

Baltimore Section
June Executive Committee Meeting Report
13 June 2016

This report summarizes the proceedings of the IEEE Baltimore Section Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2016 at the National Electronics Museum (NEM, <http://www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org>), Linthicum, MD.

1. CALL TO ORDER (@ 6:30 p.m.)

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. ATTENDEES

Rob Rencewicz (Baltimore Chair)
Ben Menachery (Baltimore Vice-Chair)
Sherwood Olson (Baltimore Secretary)
Bill Semancik
Bob Berkovitz
Jay Gammerman
Jeff Friedhoffer
David Kisak
Tom Turlington
Fred Chen
Shunguang Wu
Anthony Rush
Tim Cash
Barin Nag
Elie Rosen
Dan White

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR EXCOM MINUTES

Motion to accept April's ExCom minutes was initiated by Jeff and seconded by Ben. The motion passed and April's minutes will be posted.

5. EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chair:

Rob initiated a discussion on the constitutional amendment that IEEE has proposed. The constitutional amendment will be on the 2016 IEEE election ballot that opens August 15, 2016. There has been much discussion on the proposed amendment and a good deal of dissent. The proposed IEEE constitutional amendment may be reviewed at URL:

https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html

Bill provided a quick summary of some of the concerns about the amendment and the positions of other IEEE organizations.

- The D.C. section formally expressed their opposition to the amendment. See attachment.
- IEEE Communications Society has formally expressed their opposition to the amendment. See attachment.

The recommendation was that the Baltimore Section assemble a committee to discuss the proposed IEEE amendment and establish the Section's position. Rob will take the lead on this action. After the Section's position is established it will be promulgated to the Section's membership through eNotice.

There was a call to get student volunteers from Naval Academy, UMBC, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland to volunteer for the Future Leader's Forum in New Orleans, but no one responded.

IEEE is holding a SmartTech event in Crystal City, VA. POC is Murty Polavarapu from the NoVA section and he contacted Rob and Collin to help line up Systems Engineering speakers from Northrop Grumman for the event. **Rob took the action to follow up on Murty's request.**

Vice-Chair:

Ben stated that he attended the Region 2 conference workshop held in the NoVA Section on 7 May. The materials from the workshop have been uploaded to the IEEE folders on the Google Shared Drive.

Treasurer:

Rob stated that he will contact the Treasurer (Matt) to follow up with the following questions:

1. Has the UMBC Concentration Bank account been set up and funds provided?

Matt responded to this question by Email on 19 June, "I haven't given anything to UMBC yet because they have not set up their Concentration Banking account yet. Once that is done, I can send them the money."

2. Did the section receive a check from a New Jersey High School reimbursing the Robot Challenge program in the estimated amount of \$2500?

Matt responded to this question by Email on 20 Jun, "Jay actually reached out to me as well. I confirmed for him that I had received the check from the NJ Section and it has been deposited. It will show up in the June records."

3. Did the section send a check to the US Naval Academy?

Matt responded to this question by Email on 20 Jun, "The check for the USNA Student Branch cleared, so they have their money now."

Matt reported that in general the finances are in good shape.

Secretary:

Sherwood presented the three-month calendar.

Calendar for June – August is attached.

6. COMMITTEE/SOCIETY/AFFINITY REPORTS

Committee Reports:

Chapter Dinner:

Bill provided a report on the successful Awards Dinner that was held in May. 39 people attended and there were zero no-shows. The event met financial targets and the venue met expectations. There was a comment made that maybe in the future a tech talk should be added, but this activity would not work well in a restaurant setting.

Educational Activities:

Jeff reported on the STEM festival that was held at the Howard County Community College. It was very successful; approximately 1400 people attended (about 700 kids) and of the 200 kits that were assembled for the event 150 were used. Jeff stated that he would like to assemble more kits at about \$4/kit. Jeff motioned to allocate \$800 to assemble more kits and Dave seconded the motion. There was additional discussion: **Jeff will research a PACE funding request and then provide Rob details who will ask Matt to request the PACE funds.** Tim asked about whether there were any opportunities for providing software kits at events like the STEM festival, which was followed by some brief discussion on the opportunities and challenges of software-based kits.

Robot Challenge:

Jay provided an update on the Robot Challenge Program. The dates for the 2017 Robot Challenge are 22-23 April. Further details may be found in the attachment. There was a discussion on other robot competitions that are held. Two notable ones were the *FIRST* Robotics Competition and the Vex Robotics Competition but the costs associated with entering into these competitions is significant (est \$5-10k).

Elections:

Dave stated that he is looking for members to declare their desire to run for officer positions in 2017. Election is in November and he would like bios and statements before September.

Society Reports:

Communications Society (ComSoc):

Jeff said he will be organizing a ComSoc dinner meeting to discuss speakers for the upcoming year.

Jeff and Bill discussed the upcoming ComSoc election and the candidates. They mentioned Vincent Chan is an excellent candidate for president and they recommend him.

Computer Society:

Currently there is no active Computer Society in the Baltimore Section, but there is interest in trying to get one started. Jeff provided ideas for restarting the society and Bob provided recommendations for speakers including someone from UMBC. Barin expressed interest in getting the society off the ground.

ElectroMagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Society:

Bob stated that the EMC symposium will be held 25 - 29 July in Ottawa, Canada.

Information Theory Society:

Murty has requested information about which Baltimore Section members are also members of the Information Theory Society. **Sherwood took the action to pull the members' names from SAMIEEE and provide to Rob.**

Affinity Reports:**Young Professionals:**

Elie reported that five people attended the Young Professionals event to tour NSA's Cryptologic Museum. They were provided a private tour, which was very interesting.

Rob mentioned the Nationals Baseball Game event and recommended that it be advertised through eNotice and the section newsletter: The 1st Annual IEEE Region 2 South Area Night at the Ballpark will be held on Thursday, 25 August, at the Nationals Park Baseball Stadium. More information may be obtained through Tyler Puckett at 202.640.7651 or tyler.puckett@nationals.com or visit <http://www.nationals.com/ieee>.

7. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Rob mentioned that it is time to donate funds to the National Electronics Museum (NEM). They have been a vital partner in Baltimore Section's ExCom and society activities. Jeff motioned to donate \$1500 to the NEM to cover the section's use of the facility and resources. Dave seconded the motion. Discussion followed on whether \$1500 was equitable. The motion passed and Rob suggested that the NEM director be invited to a meeting to accept the donation.

Jeff suggested that Baltimore Section should submit the inventor of the Defibrillator to the IEEE History Committee for a Milestone Award. Also, Johns Hopkins should be involved with the request because they were involved in its invention. Jeff took the action to ask Boris and Carole to write the nomination.

Rhonda Farrell from Region 2 is looking for Baltimore Section volunteers and donations for the IEEE day for milestone membership (e.g. 10, 25, and 50 year members). Tentative date is Tuesday, October 4. Discussion followed on what an acceptable time, venue and level of support would be. It was agreed that a weekday would be a poor choice because it would not attract a lot of participation. It was also suggested that a quality speaker be invited to increase the event's draw. **Rob took the action to contact Rhonda and suggest a different date for the event and establish expectations, cost, and venue.**

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Bill motioned for the meeting to adjourn at 8 p.m. and Jeff seconded it..

10. APPENDIX

Draft list of funds and treasurer report may be requested from the Baltimore Section Secretary by Email.

Motion In Opposition to the Proposed Constitutional Change

“MOVED, that the Executive Committee of the Washington, DC Section of IEEE votes against the proposed constitutional amendment.

Our comments are as follows:

1. The proposed constitutional changes will eliminate control of IEEE Geographic Entities (Regions), IEEE Technical Societies (Divisions) and the IEEE Assembly over the Board of Directors' composition. Thus making the Board not accountable to IEEE Organizational Units;
2. It will also give the Board an opportunity to propose existing Board Members to be nominated for election as future Board Members, creating an apparent conflict of interest;
3. The required direct election (by more than 300,000 IEEE Members) for all IEEE Board of Directors positions just creates appearance of democracy. Currently the Board has 28 Directors. Every IEEE Member will be expected to educate themselves on the merits of 28 (or more) candidates. This is unrealistic and most likely will result in mechanical approval of the list of candidates compiled by the existing Board;
4. The still-to-be-written bylaws under the proposed constitution have considerable unknowns but more importantly the bylaws will document the IEEE structure which the Board solely can approve without membership approval;
5. Due to the above considerations, we strongly encourage IEEE Members to vote AGAINST the proposed Amendment of the IEEE Constitution."



Message from The IEEE Communications Society

During its 26 May 2016 meeting, the IEEE Communications Society's Board of Governors carefully reviewed and considered the proposed IEEE Constitutional Amendment change that will be on the IEEE members' ballots with the start of the IEEE Election on August 15th. As a result, the Communications Board of Governors unanimously passed this motion:

"The BoG of the IEEE Communications Society opposes the proposed constitutional amendment and modified board structure."

The reasons behind the position include the following:

1. The problem statement that the proposed amendment is attempting to solve is not well-defined and the proposed solution adds complexity
2. The existing IEEE Constitution offers alternative, less complex ways of accomplishing the intended improvements;
3. The risk associated with a major constitutional change is not clearly outweighed by its possible benefits.
4. There are serious risks that the Bylaws changes induced by the Constitutional Amendments will reduce the visibility and control of IEEE societies and geographical regions on key strategic decisions made by the IEEE Board of Directors for the future of the IEEE.
5. There is a risk that the proposed changes, like the Constitutional Amendment, will shift too much power from IEEE members to IEEE Corporate Staff.

The IEEE Communications Society BoG wants Society members to be fully informed voters, so this motion was also unanimously passed:

"It was moved for the Society to create and communicate a balanced view of the pros and cons of the constitutional amendment to the membership of the Society and to inform members of the Society on the BoG position about the Constitutional Amendment."

We urge you to read about the proposed changes, make up your own mind about them, and dutifully exercise your right to vote to influence IEEE's future.

For background, the IEEE governing documents, including the Constitution and Bylaws, can be found here:

<http://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/index.html>

The proposed changes to the Constitution can be found here:

https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html

Similarly, you can learn more about the IEEEin2030 effort to evolve the IEEE organizational structure here:

https://www.ieee.org/about/corporate/ieeein2030_archive_m.html

And those opposing this amendment have set up a web site with information as to why they are opposed and which can be found here:

[Opposing the 2016 IEEE Constitutional Amendment](#)

However you decide to vote, please vote. Recent IEEE votes have only had around 17% of the voting members participating. Your vote, whether yes or no, does count.

Harvey Freeman
IEEE Communications Society President
"Let's have a great year"



[Unsubscribe](#) if you do not wish to receive future messages like these.

www.comsoc.org

IEEE Communications Society - 17th floor, 3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016

IEEE Baltimore Section Calendar

Jun 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 1pm - Howard County STEM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 6pm - Executive Committee 6pm - SANSFIRE 2016 @	13	14	15	16	17 6pm - IEEE Honors	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
IEEE Conference on Connected Health @ Washington, DC, USA						

IEEE Baltimore Section Calendar

Jul 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
IEEE Conference on Connected Health @ Washington, DC, USA						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
IEEE-USA Future Leaders Forum @ Tulane University, New Orleans, LA						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

IEEE Baltimore Section Calendar

Aug 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 IEEE Annual Election Opens	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 7pm - Nats Baseball Game	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

IEEE Baltimore Section Calendar

Sun Jun 5, 2016

1pm - 5pm Howard County STEM Festival

Where: Howard Community College, United States

Mon Jun 13, 2016

6pm - 9:30pm Executive Committee Meeting

Where: National Electronics Museum, 1745 W Nursery Rd, Linthicum Heights, MD 21090, United States

6pm - 9:15pm SANSFIRE 2016

Where: Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008, USA

Sat Jun 18, 2016

6pm - 9pm IEEE Honors Ceremony

Where: Gotham Hall, 1356 Broadway, New York, NY 10018, USA

Mon Jun 27, 2016

All day IEEE Conference on Connected Health

Mon Jun 27, 2016 - Thu Jun 30, 2016

Where: Washington, DC, USA

Tue Jun 28, 2016

All day IEEE Conference on Connected Health

Mon Jun 27, 2016 - Thu Jun 30, 2016

Where: Washington, DC, USA

Wed Jun 29, 2016

All day IEEE Conference on Connected Health

Mon Jun 27, 2016 - Thu Jun 30, 2016

Where: Washington, DC, USA

Thu Jul 28, 2016

All day IEEE-USA Future Leaders Forum

Thu Jul 28, 2016 - Sun Jul 31, 2016

Where: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Fri Jul 29, 2016

All day IEEE-USA Future Leaders Forum

Thu Jul 28, 2016 - Sun Jul 31, 2016

Where: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Sat Jul 30, 2016

All day IEEE-USA Future Leaders Forum

Thu Jul 28, 2016 - Sun Jul 31, 2016

Where: Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Mon Aug 15, 2016

All day IEEE Annual Election Opens

Mon Aug 15, 2016 - Tue Aug 16, 2016

Thu Aug 25, 2016

7pm - 10pm Nats Baseball Game

Where: Nationals Park Baseball Stadium

Status, Student Activities, 6-13-16

1. Feedback from the Robot Challenge has been positive, though there was some concern about the small number of teams that attended Saturday, compared with the number that came on Sunday. Next year we will encourage all teams to come Sunday, offering Saturday only for those teams unable to do so.
2. As mentioned at the 4/18 meeting, we held a reception on Sunday, 4/17, between the time the robot activities were concluding and the start of the Awards ceremony. It was very well received, removed the need to have an Awards ceremony at the Chapter Chairs Dinner, made everyone happy, and saved the section some money.
3. We were very glad to see that at least one team was highly successful in the new Closed-loop Automation with Feedback option, but we need to get lots more. A number of teams attempted Open-loop Automation, but we found that the reason they did not do well (not only in Automation but also in Manual operation), may have been that they were not allowed enough time to do both. We have been talking to teachers to assure that teams doing automation be given more time than those teams just walking manually, and we hope this may fix the problem.
4. The dates for the Robot Challenge in 2017 will be April 22 and 23. This is a week later than this year, so the loss of some snow days will be less critical.
5. Training class dates for Teachers, Mentors and Judges will be held Thursday, November 17, from 4 to 7 PM; and Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 10 AM to 2 PM.
6. At the request of the Baltimore Museum of Industry, all Engineering Challenges were requested to present their projects to teachers at an exposition at the Museum on May 26, so that they could plan for next year's activities over the Summer. While a good concept, the end-of-the marking-period was not a very good time for teachers, and few showed up. We'll study whether a better time may provide a better response.
7. Our challenge next year will be to contact and engage more schools, while holding on to the schools that have been working with us over the years.

Neville