



# SPRING 2015 TRANSFORMERS COMMITTEE MEETING



March 5, 2015

Dear Committee Members and Guests:

You and your companion are cordially invited to attend the upcoming Spring 2015 meeting of the IEEE/PES Transformers Committee, to be held April 12–16 in San Antonio. This is our first meeting in San Antonio, and we are looking forward to a productive meeting along with a little Southwest culture.

Our meeting will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency San Antonio Riverwalk, 123 Losoya Street, San Antonio, Texas. The hotel is located directly on the unforgettable "Paseo del Rio", or River Walk, and only a few steps from the historic Alamo.

This is our first "host-less" meeting — a beta project to explore diverse methods of meeting in different cities, regardless of geographical location or technical presence. We have some tours and social events planned; however, since the city offers so much to see and experience, we left some time for you to venture out and discover what San Antonio has to offer.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Discounted guestroom rate at the Hyatt is US\$169, including complimentary internet in the guest rooms. Just mention "IEEE Transformers" to receive the group rate or visit the Committee's web site for a link to reserve a room. The cut-off date for this group rate is March 20, but we expect the hotel to sell-out before then. Self-parking for guests staying at the hotel is discounted US\$20 per day; valet parking is also available at an additional cost. Instead of renting a car, however, we encourage you to get out and stroll around and perhaps try the river taxis which cruise up and down the River Walk. **NOTE:** There are eight (8) Hyatt hotels in San Antonio, including three (3) located on the River Walk. Please ensure you have reservations at the correct hotel (123 Losoya Street).

**GETTING THERE:** The Hyatt Regency Riverwalk is located in downtown San Antonio, 9 miles/14.5 km (~15 minutes) south from San Antonio International Airport (Code "SAT"). Taxi fare is ~US\$30 one-way (per vehicle, not per passenger), and taxis can be hired curbside at both terminals.

**MEETING REGISTRATION:** Register on-line at [www.transformerscommittee.org](http://www.transformerscommittee.org) for social events, tours and the meeting. Register by Friday, March 20 to receive a \$50 early registration discount. The on-line registration system will be disabled on Wednesday, April 8 to print name badges and finalize counts. The cost to register on-site is substantially higher than the advance registration price.

**WEATHER:** We expect weather for this spring meeting to be fantastic (for a change!). Typically in San Antonio, you can expect average daytime highs of 80°F/27°C, with average nighttime lows of 60°F/15°C. They tell us it never rains in San Antonio in mid-April, and we're looking forward to a spectacular Wednesday evening dinner social, set in an outdoor courtyard and garden. Dress is business casual.

**SATURDAY EARLY BIRD EVENT:** Remember what fun we had in Savannah, harassing the piano players? Let's do it again! For those arriving on Saturday, we will walk to **Casa Rio Restaurant** (located 4–5 blocks from the Hyatt) for a tasty Mexican buffet dinner then continue to the popular **Howl at the Moon** for an evening of music and laughs (and maybe a few beverages). We have tables reserved and attendance is limited, so register early for this outing. See the flyer for more details.

**SUNDAY EVENING RECEPTION:** Join us at the Sunday evening reception in the Hyatt Hotel's **Regency Ballroom** for this renewal of old friendships and formation of new ones. A cash bar and TONS of fabulous food will be provided, along with a Latin jazz ensemble for your listening enjoyment. Indicate your intention to attend this event during the on-line registration process.

**TUESDAY AWARDS LUNCHEON:** Join fellow meeting attendees for an Awards Luncheon to recognize the hard work of your peers. This event has been popular lately, and Bill Chiu has done an excellent job of keeping the awards presentation fun and inspiring.

**WEDNESDAY DINNER SOCIAL:** We invite you to join us for dinner and camaraderie at the scenic **Jack Guenther Pavilion** at the **Briscoe Western Art Museum**. Follow the "human arrows" for an easy stroll over to the museum. Our local cuisine dinner menu will consist of roasted and smoked meats, Texas BBQ beef ribs, quail bites, crawfish and grilled corn hushpuppies, jalapeno biscuits, country potato salad and Texas farmed vegetables. Sound interesting? Wait until you taste the peach cobbler! Although the food, outdoor atmosphere and contemporary country trio are highlights of the evening, the art museum gets great reviews on Tripadvisor.com. Although most of us will walk, a shuttle bus will run all evening between the Hyatt and the museum if transportation is necessary. See the flyer for more details.

**SPOUSE/COMPANION TOURS:** The highlight of the Monday Tour will be spending time with a local celebrity, Ms. Blanca Aldaco, as she demonstrates how to make the perfect enchilada AND quite likely the best margarita you've ever tasted! Blanca conducts some 200–250 demonstrations each year and bills her classes as "the ultimate souvenir" of a San Antonio visit. Register early as attendance is limited.

Tuesday will start with a walking tour of the Alamo and other popular locations and continue with a privately chartered cruise on the San Antonio River Walk. River barges will take you to a bar-b-que lunch at the popular **Country Line** (yes, more meat!). We will finish a bit earlier than usual, giving you the opportunity to further explore the River Walk and take in an optional tour of the **Buckhorn Saloon**. Again, see the flyers for more details.

**ADDITIONAL MEETING INFORMATION:** Along with this invitation letter, additional meeting information can be downloaded from the Committee's website at [www.transformerscommittee.org](http://www.transformerscommittee.org):

- Meeting registration form. Use this as a guide to review the fees for each activity before you begin the on-line registration process. Instructions for individual event registrations and payment can be found on this page.
- Detailed meeting schedule and general session agenda. If any noteworthy changes are made, an updated schedule will be posted on the Committee's website a few days prior to the meeting.
- Other informational flyers, including those for the Saturday early bird event, Wednesday dinner social, spouse/companion tours and Thursday technical presentations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Spring 2015 Meeting, and we are certain you will enjoy your memorable visit to San Antonio!

Best regards,

*IEEE Transformers Committee  
Meetings Planning Subcommittee*