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## IEEE ComSoc Latin America Newsletter - December 2021

1 mensaje

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Para: COMSOCCR9MEMB@comsoc.org

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## [Interviews with our members](#)

## INTERVIEW WITH ANDRES NAVARRO, COMSOC BOARD

### Industry Relations Committee



Andrea Carrión



Andrés Navarro

*By Andrea Carrión - Global Communications Newsletter Committee, IEEE ComSoc Latin America Board*

It is a great pleasure to present the section of interviews to ComSoc members of Latin America in our monthly Newsletter. On this occasion, I have the honor to introduce Andres Navarro. In this interview, Andres shares important information about the role of the Industry Relations Committee in the IEEE Communications Society, performed activities and benefits.

Andres Navarro is an electronic engineer and Master on Technology Management from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, in Medellín, Colombia. Ph.D in Telecommunications from Universitat Politècnica de Valencia, in Spain. Worked in industry for some years, before dedicate to academy. He has been a researcher and professor for near 30 years now and IEEE member for 26 years, including Comsoc.

**Andrea:** Hello Andres, thank you for sharing important information with members. Let us begin by explaining what is the role of the Industry Relations Committee is in the IEEE Communications Society.

**Andres:** During last years, Comsoc, and in general IEEE have noted a decline in the industry membership. Traditionally, the relation between Comsoc and industry have been strong and this situation drive the Society to seek how to improve again the relations with Industry. ***This committee is the answer from Comsoc to encourage membership from companies and highlight the benefits that companies can get when their employees are Comosc members.***

**Andrea:** Clearly, we must address the real needs of the Industry and help bridge them to the public good and the academia in order to advance common goals and foster and strengthen these relationships. Why do you think the Industry Relations Committee is important to ComSoc's priorities?

**Andres:** As mentioned before, this committee is quite important now, because we need to reinforce our relations with industry, especially with the current IoT and 5G development.

**Andrea:** Success of IEEE Sections and, in turn, of ComSoc, largely depends on the support of local and regional industries. What are the specific needs of ComSoc LA members that you have identified during these two years on the Industry Relations Committee?

**Andres:** We have a special condition, because with the exception of Mexico and Brazil, most technology companies in the region are just resellers or branch offices of telcos. Most of these telcos have their research offices in headquarters, and the local companies outsource the deployment and operation. This means that local companies do not see clearly the general benefits of Comosc for their employees and is a bit more difficult to promote the Society between industry professionals. Therefore, we have working to identify specific benefits and needs, like networking or participation in training and webinars, that are appreciated by industry members.

**Andrea:** What are the main activities carried out by the Industry Relations Committee under your leadership?

**Andres:** This year, we organized some activities involving invited companies and national communications regulators, to discuss technology advances and challenges for the region. We participated in an Industry forum for the Andean Region in November, to promote IEEE and Comsoc between participants.

**Andrea:** Finally, what are the benefits of IEEE ComSoc members that belong to the industry?

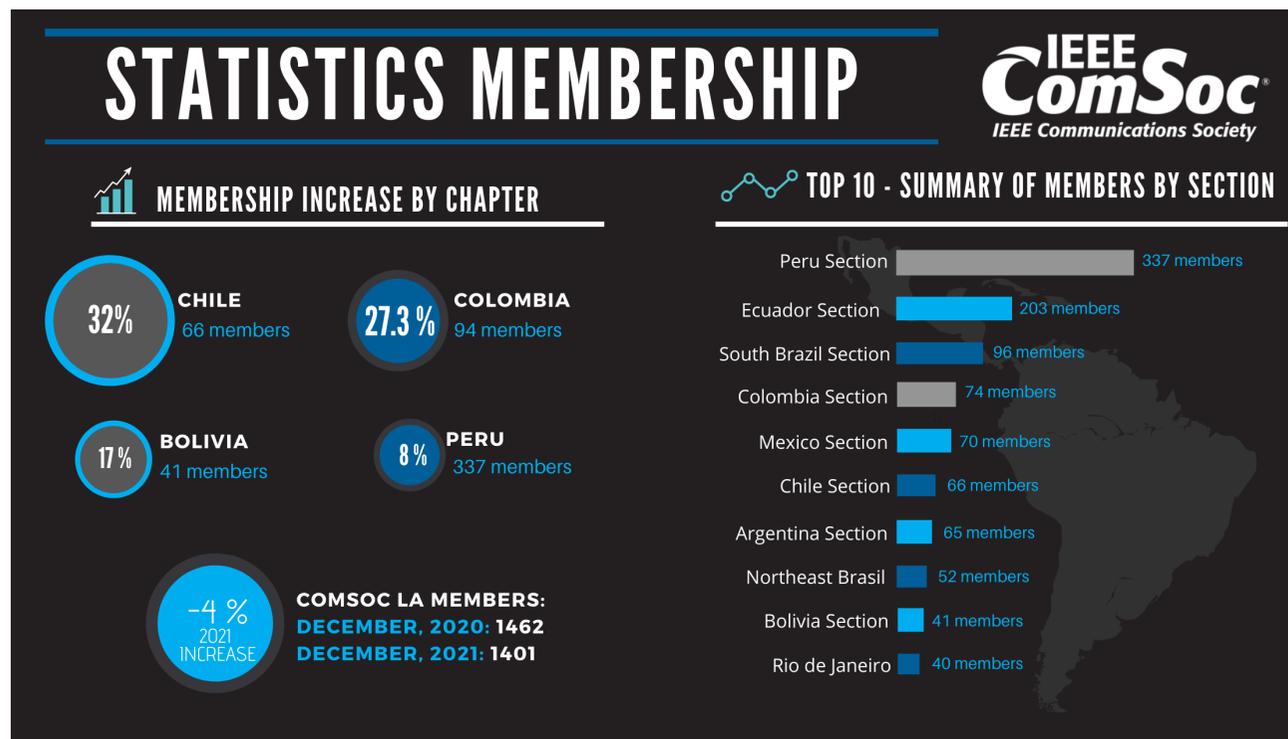
**Andres:** The obvious and well known benefits are the publications, especially Communications Magazine and the recently created ComSoc Technology News (CTN), which allows members to be updated in terms of technology development. On the other hand, the networking possibilities and access to thousands of experts in different communications fields are a valuable but not so visible benefit.

Thank you very much Andres for sharing important information with ComSoc members, it will surely be very valuable.

Learn more from the full analytical report and strategy recommendation for ComSoc's relationship with the Industry.

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## Membership Statistics ComSoc LA



The analysis of the number of members of IEEE ComSoc in Latin America was made, making a comparison between the number of members in December 2020 and December 2021. Currently, the total membership has decreased by 4%, this is because the number of Professional Members decreased by 1%, Student Members decreased by 12% and Graduate Students decreased by 4%.

In the top 10 of the number of members per chapter for December 2021, there is in first place Peru with 337 members, Ecuador with 203 members, South Brazil with 96 members, Colombia with 74 members, Mexico with 70 members, Chile with 66 members, Argentina with 65 members, Northeast Brazil with 53 members, Bolivia with 41 members and Rio de Janeiro with 40 members.

It is important to recognize that some chapters increased the number of members in relation to December 2020, such as: Chile increased 32%, Colombia 27.3%, Bolivia 17% and Peru 8%.

# ComSoc Chapter Awards



## Congratulations to the 2021 Chapter Award Recipients

IEEE Communications Society celebrates the achievements of its Chapters through annual awards.

The Chapter Achievement Award is a Regional award recognizing the achievements of the top-performing Chapter in a particular IEEE ComSoc region.

IEEE ComSoc recognizes the best Chapters for their outstanding activities in the previous year. One outstanding chapter is selected from each of the four Regions to receive a Chapter Achievement Award (CAA). During an award ceremony at Globecom 2021, the Peru Chapter received the IEEE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY 2021 CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD for Region 9.

# ComSoc Region Awards Report

## IEEE Communications Society Latin America Region Awards Report

Annually, two awards are given to ComSoc members from the LA region to recognize their valuable work: the Latin America Region Young Professional Award and the Latin America Region Distinguished Service.

Candidates for awards must reside in the Latin America Region at the time of the publication or activity for which the awards are made and must be regular or graduate student members of the IEEE Communications Society.

### ***I) Latin America Region Young Professional Award***

IEEE ComSoc Members evidencing of an outstanding and promising professional record in the field of communications.

Eligibility: Professionals in communications and related fields in their first five years of their careers following a professional degree. Latin America background is required.

Prize: Plaque and US \$ 1,000.00

### ***II) Latin America Region Distinguished Service Award***

IEEE ComSoc Members evidencing significant contribution to the development of IEEE Communications Society activities in the Latin America Region.

Eligibility: Individual who have significantly contributed to the development of IEEE Communications Society activities in the Latin America Region.

Prize: Plaque and US 1,000.00

## RESULTS

I) Latin America Region Young Professional Award: **Yessica Saez, Member Panama Chapter.**

“For her outstanding achievements in Communications profession in Latin America”

II) Latin America Region Distinguished Service Award: **Andres Navarro, IEEE Senior Member Colombia Chapter.**

“For his continued support and leadership to Communications Society activities in Latin America”

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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# IEEE ComSoc Member Opportunities



**"I STARTED VOLUNTEERING AT IEEE IN 2015 WITH THE AIM OF PARTICIPATING IN BETCON FOR FREE. HOWEVER, I ACHIEVED MUCH MORE THAN ATTENDING A CONFERENCE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH"**

*Gabriela Caspa, ComSoc member.*

### ***Opportunities for IEEE and ComSoc members, by Gabriela Caspa.***

I started volunteering at IEEE in 2015 with the aim of participating in BETCON for free. However, I achieved much more than attending a conference: opportunities for personal and professional growth.

For the next 4 years, I actively participated as a volunteer: as a ComSoc member, as Student Branch president at Universidad Católica Boliviana, and as a member of the SAC team in La Paz. Along with my branch and individually, I obtained some IEEE recognition, outstanding student volunteer and success cases in IEEE Bolivia, and one of my stories was selected for the IEEE Spectrum Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame.

***As a student, I was part of the organization of technical workshops, seminars, conferences, and camps where I could meet excellent students and professionals from different careers, universities, and countries.***

Later, as a young professional, IEEE and ComSoc have added value to my CV and increased my chances when

applying for internships and job roles due to the prestige of IEEE. In addition, the networking I got from IEEE has guided me constantly in the development of my career.

In January 2021, ComSoc Bolivia shared by mail the possibility of taking postgraduate courses remotely (as a special student) at the Institute of Computing (IC) at the University of Campinas (Unicamp); in turn, that chance was published by PhD. Nelson Fonseca (IC Unicamp professor), who is a great ComSoc volunteer and currently ComSoc VP Conferences.

I took advantage of that opportunity for two semesters, taking subjects focused on computer networks, and thanks to the guidance of professor Fonseca and the help of professors Calizaya, Molina, and Palma (IEEE members), I applied to the master's degree program in Computer Science at IC-Unicamp, and luckily I was accepted. Now I am preparing to start graduate school and I continue to receive support and guidance from my frIEEEnds.

***I also want to mention that IEEEExplore is a very useful tool when consulting a serious and updated bibliography. I have used it both as an undergraduate and in the subjects that I took as a special student.***

I am very grateful to IEEE, especially to the SAC and ComSoc Bolivian teams who work hard to bring so many opportunities to the members of IEEE Bolivia. Without a doubt, these opportunities can have a great impact on the careers of many engineers.

I invite all university students to be part of the COSMOC IEEE, which is not only a scientific community but also a great network of student and professional friends who always support each other to be better human beings.



## Elevate to Senior Member status

*Have you been in professional practice of an IEEE-designated field for at least ten years?*

*Have you shown significant performance over at least five of those years in professional practice?*

***If so, you may be eligible for IEEE Senior Membership!***

A promotional banner for IEEE Senior Membership. The background is purple with a yellow diagonal stripe. On the left, the text reads "Set Yourself Apart Elevate to Senior Member Status". In the center, the word "Are" is in yellow, followed by a circular image of a diverse group of people, and then "Next?" in yellow. Below this, it says "Start Here ▶ Go Anywhere!". On the right, the IEEE logo is displayed with the tagline "Advancing Technology for Humanity".



**Recognition:** The professional recognition of your peers for technical and professional excellence. Announcement of your elevation can be made in Section/Society and/or local newsletters, newspapers, and notices.



**Complimentary Society Membership:** You will receive one new IEEE Society for free.



**Leadership Eligibility:** Senior members are eligible to hold executive IEEE volunteer positions.



**Review Panel:** Senior members are invited to be on the panel to review Senior member applications.



**Senior Member Plaque:** An engraved plaque you can proudly display to colleagues, clients, and employers.



**Letter of Commendation:** A letter of commendation on the achievement of Senior member grade will be sent to your employer (upon request).

There is no cost to apply for Senior Membership. Learn more about the requirements **for IEEE Senior member grade.**

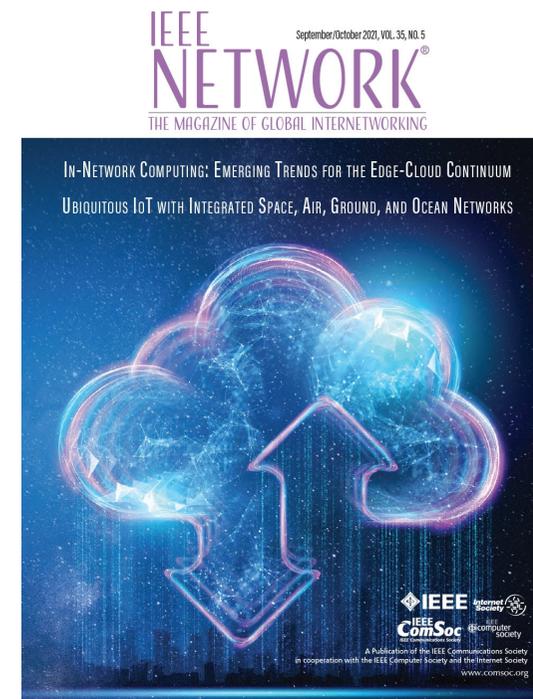
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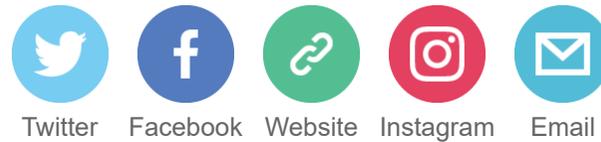
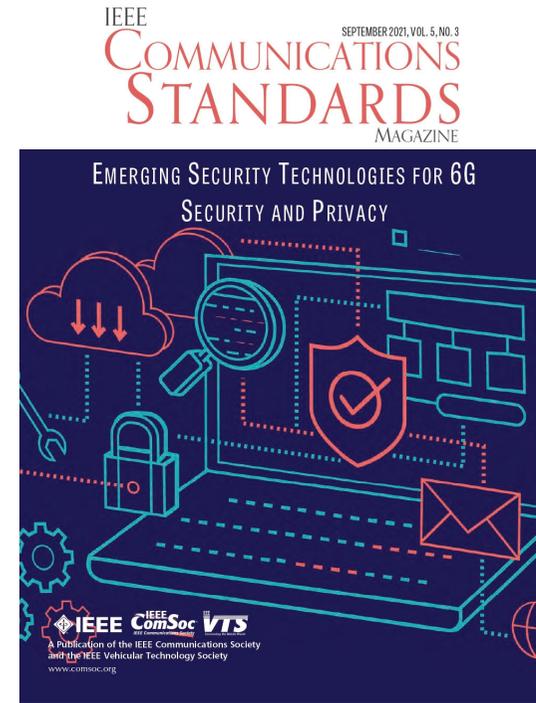
## Magazines ComSoc

## ***IEEE Communications Society Magazines in communications and networking***

IEEE Communications Society monthly magazines provide researchers and practitioners with current updates of critical developments as well as projections of where technology development will lead the industry.

Current publications include *IEEE Communications Magazine*, *IEEE Network*, *IEEE Wireless Communications*, and *IEEE Communications Standards Magazine*.





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