

Engaging Members Technical Projects

Target Members

- Not all members want to be active on committees and be committee chairs
- Many technical people want to be engaged and challenged with solving complicated technical challenges
- Many entrepreneurs and hobbyists are not IEEE members

ENCS Robotics Chapter

- R&A chapter meeting attendance was down
- Local hobbyist club had attendance issues and lost it's meeting location
- As chapter chair, I invited the club to join the IEEE ENCS R&A chapter.
- Monthly attendance is now 40 people, with a meeting of 90 and another meeting of 125.
- Have 8-10 people who have joined IEEE

Engaging Technical People

- With the newly energized chapter, I started a long term technical challenge... Develop an autonomous humanoid robot that is indistinguishable from a human.
- I had 20 people signed up in the first month.
- We meet as a full team monthly, while 6 sub-teams meet off-line to work on assigned technical challenges.
- My goal is to engage 60 people in this challenge.

Suggestions

- Look for groups outside IEEE that do similar things.... Invite them to your meetings.
- Develop technical projects for members that want to be challenged technically.
- Family friendly technical meetings
- Show and Tell is important to practitioners
- Informal contests