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Cc: 'Donohoe, Pat'
Subject: [IEEE R3] Richmond Section Report

IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

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Issues requiring action by the Region 3 Committee or ExCom

None at this time.

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

- The Richmond Section has applied for a Region 3 Pandemic Project Grant. We are hoping to have a virtual Hackathon where groups of high school students, university students, and young professionals will join with more senior members serving as mentors to develop solutions for real-life COVID-19 problems that various groups in the Richmond Section such as healthcare, education, etc. are encountering. Grant money will be used to help teams with supplies and we will work with area companies who may donate services or equipment as well. Virtual training sessions will be offered to help those who are new to engineering understand how engineers solve problems. We believe that this project will help us achieve several goals simultaneously:
 - Solve COVID-19 related problems;
 - Introduce students to engineering and to IEEE;
 - Give Student Branches community-focused projects that they can work on at a time when in-person meetings are not possible;
 - Give more senior members an opportunity to interact with younger members or potential members;
 - Show the community how IEEE lives out its tagline of “Advancing Technology for Humanity,” and;
 - Provide students and members with a sense of hope in these challenging times. Solving problems always generates more hope than simply worrying about them.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Richmond Section released its annual newsletter. The newsletter went out to two groups of people. Active members received an eNotice that included the newsletter and thanked them for their continued membership. Members who are in Arrears received an eNotice that included the newsletter and encouraged them to rejoin IEEE. A copy of the newsletter is being sent to Region 3 along with this report.
- Most other activities, other than virtual ExCom meetings, are temporarily on hold due to the virus.

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