To: sec-r03@LISTSERV.IEEE.ORG
Cc: 'Donohoe, Pat'
Subject: [IEEE R3] Richmond Section Report

IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

Oct 18, 2021

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 hosted a Movie Night for IEEE Day which featured a movie on Frank Sprague. Sprague was the inventor of the traction motor and the world's first successful electric streetcar system in Richmond in 1888. The movie was partially funded by the IEEE Foundation. We had 20 people attend virtually, including 9 IEEE members and 11 guests. Most attendees remained well after the film had ended and participated in a discussion that went on for an hour.
- The Richmond Computer Society Chapter co-hosted a meeting on Machine Learning that was organized by the Northern Virginia/Washington Computer Society Chapter. In return, the Richmond Chapter has organized a meeting on Deep Learning for Biomedical and Healthcare Applications and is including the Northern Virginia/Washington Chapter as co-hosts. It is also including the Richmond MAG/EMB Jt. Chapter, the Washington/Northern Virginia EMB Jt Chapter, the Richmond WIE Affinity Group, and the VCU Student Branch as co-hosts. The WIE Affinity Group is being included because the speaker, Dr. Celia Shahnaz has been heavily involved in WIE in Region 10. (Since setting up the meeting, Dr. Shahnaz has been elected the 2022 Chair-elect for the WIE Committee.) The Student Branch was included as a co-sponsor because we discovered that most students were not getting notifications about Chapter meetings since very few students belong to any societies. That meant that they had no concept of what IEEE really did beyond the university events. We are now going to ask all Chapters to make the student branches a co-sponsor for their meetings.
- The VCU Student Branch had an IEEE Student Branch reboot meeting that was well attended. Several students who have recently become involved in IEEE are beginning to volunteer for various roles.
- Bank of America has asked the Richmond WIE Affinity Group and the Richmond Section to work with them to host an event similar to the Pandemic Challenge for K-12 students in the Richmond City Public Schools beginning in the spring. The discussions are at a very preliminary stage at this point.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- Most other activities, other than virtual ExCom meetings, are temporarily on hold due to the virus. The numbers are starting to come down after peaking slightly over a week ago and we are monitoring those numbers to see if we can safely host an outdoor social event sometime in November.

Allen Jones
Chair, IEEE Richmond Section
Chair, Richmond Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society
Midlothian, VA 23112
Email: allen.jones@ieee.org
Cell: +1 804 240 1182

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/allenjjones