



The IES Has Gone Far to Modernize Its Structure and Update Its Bylaws

Searching for IEEE Industrial Electronics Society (IES) members means locating 8,000 highly motivated people spread across our planet's 500 million km². Luckily, only about 30% of Earth's surface is land, which makes this task easier since we must comb a mere 1.5 million km² to find those devoted professionals, those colleagues and friends who form the global IES family. Fortunately, according to York University researchers, our brains can remember 10,000 faces, so it is conceivable that every IES member could be acquainted.

The Society's success can be attributed to its members: world-class researchers and industrial practitioners who share their latest findings through IES conferences, transactions, and journals and in *IEEE Industrial Electronics Magazine*. IES authors have propelled the Society's periodicals to the highest impact factors among IEEE publications. This achievement is not surprising—it has been a recurring theme for the past 10 years—simply because the IES culture is unique in terms of diversity, universality, openness, and inclusiveness. Unlike other IEEE Societies, the IES does not hold its flagship annual conferences on the same continent every year. All IES conferences rotate around the world, making them reachable for Society members wherever they are located.

There have been challenges along the way. During my 2016–2017 IES presidency, the Society faced a storm that began for me with a call from José Moura, IEEE Technical Activities Board president. In 2015, Thompson Reuters suspended

IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics from Journal Citation Reports for two years, following charges of citation stacking, ushering in one of the most difficult times in the Society's history. In 2016, IEEE appointed an oversight committee to investigate IES management and periodicals. As president, I decided to seize this difficult time as an opportunity to enhance the way the IES did business. Since then, the Society has undergone a major transformation, starting with radical alterations to its bylaws, which the Administrative Committee (AdCom) adopted during its meeting at the 2017 Annual Conference of the IEEE Industrial Electronics Society, in Beijing, an event that drew a record 2,000 attendees.

Those were major changes for one of the oldest, best-known, and highly reputed IEEE Societies. After one year of work and two revisions, the new bylaws changed the way AdCom members at large were selected. No longer were 100% of the at-large members appointed. From then on, 57% of them have been elected from the IES membership. Under this framework, you and I are responsible for choosing our best colleagues to manage the Society's business and, equally important, to serve our fellow members. Modernizing IES departments, opening the door for new blood to flow through the leadership rotation, was also on the 2017 AdCom agenda. The following decisions resulted from that meeting:

- 1) electing of 12 out of 21 AdCom members at large
- 2) grouping IES technical committees in four clusters represented by eight AdCom delegates
- 3) installing a four-year term limit for IES offices

- 4) revoking senior and life AdCom members' voting rights after three consecutive missed meetings
- 5) reinstating senior and life AdCom members' voting rights only after two consecutive attended meetings
- 6) limiting the terms of editors-in-chief to three years
- 7) setting the terms of coeditors-in-chief at three years, with extensions that may be proposed to and approved by the AdCom
- 8) establishing the terms of standing committee chairs and members at two years, with a two-year membership extension, if requested
- 9) implementing a maximum US\$2,000 annual budget to cover expenses for each AdCom member at large.

We will all remember 2016 and 2017 for many years, although I have to admit that, as president, I had the busiest time of my life. I am, as always, very proud of the IES membership for the unwavering support that it provided. Despite the pressure, our members succeeded in maintaining the Society's harmony, dignity, and respect. Now, new IES members can assume the role of IES flag bearer and move the Society toward uncharted frontiers.

I love the IES family. I have served it as an officer for 12 years, and I continue to do so with great pleasure. I can testify that the IES values, supports, and cares for its members and for the advancement of science. The Society strives to promote and integrate industrial electronics to better serve humanity, while focusing on safety, sustainable development, and environmental awareness.

