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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

In previous years, an additional member of each R3 Section could attend SoutheastCon at the “R3 Meeting Attendee” rate and have some of their expenses covered, provided that they attended the R3 meetings. Is that option going to be available this year?

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

- A Vice President of Strategy and Product Analytics at an area bank reached out to me recently to learn more about IEEE and to decide if it was something that he should join. He was not sure if IEEE was just electrical or if it included software. After talking with him about the Computer Society, he started getting more interested. After talking with him about some of the community and STEM outreach work that we are doing, he decided to join. He has now volunteered to help with a summer data science program for high school students that we are working on with Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Met with Dr. Dewit Haile (Dean and Professor of VSU’s Department of Applied Engineering Technology) and he is very supportive of getting the VSU IEEE Student Branch restarted. Two VSU professors have agreed to jointly serve in the role of Student Branch Counselor and the hope is that the VSU Student Branch will be active again by this coming fall.
- Met with [Dr. John Fife](#), Director of VCU School of Education’s Center for Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education (Central Virginia STEM Ecosystem) to explore ways that we can work together to promote STEM education. His work focuses on reaching the “[missing millions](#),” i.e., groups that are underrepresented in STEM fields. We plan to keep working together on various STEM activities.
- The Richmond Section is looking at joining in on a Robotics Summer Camp for secondary school students. The general plan is that students would do the summer camp to get them started, and then continue with other related activities throughout the school year. Our hope is that once they graduate from high school and move on to college, the SoutheastCon robotics competition would be a logical next step for them.
- We are actively planning for the Richmond area’s annual Celebrate Engineering Ingenuity Day event at the Science Museum of Virginia on February 25th.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Richmond Section approved it’s 2024 budget. The budget emphasizes member engagement and STEM outreach.
- Virginia Commonwealth University is planning to send a team to SoutheastCon this year to compete in the robotics competition.
- YP Affinity Group
 - On the minus side, two of our YP officers announced that they will be stepping down in the near future because of changes in their career paths and shifting work/life/volunteering balances.
 - On the plus side, John Moody (the YP Chair), and I had a long discussion over coffee about ideas to revitalize the local YP Affinity Group. John has some good ideas for events and is also interested in

having the local YP AG work in a project together. I will follow up further with John and with Binesh Kumar, R3 YP Chair.

- Finding more volunteers continues to be a struggle. Two people have been approached about being the Founding Chair for a Richmond Section Life Member Affinity Group and both have declined. There are additional people who have been recommended and I will continue reaching out to people on that list.
- We had considered having a social event this winter, but decided to hold off until the weather is better in the spring.

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