



INSTITUTE OF  
ELECTRICAL AND  
ELECTRONICS  
ENGINEERS, Inc.

*The Baton Rouge Section*

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Baton Rouge Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc February, 2026

## 2026 BR SECTION CONTACTS

### Chair

Robert Walker  
(225) 907-7622 (C)  
[robert.walker@ieee.org](mailto:robert.walker@ieee.org)

### Vice-Chair

Phillip Dupree  
[pdupreejr@gmail.com](mailto:pdupreejr@gmail.com)

### Treasurer / Secretary

Seth Chandler  
(225) 300-4341 (C)  
[sethchandler@gmail.com](mailto:sethchandler@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Robert Walker

### IAS Chapter Chair

Robert Sorbet  
[rsorbet@staffordelectricalsales.com](mailto:rsorbet@staffordelectricalsales.com)

### Professional Activities

Dennis M. Kates

### WIE Affinity Group Chair

Vacant

### Election Committee Chair

Scott Turner  
[scott.turner@orion-eng.com](mailto:scott.turner@orion-eng.com)

### Membership Development

Vacant

### Web Master

Vacant

### Student Activity/Rep

Vacant

### Student Branch Counselors

LSU- Xiangyu Meng Ph D.  
SU – Dr. Fred Lacy

## Chairman's Message

The January meeting was a joint meeting with IAS, ISA and WIE; held in person with a total of twenty-seven (27) in attendance. Eighteen (18) were IEEE members and nine (9) were guests. Those in attendance included five (5) IAS members, one (1) ISA members, one (1) WIE member, and three (3) student members.

The IEEE Baton Rouge Section ExCom does Not Endorse the Petition to form the IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section. Based on information received from IEEE (see attached email for more details) in our option this proposed new Southeast Louisiana Section would not benefit the Baton Rouge Section since:

- Two Sections cannot share the same geographical territory. This proposed Southeast Louisiana Section occupies the same territory as the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections.
- IEEE automatically assigns members to a Section based on their primary address; members cannot choose their assignment if they reside in assigned section.
- If approved, the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections would be dissolved and integrated into the new, larger "Southeast Louisiana Section".

If additional information is presented or discovered this can be reconsidered.

The topic for the January meeting was "Professionalism and Ethics for Engineers". The presenter was Ms. Morgan Georgetown, Lead Compliance Investigator of Enforcement with the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board (LAPELS). The presentation focused on Professional Ethics and the understanding of the LAPELS Standards. An overview of the key responsibilities and expectations for licensed engineers and land surveyors in Louisiana was presented. Topics included the Board's authority, common disciplinary actions, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements, and the audit process, along with practical resources to help licensees remain in compliance. Morgan provided an overview of the key responsibilities and expectations for licensed engineers and land surveyors in Louisiana. Participants attending gained a clearer understanding of how professional ethics and compliance with LAPELS rules work together to safeguard the public and uphold the integrity of the profession. Several examples were presented that highlight real-world practices that can help licensees avoid disciplinary issues while strengthening their careers through consistent ethical decision-making.

**February 12, 2026**

**La Contea Italiano Ristorante**

**Presentation Starts At 6:30pm**

To RSVP for the meeting click on link below

<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/event/register/537261>

Your RSVP for the meeting is important as this is an **in-person meeting**.

The sign-in list is typically published based on those that registered as of midday Wednesday (about 12 noon).

## UPCOMING AGENDA

- Feb 12, 2026 – Power Factor Correction: A Guide for the Plant Engineer (Part One: Power Factor and Part Two: Harmonics) Brian Branigan, Power Protection Products
- Mar 12, 2026 – AIS & GIS – construction and application Shawn Johnson, P.E. & Jeffery Gauthier, P.E., Eaton Corporation
- April 9, 2026 – To be Determined, Jay Anderson, Atkore

# MEETING NOTICE

Date: Thursday February 12, 2026

Time: Social.....6:00pm

Place: La Contea Italiano Ristorante

Speaker Presentation.....6:30pm

Dinner: **Cash or Check only (\$20 members/ \$30 non-members/ Free IEEE student members)**

**AGENDA:** Meeting Sign-in include if member of IEEE, IAS, ISA, WIE or student.

- IEEE/Region 5/BR Section 2026:
  - Petition - Baton Rouge ExCom does Not Endorse the Petition to form IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section
- Conferences, Webinars, Professional Activities
  - LES-30th Annual Joint Engineering Societies Conference (JESC) March 4–5, 2026 Lafayette, LA
  - LES-Louisiana Engineering Society On-Demand Seminars <https://www.les-state.org>
  - 2026 Region 5 Meeting & Student Competitions March 27 – 29, 2026 Boulder, Colorado
  - 2026 IEEE Green Tech Conference March 27 – 29, 2026 Boulder, Colorado
  - IEEE & IAS Electrical Safety Workshop March 23-25, 2026 Edmond, Alberta

## • CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

### **"Power Factor Correction: A Guide for the Plant Engineer**

### **(Part One: Power Factor and Part Two: Harmonics)"**

**Presented by: Brian Branigan**

#### **ABSTRACT of PRESENTATION**

This presentation offers an introduction to power factor that affects commercial & industrial businesses. This seminar presents power factor related equipment and procedures and includes hands-on demonstrations and labs.

- Power factor related definitions
- Industry & utility standards
- Effects on a facility & utility bill
- Correcting bad power factor

The Power Factor Seminar includes:

Specific real world power factor issues and resolutions.

Equipment Procedures: Explanation & discussion.

The Best Type of Capacitor: Proper application & compliance with industry & utility standards.

Questions & Discussion: Open forum with power factor field expert.

#### **BIOGRAPHICAL DATA of PRESENTER**

Brian Branigan is the President and founder of Power Protection Products Inc. (P3). They specialize in "building confidence in power". In order to provide confidence and reliability in power systems, this Company specializes in the consultation, distribution and marketing of a variety of power quality and energy enhancing products including power factor correction, surge suppression, uninterruptible power supplies (UPS), harmonic conditioning transformers and data center infrastructure. While 91% of businesses fail within 10 years, Power Protection Products, Inc. begin their 30th year in business this year. Power Protection Products, Inc., has several offices throughout the US and can be found doing business in most large Data Centers, Industrial facilities and Critical Operations throughout the Country. Throughout the years, P3 has performed facility Power Quality Studies, lectures at Conferences and Seminars with respect to electrical safety, power and loading analysis, transient voltage detection and power system harmonic analysis and mitigation, ground studies, and power monitoring systems.

P3 is a leader in customer education through it's Power Quality University. In addition to the educational classes, Mr. Branigan is

the host of the largest podcast in the Power Quality Industry called "The Power Grid" which is available on all podcast platforms. Mr. Branigan earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in and has participated in several boards, councils and appointments related to Power Quality Products and Energy.

#### **Brian Branigan**

President

Power Protection Products, Inc

1207 South 75th Street, Omaha, NE 68124

Phone: (402) 393-1223 | email: [brian@p3-inc.com](mailto:brian@p3-inc.com)

<https://p3-inc.com/>

#### **2026 Officers of the IEEE LSU Branch**

**President:** Nia Belle [nbelle2@lsu.edu](mailto:nbelle2@lsu.edu)

**Vice President:** Gabriel Nedelea – [gnedel1@lsu.edu](mailto:gnedel1@lsu.edu)

**Secretary:** Alcina Costa [tcosta5@lsu.edu](mailto:tcosta5@lsu.edu)

**Treasurer:** Ted Atera – [tatera1@lsu.edu](mailto:tatera1@lsu.edu)

**Event Coordinator:** Raelyn Edwards [Raelyn.Edwards@lsu.edu](mailto:Raelyn.Edwards@lsu.edu)

**Social Media Manager:** Jayden Wormley [jworml1@lsu.edu](mailto:jworml1@lsu.edu)

**Merchandise Manager:** Julie Rau [jrau7@lsu.edu](mailto:jrau7@lsu.edu)

**Publication Coordinator:** Edem Gidi [egidi1@lsu.edu](mailto:egidi1@lsu.edu)

**Faculty Advisor:** Xiangyu Meng Ph D. [xmeng5@lsu.edu](mailto:xmeng5@lsu.edu)

#### **2025 Officers of the IEEE SU Branch**

**Southern Branch Officers list is being updated.**

**President:** Darius Taylor [darius.taylor@sus.edu](mailto:darius.taylor@sus.edu)

**Vice President:** Gahmoto Malangalila

[gahmoto.malangali@sus.edu](mailto:gahmoto.malangali@sus.edu)

**Secretary:** Kayden Thompson [kayden.thompson01@sus.edu](mailto:kayden.thompson01@sus.edu)

**Treasurer:** Knykolas Ross [knykolas.ross@sus.edu](mailto:knykolas.ross@sus.edu)

**Membership Chair:** Quinton Caldwell

[quinton.caldwell@sus.edu](mailto:quinton.caldwell@sus.edu)

**Sponsorship Chair:** Chynna Duncan [chynna.duncan@sus.edu](mailto:chynna.duncan@sus.edu)

**Communication Chair:** Troy Murphy [llewyn.murphy@sus.edu](mailto:llewyn.murphy@sus.edu)

**Historian:** Randi Joseph [randi.joseph@sus.edu](mailto:randi.joseph@sus.edu)

**Development Chair:** Jamir Williams [jamir.williams@sus.edu](mailto:jamir.williams@sus.edu)

**Faculty Advisor:** Fred Lacy Ph. D. [Fred\\_lacy@subr.edu](mailto:Fred_lacy@subr.edu)

**RSVP (Non-Members and Members) via the link BEFORE February 12, 2026**

**If you have issues, please email [robert.walker@ieee.org](mailto:robert.walker@ieee.org)**

**From:** IEEE Support Center <[SupportCenter@help.ieee.org](mailto:SupportCenter@help.ieee.org)>  
**Date:** January 16, 2026 at 11:48:25 AM CST  
**To:** [robert.walker@ieee.org](mailto:robert.walker@ieee.org)  
**Cc:** [Christopher.B.Sanderson@ieee.org](mailto:Christopher.B.Sanderson@ieee.org)  
**Subject:** Request to Endorse Petition to form the IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section  
[Reference #: 260115-000977]  
**Reply-To:** IEEE Support Center <[SupportCenter@ieee.org](mailto:SupportCenter@ieee.org)>



**Subject:** Request to Endorse Petition to form the IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section  
**Reference #:** 260115-000977

Nicole (01/16/2026 12:48 PM)

Dear Robert,

Thank you for your inquiry and for sharing the feedback from the Baton Rouge Section's January meeting. To help your members make an informed decision at your February meeting, we have consolidated the policy clarifications and boundary data regarding the proposed **Southeast Louisiana Section**.

#### **Territorial Impact and Conflicts**

Under IEEE MGA policy, two Sections cannot share the same geographical territory. Our analysis confirms significant overlap between the petition and your current boundaries:

- **Direct Conflict:** The petition seeks to include ZIP codes already assigned to the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections.
- **Duplicate ZIP Codes:** 70725 and 70764 (Baton Rouge overlap); 70723 (New Orleans overlap).
- **Proposed Boundaries:** Includes East Baton Rouge (70801–70836), West Baton Rouge (70710–70776), Ascension (70725–70784), and Iberville (70719–70788).
- **Current Baton Rouge Ranges:** 70704–70791, 70800–70898, 71257–71481, and 70346–70468.

#### **Member Assignment and Section Impact**

- **Automatic Assignment:** IEEE automatically assigns members to a Section based on their primary address; members cannot choose their assignment if they reside in assigned section.
- **Assignment in Overlapping Areas:** Under IEEE MGA policy, two sections cannot share the same territory. If a reorganization is approved, members in those specific ZIP codes would be automatically moved to the new Southeast Louisiana Section.
- **Member Choice:** No, members generally cannot choose their section upon joining or renewing if they reside within an assigned territory.

- **Reorganization:** If approved, the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Sections would typically be dissolved and integrated into the new, larger "Southeast Louisiana Section".

### Business Plan Objectives for Proposed Southeast Louisiana Section

The organizer, Anitra Wilson, lists the following primary motivations for this new unit:

- **Leadership Diversity:** Creating more roles to foster opportunities, particularly for women.
- **Localized Outreach:** Focusing on communities like the newly formed City of St. George.
- **Technical Scope:** Expanding technical talk topics to appeal to a broader regional segment.

### Current Petition Status

**Due to these territorial conflicts, we have paused this petition.** We will not move forward until we hear back from you and you have had a chance to speak with Ms. Wilson. Please let us know if you would like us to formally withdraw the petition or if you have further questions for your upcoming meeting.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Best regards,

### Petition Processing Team

IEEE Member Operations, MGA

[IEEE Geographic Unit Formation Policies and Petitions](#)

Robert Walker (01/15/2026 09:45 PM)

I received the below email related to me endorsing a petition to form a new IEEE Southeast Louisiana Sections. Prior to me endorsing a petition to form a new section that appears to cover the same geographical area as the existing Baton Rouge Section we need to understand how this impacts the existing Baton Rouge Section. I did present the petition information to the members present at the Baton Rouge January monthly meeting and allowed the initiator of the petition to speak. After the meeting I received questions from several members in attendance that I could not answer.

Many members and most active members of the Baton Rouge section do not live in the present actual City of Baton Rouge. I myself live in East Baton Rouge Parish within the newly formed City of St George.

Please provide details and clarification for this petitioned new section as we want to understand the purpose and impact:

1. Please confirm that a section can be formed that includes the same geographical area as an existing section (The Baton Rouge Section and the New Orleans Section include the same area as the petitioned section)?
2. If a new Section can be formed where an existing Section exist;
  1. Will the existing sections be dissolved and integrated into the new section?
  2. Does the petitioned section have different geographical boundaries then the existing sections?
    1. If yes what are the specific boundaries for the petitioned section?
    2. If yes what are the specific existing Baton Rouge Section Boundaries?
    3. If yes what are the specific existing New Orleans Section Boundaries?
3. Based on my understanding of MGA the members section is automatically assigned based on your address, you cannot chose. Does IEEE automatically assign one to a section?

1. If yes, How will members be assigned a section since this proposed section includes the same geographical area as the Baton Rouge Section and the New Orleans Section?
2. Will IEEE members be able to chose a section upon joining and/or renewing.
3. How will this impact the Baton Rouge and/or New Orleans sections that includes the same geographical area other than members choosing a specific section?
4. Is there a method to allow the section membership to vote on this endorsement?
5. Is the petition documents available to all section members or can you email them to all section members for a vote to endorse or to me in full such that we can email to all section member for a vote to endorse and present at the February monthly meeting?
6. Please provide any other specific details that the existing section(s) and section members should be aware of.

Please email reply or provide an additional contact to discuss with.

Or feel free to schedule to attend the Baton Rouge Section monthly meeting on February 12, 2026 at 6:30pm or in the future as the Baton Rouge Section meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 with technical presentations.

Thanks

Robert Walker, P.E.

BR IEEE Section Chair

225-907-7622



**From:** [onlinePetitions@from.ieee.org](mailto:onlinePetitions@from.ieee.org) <[onlinePetitions@from.ieee.org](mailto:onlinePetitions@from.ieee.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 5:52 PM  
**To:** [robert.walker@ieee.org](mailto:robert.walker@ieee.org)  
**Subject:** Request to Endorse Petition to form the IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section

Dear Robert Walker,

Anitra Wilson has initiated a petition for the IEEE Southeast Louisiana Section. If you support the formation, please review and endorse the petition by doing the following:

1. [Logon to the Petition Formation website](#) using your IEEE Account.
2. Review the information on each tab of the petition.
3. On the "Endorsements" tab, click the **Endorse** button to endorse the formation of the Southeast Louisiana Section.

Best Regards,  
IEEE Petition Team  
[petition@ieee.org](mailto:petition@ieee.org)

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [petition+unsubscribe@ieee.org](mailto:petition+unsubscribe@ieee.org).

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Visit our [IEEE Support Center](#) to search our knowledgebase where you may find the answer to your question.