

AREA 9 REPORT FOR APRIL 23, 2012, REGION 3 EXCOM

Introduction

The Jamaica Section convened its Annual Retreat and commenced our planning of goals and objectives for 2012 on January 18, 2012. The Jamaica Sections plans to actively participate in Region 3 Meetings this year as we have in past years to achieve the goals of the Section and of the Region.

Goals & Objectives:

- Increasing membership attendance and participation in meetings
 - Push e-membership for existing and new members.
 - Appoint an active Membership Development Chair. (Existing MD is on study leave in China)
- Push Member Engagement in collaboration with Region 3 and MGA
- Host a successful SPAC
- Increase Student Branch attendance & participation in SoutheastCon 2012 to maintain or exceed previous attendance and performance
- Participation in Regional & PACE Activities pertaining to the IEEE USA Annual Conference in May 2012
- Implement succession planning for current Officers, Chapters and Standing Committee Chairs

Member Engagement Activities:

Monthly Section Meeting

This month the Section plans to have a Technical Presentation entitled: Edutainment & 3-D Multimedia in Education presented by Dr. Damith Wickramanayake , Mr. Lushane Jones and Mr. Rushane Jones.

UTech Student Branch

The team of 14 University of Technology (UTech) Student Branch members returned home to Jamaica after a successful trip to SouthEastCon 2012 Student Competition where they participated in all six competitions and received four awards.

UWI Student Branch

University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus also participated in the student competitions at SoutheastCon 2012 after several years of being absent from SoutheastCon. For a few years the Branch was not active however it was discovered in February that the Branch was never assigned a Student branch code and they were not listed among the student branches. This year, several UWI students joined IEEE and paid their dues. The student branch successfully completed and submitted a petition to be recognized as a student branch which allowed them to participate in SoutheastCon 2012.

The UWI Student Branch was launched originally in the year 2002 and participated in SoutheastCon2002, April 5-7, 2002.

e-Membership

Jamaica is eligible for the IEEE e-membership programme.

The members who had not renewed this year, members who were found to be inactive and other interested persons were contacted by email last month to extend to them the opportunity to utilize e-membership and also the offer to pay half the price for membership for the remainder of the year. We plan to continue to focus on this membership drive during the remainder of the year to improve our membership.

Website - IEEE Jamaica Section

Webmaster Milverton Moore continues to keep the website current and provides valuable information for the Jamaica Section and Region 3. Milverton implemented the new IEEE web template in March and it has received very positive feedback. The IEEE Jamaica Section Website serves as our newsletter and the URL is as follows: <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/jamaica>.

Jamaica Section Bid Proposal for SoutheastCon 2015.

Subsequent to our meeting with members of the Region 3 Conference Committee in San Francisco we visited Sunset Jamaica Grande to renegotiate the energy charge. However the negotiations were not encouraging. As a result we initiated discussions with The Hilton Rose Hall as an alternate location for hosting SoutheastCon 2015. The Hilton confirmed that the dates for the Conference are available and have submitted a proposal to the Section. The committee is now in the process of reviewing the proposal which appears favorable.

Barriers:

At present the Section has a few core persons who are members of the ExCom that are very active, however, there are positions within the ExCom that need to be filled and the challenge is to have other IEEE members take on these leadership positions.

The Passing of George McClure

In March 2012 the IEEE lost George McClure, one of its most valuable members and the Jamaica Section acknowledged the contribution he made in the statement below:

“George McClure will be greatly missed by members of the IEEE Jamaica Section.

We were honored to have George be the Key Note Speaker at our IEEE Jamaica Section 30th Anniversary Awards Dinner in Kingston, Jamaica a few years ago. At that time we saw the depth and breath of knowledge that he had - not just of Technology but also of social and economic matters in Jamaica.

When the IEEE UTech Student Branch received awards at SoutheastCon 2011, George was one of the first to offer congratulations and wrote a wonderful piece on the achievements of the Section.

We are proud to be a part of an organization of which George McClure played such an active part.

He will certainly not be easily forgotten.

Thanks George for sharing so much of what you had so freely with all of us.”

Posted by: Daniel Tulloch-Reid - Kingston - IEEE Member and friend Mar 28, 2012

Respectfully submitted:

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