

2017 IEEE Annual Election

Candidates for IEEE Division IV Delegate-Elect/Director-Elect, 2018



JOHN VERBONCOEUR

(Nominated by IEEE Division IV)

Associate Dean for Research; and
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan, USA

<https://cmse.msu.edu/directory/faculty/john-verboncoeur/>



ELIE K. TRACK

(Nominated by IEEE Division IV)

CEO
nVizix LLC
Stamford, Connecticut, USA

What do you believe are the major issues facing the IEEE?

Three major issues facing the IEEE include loss of financial clarity, a nominations process that selects for conformity, and leadership disconnected from membership. All these issues are coupled. We can rebuild member confidence and satisfaction by addressing all these major issues. I advocate for an objective election system independent of the leadership, governance that ensures member control, and a nominations process independent of leadership that will prefer innovation and evolution over conformity and the status quo.

What do you think is the number one goal for the IEEE leadership?

The top goal of IEEE leadership must be to deliver member value. This is best accomplished by addressing the major issues described above, listening to member needs, and enabling sound fiscal decisions for improving the business model of delivering excellent products and services to members. Volunteering is an underutilized benefit which correlates strongly to member satisfaction, as well as benefiting career development via leadership opportunities.

What do you believe are the major issues facing the IEEE?

Maintaining the mission of creating and supporting technical communities, ensuring the highest quality scientific/engineering publications, and facilitating the implementation of both in an increasingly connected world, with appropriate diversity, remain, in my opinion, the key goals of IEEE. IEEE is doing well on that front. One major issue that needs resolution is the recent inefficiencies and bureaucratic runaway growth within IEEE. This is frustrating volunteers and causing the financial foundation of IEEE to crumble. This must be addressed from the grassroots and, if I'm elected, will do my utmost to see a remedy to this issue identified and implemented.

What do you think is the number one goal for the IEEE leadership?

The number one goal of IEEE leadership is setting the example for behavior, initiatives, and efficiencies that serve the IEEE community. Inspiration, rewards for success, are both important elements. In addition, ensuring efficiency and facilitating the work of volunteers while ensuring a safe and motivating environment for staff, are all dependent on the tone, behavior, principles, and competence of the IEEE leader.

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What motivates you and what qualifies you for the position you are seeking?

I am motivated by a vision of the IEEE delivering improved member value via innovative products and services, new directions such as the Food Engineering initiative, and enhanced financial and governance transparency and operational efficiency. Leading the research strategy and operations for a US\$50M engineering portfolio, I am conversant in a breadth of technologies, and have the vision, managerial, and fiscal experience needed to serve on the Board of Directors. I am familiar with many variants of US federal budgets, in addition to society and conference budgets. I am an energetic, engaged, and independent leader unafraid to speak up.



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What motivates you and what qualifies you for the position you are seeking?

Success as measured by IEEE peers, IEEE membership at large, and IEEE staff, should be the goal of every IEEE leader and has been my guiding principle. Achieving simplicity in processes, once realized, seems easy. However, reaching such efficiency and simplicity is difficult, as we see in the overly complicated processes of IEEE. I have led for-profit and not-for-profit groups and companies, successfully created IEEE initiatives, and been a constant voice for change towards the ideals I articulate above. If given the chance, I will do the same within the IEEE leadership team.