

Winston-Salem Section Report for 2012

SoutheastCon 2013 -- Jacksonville, FL

- Most fun activity/program:
 - In place of our regular monthly meeting, Senior Member Jeff Perryman took a group of Section members on a behind-the-scenes tour of the SciWorks Museum (Winston-Salem, NC), discussing the engineering details behind various exhibits, including the planetarium.
- Most successful activity/program:
 - Continued involvement at Forsyth Technical Community College
 - Two evangelizing events: Spring Fling and Fall Fest
 - Successfully started new IEEE “club” in the end of 2012!
 - “Raspberry Pi: From Kindergartners to Mad Scientists”, Mr. Francois Dion, Dion Research, LLC. Doubled our meeting attendance!
- Member engagement beyond meetings (projects, activities, etc.):
 - STEM & Engineering-Evangelizing Activities at local schools/colleges. These were coordinated efforts between our professional and WFU BME student members.
- Section activities focused outward:
 - IEEE representation at local STEM schools for educating students about Engineering and Technology, as well as judging contests such as the First Robotics Competition and several Science Fairs.
 - Two Section members became active participants in the STEM Education Leadership Council of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.
 - Fostering connections with high-school students in “sister cities” of Tianjin (China) and Unhgeni (Moldova).
- Barriers in carrying out activities:
 - Lack of “new blood” in existing appointments. Has been a consistent problem for our section. Our election cycle is every 2 years by default.
 - Attrition in secondary-committee appointments (mostly job-related causes)
 - We are reaching out to our WFU EMBS graduate students
- Issues requiring action by the Region 3 ExCom or Committee
 - Focus on training, especially those who are new to the IEEE volunteering system.
 - Regular event in December/January?
 - Alternative training media (videos?)
 - Determine and implement effective/meaningful ways to incentivize volunteers.
 - Find more ways to improve the perception of the IEEE (e.g. lowering prices for membership and published materials, encouraging the higher-levels of the IEEE to keep costs down where it can, avoid ‘cheesy’ benefits solicitations, pass savings on to members). Keep making engineering captivating and fun!
- Other Items:
 - Section has grown from 145 active members last year to 168 (16% increase).
 - Held 10 technical meetings in 2012 with 15- 40 people in attendance.
 - Published one annual newsletter and held four administrative meetings.
 - Brought closure to on-going 2010 Rebate issue.