmith Legacy League.

## The IEEE Foundation Can Help

Are you ready to create a valid will or estate plan? Want to learn more about the process?

As you plan your estate affairs, consider the impact of including charities, such as the IEEE Foundation, as beneficiaries. If you're interested in learning more about how your will can help fulfill your philanthropic goals, click here or contact Danny DeLiberato, Development Officer, at +1 732.562.5446 or e-mail at d.deliberato@ieee.org.

*This article is intended to provide general gift planning information. Our organization is not qualified to provide specific legal, tax, or investment advice, and this publication should not be looked to or relied upon as a source for such advice. Consult with your own legal and financial advisors before making any gift.*

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# The IEEE History Center Partners in Preserving and Promoting the History of IEEE

*Michael Geselowitz, Senior Director*

Since the inception of IEEE in its modern form in 1963, the IEEE History Committee has reported to the IEEE Board of Directors and carried out its mission to preserve and promote the History of IEEE, its members and their fields of interest. Among its other responsibilities, the History Committee oversees a number of recognition programs, the most important of which is the **IEEE Milestones Program**. Among the others are several fellowships and prizes, two of which are supported by the IEEE Life Members Fund: The **IEEE Life Members' Fellowship in Electrical History**, which supports a year of graduate or early postgraduate writing; and the **Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize**, which is funded jointly with the Society for the History of Technology and recognizes the best paper annually in the history of IEEE's fields of interest.

The 2025-2026 IEEE Life Member Fellowship winner is Michelle Spektor of MIT, who is working "Making Biometric Citizens: Technology and Power from the British Empire to the Digital Age."

The 2025 Finn Prize was awarded to Boyd Ruamcharoen of Harvard University for his paper "Tropicalizing the Portable Radio: Electronics and the U.S. Military's Battle against Fungi in the Pacific War," *Technology and Culture* 65(2), April 2024:497-529.

In 1980, a professional staff unit, the IEEE History Center, was created to support the History Committee and, under History Committee strategic guidance, to run specific heritage programs, such as **Oral History, the Engineering & Technology History Wiki (ETHW), the IEEE REACH Program (pre-university curricular materials), the IEEE Archives, Outreach & Scholarly**


**Engagement**, and, most recently, the **IEEE Global Museum.**

From the beginning, individual IEEE life members and the IEEE Life Members Committee have been the staunchest supporters of the History Center's activities. In 2025, two specific grants were awarded by the Life Member Committee, for **Oral History** and for the **IEEE Global Museum**.

The IEEE Oral History Program is a collection of almost 900 interviews of key contributors to IEEE's fields of interest. Most of these are IEEE life members. The edited and approved transcripts are posted on the ETHW), and the audio and/or video are preserved for other potential outreach uses. In 2025, Dr. Mary Ann Hellrigel, the manager of the Oral History Program, participated in IEEE Life Members Evolution Conference in Boston in June, presenting a workshop on conducting oral history which included two demonstration interviews. A US$2,000 grant from the IEEE Life Member Fund enabled those interviews to be transcribed.

The IEEE Global Museum promotes an understanding of the impact of IEEE fields of interest upon society through traveling exhibits for IEEE members and the public, from a single treasured artifact to a full collection. In 2025, the first major traveling exhibit (designed for large public museums rather than IEEE conferences), "Unseen Signals: E. Howard Armstrong's Radio Revolution," moved from its first venue at the National Museum of Industrial History in Bethlehem, PA, USA, to its second venue at InfoAge Science & History Museums in Wall, NJ, USA, and the second exhibit, "Microchips that Shook the World," premiered at the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum in Attleboro, MA, USA.

A US$10,000 grant from the IEEE Life member Fund helped support "Our Mobile World," an exhibit consisting of two timeline game interactives, 6 interpretive panels, artifacts, and display hardware that traveled to several IEEE conferences.

As always, the IEEE History Committee and IEEE History Center are grateful for the support of the IEEE Life Members Committee. LM

# Nominations Now Open for Life Member Individual Service and LMAG Achievement Awards

Nomination Forms and Instructions for the Life Member Committee's Annual Awards program were posted on the Life Member Website (https://life.ieee.org/awards-fellowships/) and emailed to Regional Coordinators for distribution to LMAG Chairs on March 1. The deadline for submission of nominations to Regional LM Coordinator for the 2026 Awards program is April 15 (Regional LM Coordinators are listed at https://life.ieee.org/about/leadership/). Winners should be notified by June 2026.

Life Members are invited to nominate individuals in each Region who have performed superior service to the Life Member program (https://life.ieee.org/awards-recognition/life-members-individual-service/). The Region award winners will then compete with winners from the other Regions for a single Global Individual Service Award.

Life Members are invited to nominate a Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) in their Region that has provided superior service to their membership and to their

communities for the LMAG Achievement Award (https://life.ieee.org/awards-recognition/lmag-achievement-awards/). The Region award winners will then compete with winners from the other Regions for a single Global LMAG Achievement Award.

The 2 Global Winners will be honored at an award ceremony at some location to be determined.

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# 2025 Life Members Graduate Study Fellowships Announced

In 2025, the IEEE Educational Activities Board awarded two exceptional graduate students the Life Members Graduate Study Fellowship in Electrical Engineering.

Parker Megginson, the 2025 fellowship recipient, is pursuing his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech. His research focuses on optimizing micrometer-scale piezoelectric actuators for microelectromechanical systems. Guided by a personal mission to "make the world a better place through technology and innovation," Parker envisions a career rooted in teaching and mentorship—whether in academia or industry.

The fellowship may be renewed for a second year for recipients who demonstrate strong progress toward the same degree.

Mercy Chelangat Koech, the 2024 awardee, earned this distinction again in 2025. Mercy is a Ph.D. student at the University of Texas at Dallas Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science where her research explores the dynamic intersection of renewable energy, power electronics, and electrified transportation. She is driven by a commitment to "contributing to the collective advancement of the field through impactful research, collaborative innovation, and unwavering dedication to sustainability."

*Parker Megginson*

*Mercy Chelangat Koech*

Life Members Graduate Study Fellowship applications are currently being accepted for the 2026-2027 school year till the deadline of 4 May 2026. Learn more about the Fellowship and Submit Application using the hyperlink: https://life.ieee.org/awards-fellowships/fellowships/graduate-study-fellowship-in-electrical-engineering/.

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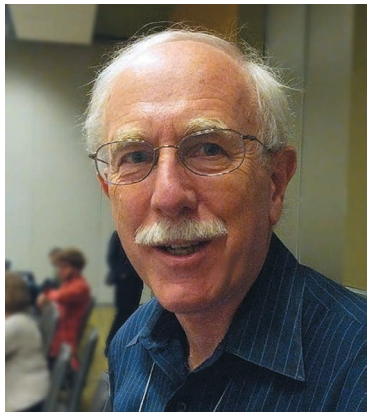
# 2026 James H. Mulligan, Jr. Education Medal Winner Announced

In December 2025, IEEE Life Fellow, Dr. James McClellan was announced as the recipient of the 2026 IEEE James H. Mulligan, Jr. Education Medal "For McClellan's fundamental contributions to electrical and computer engineering education through innovative digital signal processing".

James H McClellan received his B.S in 1969 in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University



followed by an M.S (1972) and PhD (1973) from Rice University. In 1973, McClellan joined the research staff of MIT's Lincoln Laboratory. In 1975, he became a professor at MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department before leaving to join Schlumberger Oil Field Services.

Since 1987, McClellan has been at the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 1987, he received the Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing Technical Achievement Award, IEEE Signal Processing Society Award in 1996, and the IEEE Jack S. Kilby Signal Processing Medal in 2004 (joint with Thomas W. Park). McClellan is widely known for his creation of the McClellan Transform and for his coauthorship of the Parks–McClellan filter design algorithm.

A welcome reception is being planned for James McClellan by IEEE on the evening of 23 April 2026, at the Marriott Marquis Time Square, Broadway, New York. IEEE is honoring him in an IEEE Awards Ceremony on 24 April 2026, with invited guests at Cipriani 42nd Street, in Midtown Manhattan.

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# LMAG Activity Reports

## Atlanta LMAG Receives Region 3 LMAG Achievement Award

On 7 November 2025, the Atlanta Section and LMAG held an Award Banquet at Maggiano's Little Italy, in Dunwoody, GA. The meeting was attended by Region 3 Director Eric Grigorian and members of other Region 3, Area 2 Sections/LMAG. During the meeting, the Atlanta Section Chair, Tamseel Syed, recognized former LMAG Chair, Jim Remich for past services to the Life Members and the Section. The LMAG has become more active with participation in the XRP Robotic Hackathon and Atlanta Cupcake Social at the Museum of Technology and Art.

Alessio Medda (Area 2 Chair) presented the 2025 Region 3 LMAG Achievement Award to Johnathan Yam, Current LMAG Chair, who received it on behalf of the LMAG.

## Macaulay Osaisai Wins Region 3 Life Member Individual Service Award

On 12 September 2025, the Canaveral and Melbourne Life Member Affinity Groups (LMAG) held an Award Ceremony and Dinner at the Olive Garden in Melbourne, Florida. Long-time Life Member and Section leader, Macaulay Osaisai was presented the 2025 Region 3 Life Member Individual Service Award

## Palm Beach LMAG Holds Student Group Mentoring Initiative Hybrid Event

On 23 October 2025, the Palm Beach Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) held a hybrid Group Mentoring Event with the in-person event at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) with remote participation from the Central Savannah River, Chattanooga, Florida West Coast and Gainsville Sections & LMAGs. There were 30 in-person attendees and 10 remote attendees. Dr. Sree Ranjani from FAU welcomed the attendees. Dr. Maxine Cohen (Life Senior Member), Dr. Mohammad Ilyas (Life Senior Member), Dr. Andy Seely, and other invited mentors shared professional experiences and offered guidance.


## Southeast Michigan LMAG Celebrates IEEE Day with a Group Mentorship Event

*Harpreet Singh Ph.D, SE Michigan LMAG Chair*

The Southeast Michigan Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) celebrated IEEE Day on 11 October 2025 in conjunction with a Group Mentorship Event sponsored by Jim Reiss, IEEE Region 4 LMAG Coordinator. The event was held at Flavors restaurant in Farmington Hills, MI, USA.

The celebration was opened by Sharan Kalwani, IEEE Section Chair. There were 3 mentorship talks. Sanjay Dhall of Emergent Systems described the status of Flying Cars reaching the final stage of development at his company. Dr. Atul Prakash, Chair of EECS at the University of Michigan encouraged students to be highly successful in their future careers, citing his own success stories moving from a student to chair of one of the biggest EECS departments in the world. Dr. Ece Yaprak encouraged students to pursue promising careers in engineering based on her experiences at NSF and ABET organizations. The group was entertained by Davinder Kaur who sang a party song prior to cutting the cake brought by Mohamad Berri. The event was enjoyed by 45 participants including 12 students.

## SE Michigan Section Holds Christmas Party

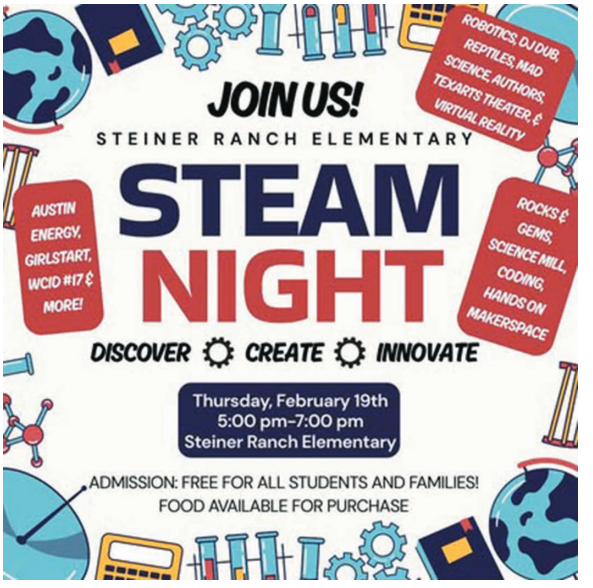
On 20 December 2025, the SE Michigan Section held it's Christmas Party at the Raj Palace Indian Restaurant in Livonia, Michigan. The event was attended by 60 people including about 12 students. After a delicious Indian lunch, Sharan Kalwani, Section Chair reviewed the highlights of the section during the year and discussed the upcoming AI Summit organized by the section in March 2026. This was followed by a keynote address by Tomy Sebastian, Director of the IEEE Foundation. Finally, a Life Member supported Group Mentoring Initiative talk was given by Dr. Joydeep Mitra, an IEEE Fellow. The meeting concluded with a devotional musical performance by Master Harbansial Thapar, Christmas music from engineering families and a flute performance by Vijay Sharma, an eminent engineer. Finally, a special cake was cut for dessert and the meeting was concluded with more singing and a group photograph.

## STEAM Night at Steiner Ranch Elementary

On Thursday 19 February the IEEE Central Texas Section partnered with Central Texas Discover Engineering to participate in STEAM Night at Steiner Ranch Elementary. This effort was organized by the Central Texas Life Member Affinity Group. IEEE Central Texas Section volunteers included (l to r in photo below) James Mercier, John Purvis, and Andrey Oleynikov.

Our tables included Van de Graaf generators (shown in photos), Electro Magnetism, and Light Energy. We used the Van de Graaf generators to talk about static electricity and electrons. For electromagnetism we demonstrated how magnets work, and how the flow of electricity can induce a magnetic field. For light energy, we demonstrated how long wave UV can be used to detect frauds in gemstones.

The event began at 5 PM and ran until 7 PM. We stayed busy through out the evening. John worked with



the Van de Graaf generators while James handled light energy. This was Andrey's first time volunteering with us. He was shown the Electro Magnetism demo and he ran with it for the rest of the evening.

I checked with the Instructional Coach at Steiner Ranch Elementary, and she said there were 38 different booths at their STEAM night. About 300 students attended, with about 150 parents. Around another 50 adults were at the booths. They have 50+ pictures of the event on their Facebook page.


## Lone Star LMAG Holds Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On 22 November 2025, the Lone Star Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) held their Volunteer Appreciation event at the Barn Door Restaurant. 38 people attended and there was much to appreciate. The LMAG receive the 2025 MGA Achievement Award, Region 5 2025 Directors Special Award, Region 5 & Global LMAG Achievement Awards. Scott Atkinson won the Region 5 2025 Achievement Award and 2025 Region 5 Life Member Individual Achievement Award. Dr. Ernest Franke won the IEEE David Monroe Memorial Achievement Award. Warren Conner won a Chapter Chair Award and Curtis Cryer won a Chapter Vice Chair Award.

A special Tribute was given for David Monroe (IEEE Senior Member) and Founder & COO of the San Antonio Museum of Science & Technology (SAMSAT) who was killed in a work-place accident.

## Oklahoma City LMAG Explores Science Museum

In August 2025, the Life Member Affinity Group of Oklahoma City toured the Science Museum Oklahoma (SMO) in Oklahoma City followed by lunch. The Science Museum Oklahoma has around 390,000 square feet of hands-on exhibits, science shows, and immersive fun Amanda Harmer, Curator of Engagement, provided a guided tour of items of interest in their collection. Highlights included a display of early computing technology (remember the "luggable" computer), the Oklahoma

Aviation and Space Hall of Fame (scientists, engineers, and pilots who shaped aviation and space exploration), and the Navy Gallery (spotlighting naval history and Oklahoma's deep ties through the service of SMO founder John E. Kirkpatrick).

## Oklahoma City Life Member Affinity Group Tours National Weather Center


The Oklahoma City Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG) toured the National Weather Center on 21 October 2025. University of Oklahoma meteorology student Brooke Gaines explained its organizational structure, pointed out the main building features, showed the primary equipment (sensing devices, hail/storm measurement vehicles, and portable radar trucks), and let us see the 360-degree views from the rooftop observation deck.

The National Weather Center is comprised of multiple agencies from the federal, state and local levels, combined with academic entities as well as research and development partners. These organizations work together in partnership to improve understanding of events occurring in the Earth's atmosphere over a wide range of time and space scales.

The NWC houses approximately 550 people including research scientists, operational meteorologists and climatologists, engineers, technicians, support staff, and graduate and undergraduate students. The NWC is 244,000 square feet and cost $69 million dollars. The building's server room is 1,400 square feet and holds 1,720 servers. The NWC has five floors (and a sixth floor Observation Deck), but it's actually about nine stories high. This is because so much extra space was needed in between floors to house the 3,200 miles of cabling.

## Pikes Peak LMAG Holds Group Mentoring Event at CSU-Pueblo

On 10 November 2025 the Region 5 Pikes Peak Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) hosted a Group Mentoring Event at the Occhiato Student Center (OSC) on the Colorado State University campus in Pueblo, Colorado (45 miles south of Colorado Springs).

Members of the Engineering Club and faculty were invited to the event. The make up of the CSU-Pueblo IEEE Student Branch is somewhat unique due to the programs on the campus. The campus does not offer an Electrical Engineering degree program. Instead it has programs in

Mechatronics Engineering and Industrial Engineering. Members of the Engineering Club can hold student membership in IEEE, ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), and IISE (Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers).

The Mentors ranged from a former computer, semiconductor designer and marketing VP to a former semiconductor design manager and computer server advanced development manager to a cybersecurity instructor with the US Space Force to former Air Force PhD Electronic Development Officer and Air Force Academy & Colorado Technical College Professor.

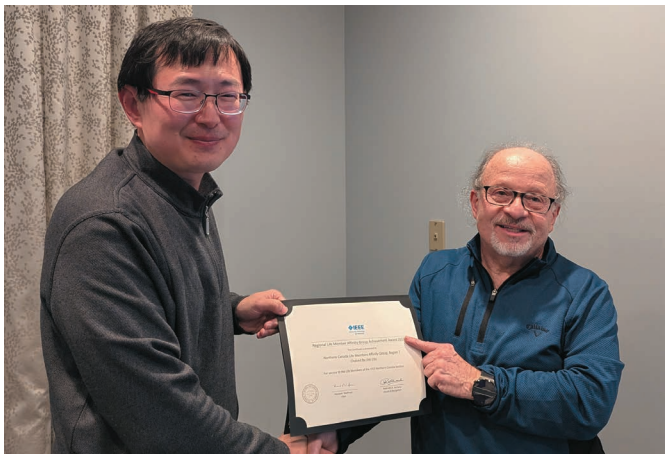
A BBQ Buffet Dinner was served and the attendees were seated at 2 tables with the LMAG Mentors. During the evening, the Mentors introduced themselves and their career path, they got to know each student and the Mentors responded to questions. A total of 14 people participated in the event.

## Joint Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo LMAG Hold Semi-Annual Lunch Meeting

On 15 October 2025, a combined meeting of the Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo Life Member Affinity Groups (LMAG) was held at Southcote 53 Tap & Grill in Ancaster, Ontario. Seven Life Members heard Gordon Harris, an early member of what became IMAX Corporation and Director of Submersible Camera Engineering for the 1990s excursion to film the Titanic. He gave an overview of the scale of the Titanic and its construction, and then spoke about the extensive preparations required to film from the two Russian submersibles that were available. He finished with some of his personal impressions and experiences, including the, fortunately brief, fouling of an opening in the Titanic hull by one of the submersibles.


## Northern Canada LMAG Wins 2025 Region 7 LMAG Achievement Award

On 16 October 2025, the Northern Canada Section held an awards ceremony at their Executive Committee meeting. Maiga Chang, Section Vice-Chair presented the 2025 Region 7 LMAG Achievement Award to Jim Ellis, the Northern Canada LMAG Chairman.



## Ottawa LMAG Holds Group Mentoring Initiative at SPAC Conference

On 31 October 2025, the IEEE Group Mentoring Initiative returned to Ottawa's Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC), an afternoon-long career fair and networking event organized by Ottawa's three IEEE Student Chapters and sponsored by the section and local industry. An hour-long session was a structured panel discussion moderated by Wolfram Lunscher, Region 7 Life Member Coordinator. Panelists included Alise Wang (CGI), Wendy Hopkins (QNX), Kaylin Roopchand (Lumentum, Ottawa Section Chair), and Dr. Tom Murad (former VP of Siemens Mobility Canada, Region 7 Director). Each of the panelists was ask to talk about a different soft skill (Communications, Problem-Solving, Organizational Abilities, Leadership Qualities, Operations Acumen).

In addition to the GMI session, the LMAG maintained a presence during the career fair among the industry exhibits.



## Thompson Okanaga Section Section hosts IEEE Extreme Competition

On 24–25 October 2025, the Thompson Okanaga Section located in south-central British Columbia, Canada hosted a demanding 24-hour IEEE Xtreme 19.0 programming competition. The event showcased regional academic teamwork with students from Okanagan College and Thompson Rivers University participating.

Carl Zanon, Thompson Okanagan LMAG Chair offered 2 mentoring sessions during event breaks during Friday and Saturday. Despite the geographical distance, the event demonstrated seamless communications between Kelowna and Kamloops campus sites. The Life Member Committee provided financial support for the event.

## Bill Bergman Wins Region 7 Life Member Individual Service Award

On 15 August 2025, the Southern Alberta Section (SAS) held an Annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. At the meeting, Daniel Wong, current SAS LMAG Chair, recognized Life Senior Member, Bill Bergman, SAS LMAG Chair from 2022-2024 and a long time supporter of the South Alberta Section. He is the 2025 Region 7 Life Member Individual Service Award winner. The citation on the award said "For Service to Life Members in Western Area and Across Canada. Bill connected the LMAG with Vancouver programming and encouraged joint meetings with the Canadian Society of Senior Engineers.


## 2025 IEEE Nordic SYP Congress Held in Vilnius, Lithuania

The 2025 IEEE Region 8 Nordic Student & Young Professionals Congress was held 19–21 September 2025 in Vilnius, Lithuania. It's theme was "Smart Space Aviation".

It was organized by Lithuania Section, their YP, WIE, and Baltic LMAG Affinity Groups, the Vilnius Gediminas Technical University Student Branch, and Toastmasters International Confident Voices Vilnius. Of the 50 participants, 27 came from the Nordic & Baltic regions and beyond. The three-day program combined technical sessions, leadership workshops, and industrial visits (Kongsberg NanoAvionics & BAA Training).

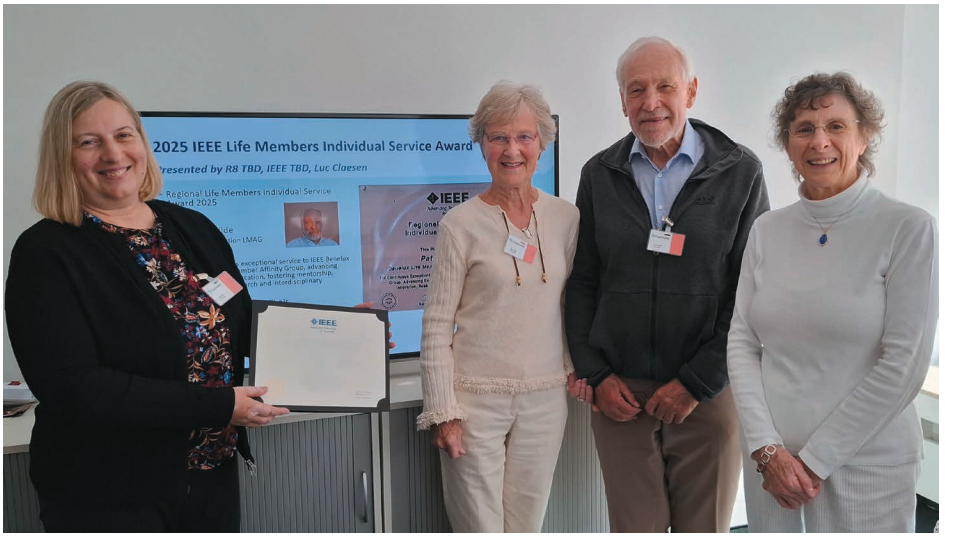
A panel "Smart Space Aviation Technologies: Securing the Future Above Us", highlighted how AI, drones, and cybersecurity are reshaping aviation and space.

*Opening Session*

*Organizers - Mantas Lipnickas (YP), Dovilė Kurpytė-Lipnickė (Congress Vice Chair), Irina Naidionova (Baltic LMAG Chair), and Eldar Šabanovič (Congress Chair)*

*Group Photo*

## Prof. Patrick Dewilde Receives 2025 Region 8 Life Member Individual Service Award




On 29 September 2025, IEEE Life Fellow and former Benexlux LMAG Chair, Professor Patrick Dewilde was presented the 2025 Region 8 Life Member Individual Service Award at a meeting hosted by the German LMAG in Bonn, Germany. The meeting was organized by Past Chair Dr.-Ing. Péter Magyar. Region 8 Director Prof. Dušanka Bošković and VC TA Prof. Tiziana Tambosso presented the award.

Prof. Dewilde's is an emeritus professor at KU Leuven (Belgium), TU Delft (Netherlands), and TU Munich (Germany). His significant organizational roles include Director of the Delft Institute of Microelectronics and Submicron Technology (DIMES) and Founding Director of the Institute of Advanced Study at TU Munich.

His dedication to IEEE spans nearly six decades. Prof. Dewilde co-founded and was the first chair of the KU Leuven IEEE Student Branch in 1966, later founding the Student Branch at Delft University in 1978. He served as IEEE Benelux Section Chair in 1988-1989 and was instrumental in co-founding the Benelux Section LMAG in 2015, where he has since acted as treasurer and vice-chair.

## From Twisted Pair to Global Broadband: IEEE Milestone for ADSL Celebrated in Antwerp


On 4 September 2025, an IEEE Milestone was unveiled at Nokia Labs in Antwerp, Belgium celebrating the development of the pioneering Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) system. The ceremony, presided over by IEEE President Prof. Dr. Kathleen Kramer and Region 8 Director Prof. Dr. Dušanka Bošković, was attended by over 200 former project collaborators and IEEE members marking a celebration of Belgian innovation.

The IEEE Milestone citation reads: "Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) Enabling Broadband Internet, 1993-1997. In 1997, Alcatel's A1000 ASAM product revolutionized broadband Internet access by providing multi-megabit per second downstream speeds over ubiquitous but decades-old and ill-conditioned subscriber telephone lines. A team based in Antwerp, Belgium began development of the product in 1993. The combination of ADSL technology, innovative signal processing, cutting-edge silicon integration, and a revolutionary architecture brought affordable broadband Internet to nearly one billion people worldwide."

For more information on this IEEE Milestone, please visit: https://ieeemilestones.ethw.org/Milestone-Proposal:ADSL

## A Glimpse into the Final Frontier: Benelux LMAG Explores Liège's Space Hub

On 25 September 2025, the Benelux Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) was treated to look into Belgium's world-class contributions to space science and technology. Organized by Prof. Pierre Wolper, the group visited Liège Space Center (CSL) and the Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems (AMOS).

Prof. Serge Habraken explained that CSL was founded even before the European Space Agency (ESA). This applied research center of the Université Liège is a powerhouse in developing and testing space instruments. We toured its formidable facilities, including massive, vibration-isolated vacuum chambers that simulate the harsh conditions of deep space. CSL's expertise in optics, cryogenics, and quantum key distribution is vital for renowned missions like Euclid and Solar Orbiter.

At AMOS, Dr. Xavier Verjans revealed how this company designs and polishes high-precision telescopes and optical systems with nanometer accuracy for a global clientele. AMOS and CSL are collaborating on the ambitious Einstein Telescope project.

## Benelux LMAG Tours World-Leading IMEC Facilities

On 19 June 2025, the Benelux Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) received a privileged visit to Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (IMEC) in Leuven, Belgium from Dirk Rabaey. Recognized as the world's top independent nanoelectronics research institute, IMEC opened its doors to showcase the technologies shaping our industry's future.

The agenda featured expert presentations, including a session by Dr. Kurt Ronse on the frontiers of lithography, highlighting IMEC's pioneering installation of ASML's Extreme Ultra-Violet (EUV) machines. Further talks covered design optimization and advanced packaging. The visit culminated in a tour of IMEC's immense, state-of-the-art cleanrooms—the largest of their kind for R&D—offering a firsthand look at the environment where global leaders like Intel, TSMC, and NVIDIA collaborate on next-generation innovations.

## IEEE Dedicates Milestone to the Rijndael AES Cipher

On 18 November 2025, IEEE 2024 President Tom Coughlin officially dedicated the Rijndael Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Milestone bronze plaque in a ceremony at the Arenberg Castle, Leuven, Belgium in the presence of over 150 participants.

The unveiling was preceded by a symposium highlighting AES's profound impact. Prof. Güneş Acar revealed major privacy breaches in Android communications, underscoring the critical need for robust encryption like AES. Prof. Stefan Mangard explored the ongoing battle against side-channel attacks, discussing the practical considerations to protect AES implementations.

The event's highlight was a presentation by Rijndael's inventors, Prof. Joan Daemen and Prof. Vincent Rijmen. They reflected on the 25-year journey of their design, from winning the NIST competition to becoming the world's most ubiquitous cipher. They explained how its elegant design principles have ensured its resilience against all cryptanalysis, making it more robust than ever.


*Left to right: IEEE President Tom Coughlin, Prof. Vincent Rijmen, Prof. Joan Daemen*

Selected by NIST in 2000, AES is the bedrock of modern digital security, protecting everything from government secrets and global finance to everyday web browsing. Nowadays, billions of people in the entire world, on a daily basis, use AES in various background applications without being aware of it. Its royalty-free, efficient, and secure design has provided an estimated $250 billion in economic benefit, truly cementing its status as a pivotal IEEE Milestone.

## Joint History Activity and Life Member Regional Meeting Held During HISTELCON 2025

A Joint R8 History Activity (HA) and Life Member Regional Meeting was held on 29 September 2025 in Bonn, Germany in conjunction with HISTELCON 2025. The first day saw presentations by Dusanka Boskovic (R8 Director), Tiziana Tambosso (R8 VP of Technical Activities), Peter Magyar (R8 LM), Martin Bastiaans, R8 HA Coordinator, and Daniel J. Mitchell, Senior Historian (IEEE History Center). The Life Member meeting brought together LMAG Chairs from Benelux, Bulgaria, Germany, North Macedonia, Switzerland and Great Britain/Ireland. There was an awards presentation for the Life Member


*Hugo Wyss received the R8 LMAG Achievement Award for the Switzerland LMAG from R8 Director, Dusanka Boskovic.*

*Patrick Dewilde received the R8 Life Member Individual Service Award from R8 Director, Dusanka Boskovic.*

*Group Photo*

Committee LMAG Achievement Award (to Switzerland LMAG) and Individual Service Award (Patrick Dewilde). During the meeting, the attendees were able to see the beautiful city of Bonn and also tour it's famous Arithmeum Museum which provides a history of computer science and mechanical calculating machines.

### Switzerland LMAG Holds Conference on Swiss Computer History in Conjunction with Vintage Computer Festival

On 8–9 November 2025, the Swiss LMAG held a Conference on Swiss Computer History in conjunction with the Vintage Computer Festival (VCF) organized by the Vintage Computer Club of Zurich. The event was held at ENTER Technikwelt Museum in Solothurn, Switzerland. The VCF demonstrated their hardware and software on rows of tables and held a flea market. The LMAG has a temporary exhibition of Swiss computers mirroring the conferences that took place in two parallel tracks. Over 1000 people participated in the event. Historians shared their studies about the World Wide Web debuts at CERN and their research on video games developed in Switzerland. Presentations from the Conference can be watched at: www.youtube.com/@VCFCH/videos

## Region 9 Holds Awards Ceremony

On 4 December 2025, Region 9 held an Awards ceremony at Circolo Italiano in Buenos Aires, Argentina to present the 2025 Life Member Awards. The Argentina Life Member Affinity Group Chair, Patricio Castro presented the 2025 Region 9 Life Member Individual Service Award to Life Senior Member, Luis Alberto Remex. He presented the 2025 Region 9 LMAG Achievement Award to Life Senior Member, Gustavo A. del Pino, representing the Argentina LMAG. Patricio Castro noted that both distinctions were awarded this time to Argentina Section for their deep dedication, commitment, effort, and time dedicated to supporting our Life Members.

## Region 9 SBRM 2025 Held in Uruguay

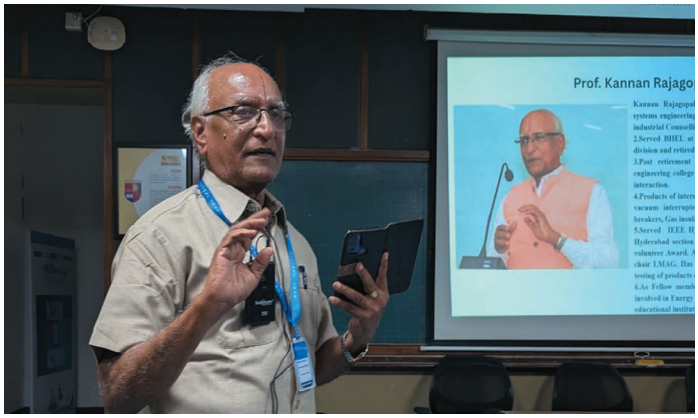
On 5–7 October 2025, Region 9 held its 28th Annual Student Branch Regional Meeting at the Hotel Enjoy in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The meeting is partially funded by the Life Member Committee. A large number of student members of the IEEE get together each year from all over Central and South America for this event.


## AISYWLC 2025 Gathers Affinity Groups in Ahmedabad, India

The All India Students, Young Professionals, Women in Engineering, and Life Member Congress (AISYWLC) was held from 31 October to 2 November 2025 in Ahmedabad, India. The Congress gathered 280+ delegates from across India. The event featured a structured blend of keynote addresses, domain-specific tracks, professional development sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and networking forums.

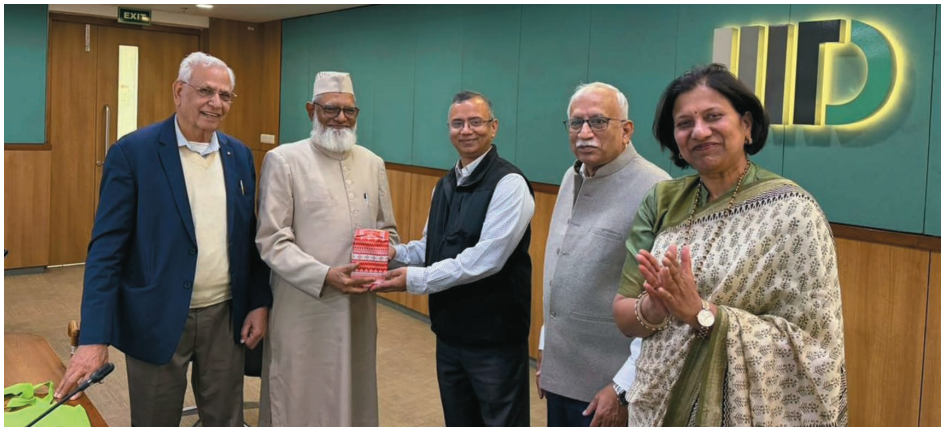
There were 2 Life Member Affinity Group (LMAG) Tracks during the conference. During

Sri Rajagopalan, who is Hyderabad LMAG Chair, gave a very interesting talk titled "Buds to Flower". He described his journey to becoming Life Member of IEEE from a graduate trainee for the students in attendance.


## Delhi LMAG Holds Workshop on Financial and Personal Health

The Delhi LMAG held a half day workshop at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi). The focus was on Financial Health, Inner Engineering, and Personal Health Insurance. The event, sponsored by Region 10 Life Member Committee, was opened by Delhi LMAG chair, Dr. HL Bajaj. He introduced Ms Preeti Bajaj, India Council Chair-elect (2026) who talked about mentoring and the need for insurance. Prof. Pankaj Vajpayee of IIITD talked on Financial Planning.




Other talks included Yoga, Meditation, and Inner Engineering by Prof. Anuj Grover and Importance of Health Insurance by Ms Archana Kaira.

The workshop ended with a social get-together joined by Life Members, family members, and IIIT Delhi students over lunch.

## Delhi LMAG Holds Two Day Retreat

On 13–14 December 2025, the Delhi LMAG held a technical and social workshop at Baghaan Orchard Retreat in Village Kachrot in Garh Mukteswar district of Uttar Pradesh, India. This resort are is surrounded by Mango orchards.

Special guests in this workshop were LMC Member from Region 3 Sri Jacob Kulangara, MGA Board Member 2025 Sri Deepak Mathur and IEEE India Council Chair and Chair elect Mrs. Prerana Gaur and Ms Preeti Bajaj respectively. Technical experts on the Indian Power Sector, Security threats in computers, GPS, and AI in today's world were also invited. 32 people including 14 Life Members & their spouses attended.

## Japan Life Members Hold 2nd Group Mentoring Event at SYWL Workshop

On 13 December 2025, the 2nd Group Mentoring Initiative (GMI) event was held during an SYWL Workshop being held at Ritsumeikan University's Osaka Ibaraki Campus. This event was jointly organized by IEEE Japan Council's LMAG, YP, SAC, and WIE Groups. This event expanded the reach of GMI activities to Kansai, Hokkaido, Sendai, and Tokyo Section participants by doing it in conjunction with the SYWL Workshop.

A total of 42 participants included students, young researchers, female researchers, and Life Members. The Group Mentoring topics included: Reflections on Early Career, Coexisting with AI, Career Sustainability, Benefits of IEEE Membership, and Questions from Students, YP, and WIE attendees. Professor Imai concluded the event by providing a overview of the Group Mentoring Initiative. LM


# Meet Chris Schober
# Life Member Coordinator for Central US

Chris Schober has joined the Life Member Committee as our Region 4 (Central US) Coordinator. She joins us from the IEEE Board of Directors and her role as Division VIII Director.

Schober started her career in the 1980s, at a time when female engineers were not widely accepted. The prevailing attitude required her to "stay tough," she says, and she credits IEEE for giving her technical and professional support. Because of her experiences, she became dedicated to making diversity and inclusion systemic in IEEE.

Schober has held many leadership roles, including IEEE Sensors Council president, and IEEE Standards Sensors Council secretary. In addition to her membership in the IEEE Photonics Society, she is active with the IEEE Computer Society, IEEE Sensors Council, IEEE Standards Association, and IEEE Women in Engineering.

She is also active in her local community, serving as an invited speaker on STEM for the public school system and was a volunteer at youth shelters. Schober has received numerous awards including the IEEE Sensors Council Lifetime Contribution Award and the IEEE Twin Cities Section's Young Engineer of the Year Award. She is an IEEE Computer Society Gold Core member, a member of the IEEE–Eta Kappa Nu honor society and received the IEEE Third Millennium Medal.

Schober is an innovative engineer with a diverse design and manufacturing engineering background. With more than 40 years of experience, her career has spanned research, design, and manufacturing sensors for space, commercial, and military aircraft navigation and tactical guidance systems. She was responsible for the successful transition from design to production for groundbreaking programs including an integrated flight management system, the Stinger missile's roll frequency sensor, and the designing of three phases of the DARPA atomic clock. She holds 17 U.S. patents and 24 other patents in the aerospace and navigation fields.

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# Jacob Kulangara Receives Recognition for LMAG Chapter Development

On 10 November 2025, Jacob Kulangara was recognized by Rajendra Asthana, Life Member Committee Chair, for creating the most new Life Member Affinity Groups (7) during 2025. Jacob is shown with his new Life Member Jacket. LM

# "P" Picker Led to Postal OCR System

*Thomas J. Hartley, Palo Alto, CA, USA*

*Editor's Note*: Thomas J. Hartley was a Life Senior Member of the IEEE. He has a BSEE and MSEE from University of Pennsylvania. He joined Philco Corporate Research Labs in 1959. He made significant contributions to the first practical implementation of Optical Character Recognition and image pattern recognition. He died in 2016.

I joined Philco's Corporate Research Lab in July 1959. In January 1960, our lab received funding from Philco's Computer Division to begin development of an optical character reader (OCR). The Computer Division wanted a machine that could read data into the computer that had been output on its high-speed printer.

The experimental OCR we implemented could be programmed to recognize any one alphabet character. We used a flying spot scanner imaged onto a flat surface, where a document could be placed and an array of photo sensors to detect the light reflected from the document. The flying spot rapidly scanned from the top to the bottom of a line of print, and it slowly scanned across the line of print.

The video was quantized and the resulting binary stream was fed into a shift register. In effect, the image captured in the shift register slowly scanned across the line of print. An electrical output from each element of the shift register was wired to a rectangular patch panel that was laid out to present the data in the form in which it would appear on the document. We had a large number of resistors molded in plastic and fastened to patch panel plugs that we could insert into the panel to create a weighted template to recognize a character. The currents flowing through the resistors were summed, and the sum compared to a threshold value. If the total current exceeded the threshold, then the character was recognized. This was a simple implementation of template matching.

My responsibility was to supervise the technicians who assembled the OCR and design recognition logic for specific characters. My first design was for the letter "P" as in Philco. The OCR immediately became known as the *P-Picker*.

Not long after I completed a successful "P" design, representatives from the Post Office Department were brought in for a demonstration. After we showed them the ability to pick out the "P" in a line containing the complete alphabet, I was asked if I could make it recognize the letter "R." I asked for some time to put the logic together, and they went off to meetings. When they returned, I successfully demonstrated the ability to detect the "R" without falsely detecting the "P" in the same line of printed characters. Not long after, Philco was awarded a sole-source Post Office Department contract to develop an OCR to read addresses on envelopes.

As a direct consequence of the P-Picker demonstration, Philco developed and delivered 30 postal OCRs which were installed and put into operation in major Post Offices around the country. These machines were capable of reading the city and state address on machine imprinted envelopes and sending the envelopes along with the destination information to a large mail-sorting machine. One year, they were credited with sorting over 4 billion pieces of mail with better accuracy than achieved by human operators who entered envelope-destination information via keyboard.

An OCR II system developed by Philco-Ford was later installed in Boston's south postal annex. This machine was notable for reading the entire address, including house number or box number and patron's name. LM

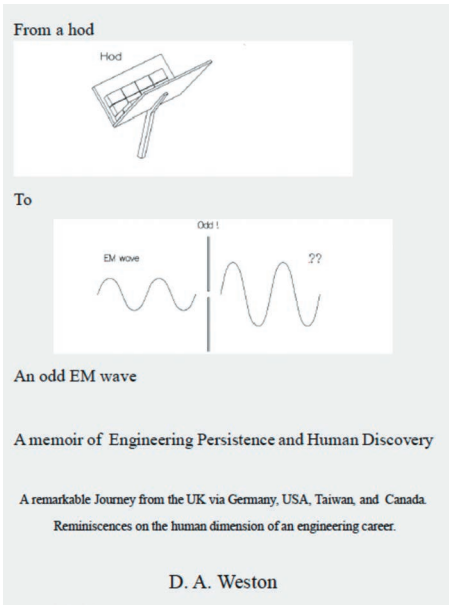
# David A. Weston Releases Free eBook Covering His Career From Humble Beginnings to Respected EMC Engineer

In **From a Hod to an Odd EM Wave**, David A. Weston invites readers into a vivid, deeply personal memoir that weaves together a lifetime of engineering innovation, global experiences, and unforgettable human encounters. From humble beginnings carrying bricks on a construction site in post-war England to groundbreaking work in electromagnetic compatibility, Weston's career has spanned continents and disciplines. Each chapter is rich with insight, humor, and resilience.

This isn't just a memoir for engineers. It's a testament to the social and emotional dimensions of scientific work. Weston candidly explores the people, politics, and persistence behind his contributions — from his time at the Medical Research Council to his leadership at EMC Consulting Inc. Along the way, he shares remarkable stories involving Cold War-era technologies, mental health

research, survivor accounts from Auschwitz, and even a child's ride in a Messerschmitt microcar.

David A. Weston is a certified iNARTE EMC engineer and IEEE Life Member, with 55 years of experience in electronic design and over four decades specializing in EMC. He is also the author of the authoritative **Electromagnetic Compatibility, Methods, Analysis, Circuits, and Measurement** (CRC Press, 2017), now in its third edition.




To request your free copy, email the author directly at emccons0@gmail.com LM

# In Memorium—Professor VK Damodaran (1940–2025)

Professor V.K. Damodaran passed away peacefully on 15 November 2025. He was an IEEE Life Fellow and former Kerala Section and LMAG Chair. His LMAG won the 2024 Global LMAG Achievement Award and he won the Region 10 Life Member Individual Service Award. He received a 2014 IEEE Meritorious Achievement Award in Continuing Education and Region 10 Educational Activities Award for Continuing Education. He won the IEEE Asia-Pacific Region Award in 2012 for his sustained efforts in promoting renewable energy for developing a hybrid village energy centre model for the power availability in the distant areas of Africa. He had also worked as the advisor for the energy planning of China and multiple African countries.

He had a BSEE from the University of Kerala and a MSEE from Guindy Engg College. He was Professor at NIT Calicut from 1965-1984. He was Director for the Kerala State Council Science, Technology, and Environment from 1984-1995. He was Chairman of the Centre for Environment and Development at the time of his death. LM

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## Publication of *IEEE Life Members Newsletter*

*IEEE Life Members Newsletter* will be published electronically in April and August, and in a print version in December. The deadline for submitting articles for the December Newsletter is 1 September 2026. Along with past issues the current issue will also be posted on the MGA website.

## Our Mailing List

*IEEE Life Members Newsletter* is distributed to Life Members and those who are not Life Members but are 1) IEEE Members 65 years and older, 2) retired IEEE Members aged 62–64, 3) members of special boards and committees and 4) all IEEE Section Chairs.

## Submitting Articles

We welcome articles for this newsletter. In particular, we seek articles about projects that are initiated at the Section and Region level by Life Members as well as "Tales From the Vault," which should focus on novel or interesting technical issues. The suggested length for "Tales From the Vault" submissions is 500 words.

Acronyms should be completely identified once. Reference dates (years) also should be included. Any images that are submitted along with articles must include captions and be high resolution (at least 300 dpi) to be considered for publication. Editing, including for length, may occur. If you wish to discuss a story idea, please contact lm-newsletter@ieee.org. The deadline to submit an article for possible inclusion in the next issue is 1 March 2026. Please include your Life grade, city, state, country, phone number, Member number, and an e-mail address with your article.

## Stopping IEEE Services

Life Members who no longer wish to receive mailings or publications should contact the IEEE Contact Center. If you are doing so on behalf of another Life Member, please submit the Member's name, number, grade, address, change date, and your connection (e.g., Section chair) to the Contact Center.

## Qualifying for Life Member Status

To qualify as a Life Member, an IEEE Member must be at least 65 years old, and the sum of the Member's age and the number of years of paid membership effective the following January must equal or exceed 100 years.

## Have Questions, Ideas, or Concerns?

Have questions regarding your Life Member status? Reach out to the IEEE Contact Center for assistance. Have something else you need to ask or discuss? E-mail the Life Members Committee or its staff at life-members@ieee.org.

## IEEE Contact Center

IEEE Contact Center employees are ready to assist you 24/5, from Sunday 4:30 p.m. ET to Friday 4:30 p.m. ET

or

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## 2026 COMMITTEE