

by Terry Martin



A Healthy Outlook

I continue to be amazed by the high level of volunteerism among members of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES) community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Numerous people have stepped up their level of activity to continue the good work within the IES. During a recent meeting of past IES presidents, it was pointed out that this Society has a unique organizational structure that encourages participation by a very large number of members of the IES. In addition to volunteerism, the IES is extremely healthy and strong in relation to finances, membership, publications, and conferences. Without going into detail, each of these metrics has been improving in a positive way for the past several years.

With the coming of the pandemic, most of our conferences have shifted from face-to-face delivery to an online delivery. Along with this shift in delivery method, many new issues will need to be addressed. For example, how do we set the price of conference registration for a virtual conference? How do we ensure that intellectual property is controlled and owned by the IEEE and IES? We are asking these and many new questions that we have not thought about until this time.

IES membership continues to grow when most other societies have decreased in membership. IES remains above the 8,000-member level. We are starting two new journals [*IEEE Journal of Emerging and Selected Topics in Industrial Electronics (JESTIE)* and *IEEE Open Journal of Industrial Electronics Society (OJIES)*] in the midst of the

pandemic, and all indications are that they are off to an excellent start. Many thanks to Leopoldo Franquelo [editor-in-chief (EIC) of *OJIES*] and Chandan Chakraborty (EIC of *JESTIE*) for serving as the EICs during this start-up period for the new journals. In addition to the new journals, Fei Gao is serving as EIC for our new Society newsletter that is providing very current and timely updates about the IES.

As president, I am asking for your ideas about how we can improve our service to IES members. The Society has sufficient funding to be creative in implementing some new ideas. Please send me any ideas that you may have (t.martin@ieee.org).

Stay safe until we can meet again face to face.

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