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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

- Dr. Milos Manic was named an IEEE Fellow for contributions to machine learning based cybersecurity for critical infrastructures.
- We have kicked off our Pandemic Response Challenge which will team up Problem Solvers (consisting of high school students, university students, and recent graduates) with more senior Mentors to help solve real-life coronavirus-related problems (as identified by Problem Owners from the public and private sector). Co-sponsors who are willing to provide free goods or services to teams will also be included. We are currently in the outreach phase where we are trying to identify groups from each of these sectors. That will run through mid-March. The actual Challenge will run from mid-March to mid-May with teams that want to continue working through the summer being given the option to do so. Details can be found at <https://r3.ieee.org/richmond/covid>.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- Our student branches have suffered significantly due to the pandemic. Students are now generally restricted to virtual classes and without the person-to-person interaction, they are tending to be uninterested in joining groups like IEEE. The 50% discount and efforts to reach out to students has helped significantly, but we still have a situation where almost 39% of our Student Members have not renewed yet and almost 49% of our Graduate Students have not renewed yet. We anticipate having to make a major effort to rebuild these groups once the pandemic lifts.
- Most other activities, other than virtual ExCom meetings, are temporarily on hold due to the virus.

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