


From: Brian Kowald <bkowald@gmail.com> 
Subject: [IEEE R3] Chair, Western North Carolina Section Report
Date: March 14, 2012 10:37:21 PM CDT
To: <r3-excom2012@ieee.org>, <sec-r03@ieee.org>, <g.vaughn@ieee.org>

1 Attachment, 14 KB

3/14/2012

IEEE Western North Carolina Section Report for SouthEastCon 2012

The Western North Carolina Section continues to be an active and busy section.

Key points:

- Yearly meeting plan established during day long planning retreat during August of 2012. The plan identifies possible topics of meetings and also meeting responsibility for affinity groups.
- Monthly EXCOM meetings held during lunch usually on the first Friday of the month.
- Active PES chapter that sponsors at least four meetings per year.
- Local Consultants Network affinity group that sponsors professional events as well as socials. The LCN maintains a website of employment opportunities within the area.
- Member Development chair Jim Corr is actively contacting members for
 - Preventing attrition for members ranging from college graduates (the highest attrition rate) to life members (some don't know renewal is not automatic)
 - Senior member promotion drive.
- Encouraged and financially supported student branches of both WCU and UNCA universities in our section to enter the SouthEastCon hardware contest.
- New student branch established at CCC&TI in Hudson NC (between Lenoir and Hickory). The new branch sponsored a general section meeting about computer cloud topics with a panel

discussion by representatives from Google, VMware, Dell, Katalyst, and CCC&TI. It was well attended by over 50 people. This was held in the eastern part of our section so it was easier for some members that don't normally drive to Asheville.

- Establish an initiative to make meetings available live online as well as recorded for later viewing. Since the endpoints of the WNC section are over two hours apart in driving time, this enables more members to participate via video conferencing tools such as WebEx and Illuminate. Slides and audio / video of meetings are posted on the section website when possible.
- Maintain contact with other engineering societies in the area and promoted a joint society banquet during e-week. Host the joint banquet when it's "our turn".

2012 Planned Activities:

- Follow 2012 meeting plan. It does allow space for "hot topics" to be inserted.
- Support student branches by attending senior project design reviews.
- Sponsor some social events, for example baseball games or breweries.

Issues:

- Member attrition
- Increase attendance
- Recruit new officers
- Need good video conferencing tools so we can expand virtual meeting interactivity.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Kowald

Chair, IEEE Western North Carolina Section

bkowald@ieee.org



[2012-03-1....docx \(14 KB\)](#)