

## **Issues requiring action by the Region 3 Committee or ExCom**

The Western North Carolina Section does not have an issues requiring action from the Region.

## **Successes/Opportunities for engaging the member, volunteer, non-member, public**

The WCN Section had a Strategic Planning Meeting on 23 Feb 2019 and started by reviewing the last 4 years of technical programs.

## **ANALYSIS OF PAST MEETINGS (2014-2018)**

**Electrical and Electronics - 4**

**Technical Education, Technical Publications and other related topics - 6**

**DIY and Maker Topics - 5**

**Automotive - 5**

**Solar, Alternative Energy and related - 4**

**Medical Technology – 2**

We intend to focus on four areas that seem to give us the best results and interest for member engagement for 2019 and beyond for technical programs to include:

**1) Growing Musical/Artistic/Culinary/Brewing Community, i.e., better liaisons with the Asheville Makers and other craft artists - culinary and brewing in the South Slope/River Arts District eating, drinking and entertainment districts. Or said another way, how do we support more programs that attract the River Arts small craft, service and tech shops and studios locating in and around the new multi-million dollar UNC-A STEAM Studios (modeled on a MakerSpace by UNC-A) and similar areas all though the River Arts District these days?**

We also want address the **Moog Music/DIY Synth/Electronic Music community in Asheville** that exists in and around Asheville's River Arts District and Moog Company that is in Asheville area. We discussed how we might **better serve the River Arts / Maker / Electronic Crafts world starting with supporting the first Asheville Maker Faire help on the UNC Asheville campus on Sat, 6 April 2019 that had over 1,100 in attendance.**

**2) Medical Technology** - more programs like the excellent ones that Dr Sprawls and some of his medical associates have offered to the wider Asheville community in the past with IEEE as sponsor. **These events seem to have a great turn-out and are particularly interesting to the larger OLLI community** over at the Rueter Center (<https://olliasheville.com/>).

**3) Robotics and Advanced AI** - more programs as these advanced technologies (autonomous vehicles, smart homes and smart cities) as products like Amazon Alexa AI, Tesla semi-autonomous EV's and other robotic and AI tech as it appears in the general public. This includes seeking an opportunity for touring the **new IEEE Humanoid Robot Project that IEEE ENC Section is sponsoring (KEN robot) and supporting NC Council's STEAM Train the Trainer Projects at a future events.**

**4) Solar and Alternative Energy** - we have had a few of these in the past that seem to be pretty well attended by the public as well as IEEE membership. Specifically we are looking into possible **"Behind the**

**Scenes" Tour of the Biltmore Estates Solar Farm that is visible from I-40** and provides a large amount the estate's energy needs these days.

We held quarterly Socials generally in craft brew locations throughout the year. These are very popular in Asheville. We are working to expand our use of IEEE web services (IEEE Collabratec, vTools, OU Analytics) and social media efforts. We are **working with our 2 IEEE Student Sections at UNC and WCU to support their continued involvement with IEEE like financial grant support provided for attending the various student competitions at SoutheastCon 2019 again this year.**

**Some notable section technical activities that meet the members needs**

Our meetings from last year included **some of our excellent Power Engineering Society Chapter presentations in conjunction with WCU Engineering including Power Systems Communications, the new Gas Insolated Power Distribution (a new substation being installed in downtown Asheville a first for Duke Energy) and we have an upcoming presentation on Power Generation Protection next month.**