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Subject: IEEE North Carolina Council (Area 2) Report
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IEEE North Carolina Council (Area 2) Report
30 March 2020
Charles Lord, Chair (with help from AJ Burke)

Issues requiring action by the Region 3 Committee or ExCom

The Western North Carolina Area 2 (NC Council) continues to work to re-energize three of our five sections. We plan to work with the Section Support Specialists from the Region to assist in that effort.

The following Sections make up the NC Council:

SECTIONS in Area 2 (NC Council)

1. Central North Carolina Section
2. Charlotte Section
3. Eastern North Carolina Section
4. Western North Carolina Section
5. Winston-Salem Section

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

Area 2 Goals and Objectives, including proposed initiatives and projects for 2020 – Response from Sections is still pending due to cancellation of Council EXCOM meeting at Southeastcon 2020 in Raleigh

Goals –

- To improve the Section-Region relationship in support of IEEE
- To improve the robustness of each Section's organizational structure
- To improve the Member-IEEE Value relationship—it's a partnership
- To improve Member Retention and Recruitment for each Section
- To improve member engagement within each Section (Note: each new OU adds 4+ engaged member-volunteers, which builds an experience pipeline)
- To improve member grade elevation (all scenarios, Associate/Affiliate, Member, Senior, Fellow, while Life Member happens)

Objectives –

- Offer each Section focused support in matters not effectively addressed by IEEE or Region
- Determine, by request/survey, those issues in need of support for each Section
- Engage Section chairs or their delegate(s) in Region Meetings
- Assist Sections in filing timely Region reports
- Assist Sections in adding Organizational Units (OU)s, including Technical Society Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches, where possible
- Hold a regular (quarterly) Area-Section conference call
- Maintain regular personal outreach to Section chairs (by chat, telephone and email)

Plans for the Year

- To visit each Section/Section Chair/Section Officers at least once (when practical)
- To demonstrate the value of an Area Chair and to add a resource for the Sections

- To contact each Section chair
- To attend a Section meeting when possible
- To be available for a Section WebEx/meeting if requested
- To set up an all-Sections WebEx for information exchange
- To identify issues that impede effective organizations and to practice and share those items that enhance organizations
- To build the North Carolina IEEE Network
- To access the career needs of North Carolina IEEE Members
- To provide linkage between North Carolina IEEE Members and North Carolina companies, organizations, state agencies and others that impact the careers of our Council Members.
- To provide visibility across North Carolina for the IEEE

Some notable Area 2 technical activities that meet the members needs

Previous NC Council meetings were held at via Webex (6 Feb 2019) and at Southeastcon 2019 in Huntsville (12 Apr 2019) and focused on the budget and activities of Area 2 as the NC Council. Most importantly 2 activities in early 2019 defined Area 2's commitment to the needs of the member Sections and they were the New Officer Training conducted at UNC-Charlotte (19 Jan 2019 - both NC and SC Area personnel were present) and the IEEE USA Consulting Network Training (4 May 2019 - sponsored by NC Council and IEEE USA Consultants Network) also conducted at UNC-Charlotte.

Other aspects of the Council's planned activities were subsumed by the officer's involvement in getting SoutheastCon 2020 in Raleigh staffed and executed (which was then unfortunately cancelled as a physical meeting at the last minute by the COVID-19 pandemic), but they included planning for consolidating the separate Eastern and Western Sections CN's, working on STEAM/STEM ideas across the state and sponsoring a technical conference again like the successful 2018 IEEE RoboResearch in Raleigh or a IEEE Smart Cities conference in Charlotte.

Our current plan is the following: Work with the five sections in the state to begin a series of state-wide "section" meetings making use of Webex Events to reach out to all 3,669 members in our council. This will help us reach our previously underserved members as well as hopefully bring a sense of unity and 'Professional Home' to members all across the state, particularly in these challenging times.

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 Chair, IEEE SoutheastCon Steering Committee
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