

**Baltimore Section**  
**October Executive Committee Meeting Report**  
**21 September 2015**

This report summarizes the proceedings of the IEEE Baltimore Section Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting held on Monday, 21 September 2015 at the National Electronics Museum (NEM, <http://www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org>), Linthicum, MD.

**1. CALL TO ORDER (@6:50 pm)**

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

**3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR EXCOM MINUTES**

- Determined date of Oct meeting: 10/12. Note this is Columbus day but conflict is acceptable
- Meeting minutes approval
  - Feb: incomplete sentence deleted. Rob made a motion to approve as amended. Neville seconded. Motion passed.
  - Mar: Dave made a motion to approve. Rob seconded. Motion passed.
  - Apr: Rob made a motion to approve. Neville seconded. Motion passed.
  - June: Clarification required on robot kit costs per unit Neville to provide correct numbers.
  - Motion tabled.

**4. Executive Reports**

- Chair
  - Received several invoices from Engineer's Club over the summer. Will provide them to treasurer for payment. Neville provided background on Engineer's Club finances, donations, and expenses. It was noted that any donation from the section is subject to the section limit as designated by MGA operations manual.
  - GC07 reimbursement: Vinod tried to call NoVA and Washington section chairs, spoke with one. Background discussion of GC07 issue. Issue remains under consideration, tabled for debate with larger group.
  - Vinod has received email from several prospective volunteers.
- Vice Chair
  - Benaud (Ben) Menachery interested in volunteering
  - Discussed possible IEEE Day event (10/6) - discussed last year's event, expenses, lead time, logistics. Determined to suspend plans, hold event in 2016.

- Vinod appoints ad hoc committee to plan event in 2016. Rob, Vinod, Collin will be members.
- Discussion of section Awards and Recognition chair (currently vacant). In future this event could become part of that volunteer's role.
- Neville notes that IEEE awards (including section awards) can be forwarded as-is to the Engineer's Club for consideration on their awards
- Treasurer – No updates
- Secretary – No updates
- Past Chair –
  - IEEE Day (10/6) - NoVA is hosting an event. Baltimore should advertise in next newsletter
  - GC16 face to face meeting will be held in DC 9/26. Several from section will be in attendance
  - South area job fair (10/28) in NoVA. Baltimore should advertise in next newsletter

## 5. Committee Reports

- Elections
  - IEEE elections open through 10/5. Section elections to follow. Note that section election schedules are a region focus point this year.
  - (unreported) A region 2 conference call will be held 9/29
  - (unreported) the section should consider providing a WebEx call in option for ExComm meetings
  - 1 candidate for chair (in discussions)
  - 3 candidates for treasurer
  - 1 candidate for secretary
  - Continued call for candidates
- Robot Challenge
  - Will be a tough year for the robot challenge due to new college board recommendation of high schools to teach prior AP Physics B material (1 year) in a 2 year format of AP physics 1 and AP physics 2. Result is some students who would have taken AP Physics B in grade 11 will now take Physics 1 in grade 11, Physics 2 in grade 12, and may not have schedule flexibility to take engineering electives where the robot challenge has traditionally been featured.
  - May need more aggressive recruitment this year to keep participation up. Will be advertising to MASS and TEAAM teacher conferences
  - Our program benefits from its challenging curriculum, low cost kit
  - Two new options available this year
  - 3D printed body option
  - New closed-loop automation mode
  - Kit order has already been placed
  - Ordering fewer automation kits (since the circuit board is reusable)
  - 20 two leg automation kits, 10 four leg automation kits
  - 210 manual robot kits
  - first batch due end of Sept

- Noted that costs have increased slightly, program will incur a loss of approximately \$1 per kit this year. Likely will need to increase price next year.
- Open Discussion
  - Ken - will contact Pam Jones/Wole Akpose for guidance in taking leadership of computer society
  - Section/Collin will help with transition, may need to find a contact at Division to formally assign chair role.
  - George - looking for senior member nomination
  - Rob - same
  - Several senior members present agreed to review their applications
  - Bob suggests a section technical meeting on drones. Does not have a speaker in mind. Notes that Vijay Kumar at Penn is known in the field.
- Rob motions to close meeting. Dave seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 8:21.

## **6. Attendees**

- Rob Rencowitz
- Ken Schwerigen
- George Ryan
- Dave Kisak
- Collin Krepps
- Bob Berkovitz
- Vinod Mishra
- Neville Jacobs