

## **IEEE Milwaukee Section 2006 Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of IEEE Executive Meeting  
April 13th, 2006  
At MSOE

### **Attendees:**

**Section Officers: Brian Cunningham, Glen Wrate, Tom Smith, Elizabeth Whiting**

**Chapter Chairs: Larry Hause (EMBS & PACE), Val Werner (Power), Ram Bhatia (Industrial Apps.), Jim Blaha (EMC & Director), Mark Juds (Magnetics), Edina Bajrektarevic (WIE)**

**Section Directors and Other Chairs: Bill Henning, Paul Tindall, Robert Molthen**

**Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Brian Cunningham.**

**Paul Tindall** passed out the minutes from the last section meeting.

**Brian Cunningham** asked for the group to review and approve them.  
The minutes were approved.

**Brian Cunningham** passed the floor to **Edina Bajrektarevic** to report on the success of her WIE group's electronics project.

**Edina Bajrektarevic** passed out copies of a PowerPoint presentation that she created outlined the group's accomplishments (it will be available on the IEEE-Milwaukee website soon). She spoke of the extremely positive response we received from both schools visited (St. Joan Antida and Erin School) and how they both want to continue using IEEE to get their students interested in mathematics and engineering. Edina wanted to again thank IEEE-Milwaukee for their financial aid as it helped greatly in making this project successful for yet another year.

**Edina Bajrektarevic** then outlined her group's goals and plans for the new year which included increasing membership and possibly adding more schools to give presentations at (not actually do an electronics project, but at least talk to the students and show visual aids).

**Brian Cunningham** commended Edina and her group stating that our section was more than happy to support such projects since this is what IEEE was founded for. He then went on to say that all of our chapters should be doing more of this to get our name out there and to help increase membership.

**Ram Bhatia** asked Edina how many of her members were active and how to keep them active and interested.

**Edina Bajrektarevic** responded that about seven were actively participating in the school projects. She said that the rewards of seeing the children really get involved and having fun and enjoying the project is what keeps her members active and interested. She said that her members and volunteers work hard throughout the year to prepare for this one event, but that it all pays off when they get such positive responses as they did this year (the students wrote individual letters to each member thanking them and expressing their enjoyment of the day's activities).

**Brian Cunningham** moved the discussion to the next agenda item which was the evening's guest speaker. The keynote speaker is from Marquette University and will be discussing his new project management course at the university covering what's in store for engineering in the year 2020. Brian reiterated that the speaker was not looking for just a lecture, but more so wanted the attendees' opinions and input.

**Brian Cunningham** pointed out that tonight's meeting was the first that we would collect business cards at for the holiday party drawing.

**Brian Cunningham** asked for an update on the awards dinner and if we would have money for awards and what the plans so far were regarding the function.

**Jim Blaha** informed the group that the date of May 19<sup>th</sup> had been looked into. Also, he had reviewed having the affair at Friday's in Miller Park during the Minnesota Twins game. The cost would be \$100 per person with a 25 person minimum and 55 person maximum and would cover food, games, tickets, and drinks. Since the EMC chapter had sufficient funds, he stated that they would sponsor 12 individuals costing the chapter roughly between \$1000 and \$1500.

**Brian Cunningham** reminded the group that we are running on a tight budget this year and emphasized his concerns about the cost of this event.

**Jim Blaha** asked how many had responded to the emails about attending the event.

**Brian Cunningham** replied that 6 had accepted and only 2 had responded that they could not attend. He then questioned the group whether or not we should charge for attending.

**Edina Bajrektarevic** suggested that IEEE-Milwaukee covers award winners and that their guests be charged a specified amount.

**Val Werner** queried **Tom Smith** about the budget's future outlook – how much we estimate on spending this year and how much we will have afterwards based on previous years.

**Tom Smith** handed out the budget summary and stated that he estimates about \$200 per

section meeting and roughly \$4000 for the holiday party. He commented that we were doing very well so far budget-wise.

**Brian Cunningham** suggested that we could also ask chapters who haven't spent their money from nationals and are not planning on spending it this year, to sponsor themselves.

**Val Werner** asked if it was an open event to all members or by invite only.

**Jim Blaha** replied that depending on the count we may have to charge ~\$80 per guest so that we don't hit the maximum allotted persons if it were open to all members.

**Val Werner** stated that if we send out invitations they should go to every individual receiving an award and allow them to also bring a guest.

**Ram Bhatia** questioned the ethical implications of having this event.

**Val Werner** responded that most sections have an awards ceremony for their chapter chairs and board members.

**Ram Bhatia** expressed his concern for us throwing a huge party and having the general membership not find out till after the fact.

**Jim Blaha** suggested that we post an open registration to all members for the event at a cost of \$80 per person, but that the section would cover award recipients.

**Paul Tindall** thought that \$30-\$40 would be a better price for general admission.

**Jim Blaha** suggested that award recipients are free of charge, their guests will pay \$40 and all other open spots will be available to the general IEEE membership for \$80.

**Bob Molthen** expressed his concerns about the event questioning why we are even considering it if we are on a tight budget. He felt that, if anything, we should be giving the money to more projects such as Edina's WIE electronics project rather than throwing a party.

**Brian Cunningham** agreed with **Bob Molthen's** viewpoint and was concerned that we may be straying from our section's core responsibilities.

**Ram Bhatia** continued the discussion stating that officers should be recognized, but perhaps award them in front of entire membership at the holiday party instead of a separate event.

**Val Werner** stated that the point of the awards banquet is to make it distinctive and special for the board members and chairs and the purpose of the awards would be lost if it were done at the holiday party – too many other issues are addressed at that event.

**Glen Wrate** agreed and informed group that most every section throws some sort of awards ceremony. He felt that having an awards event might even increase membership by increasing the appeal for active members.

**Jim Blaha** asked which year we would be recognizing 2005 or 2006.

**Brian Cunningham** concluded that a committee be formed (himself, **Jim Blaha**, **Bob Molthen**, **Larry Hause**, and **Glen Wrate**) to discuss this further and decided upon what action(s) to take since we had run out of time. (The committee is planning on meeting this week sometime and will report back to the rest of the section soon after to get a vote and approval of what they come up with.)

**Larry Hause** quickly injected that April 19<sup>th</sup> would be the student night at UWM and TexStar would be participating.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM.**