

Lafayette Section Activity Report for 2002

2002 was a busy and exciting year for the Lafayette Section of IEEE. The Executive Committee primarily focused on membership development, member participation, and community service.

Members of the Lafayette Section attended both Regional and National meetings. Two members from the Lafayette Section attended the Section Congress in Washington D.C. They reported on this experience and returned with fresh ideas to implement for the upcoming year. Also, members from the local section and student chapter attended the 2002 Region 5 Meeting. The student chapter earned 3rd place in the mystery design competition.

As part of membership development, a Senior Member drive was held in which all eligible members were notified. The response was great, and several members were promoted to Senior Member status.

This year the Lafayette Section was a supporter of the Future City Competition. Financial contributions were made to the competition, and members volunteered their time to help support this event.

The Lafayette Section participates in several events each year with the Louisiana Engineering Society (LES). This provides an opportunity for members to network and socialize with people from different engineering disciplines. In 2002, the Joint Engineering Society Conference was sponsored by IEEE & LES. This event hosted many seminars and demonstrations and was an overall success. IEEE, in conjunction with LES, also hosts an annual Crawfish Boil. Although this is primarily a social event, it provides opportunity for networking and recruitment.

One of our best practices is “Student Night” which is held annually during October. Students from the University of Louisiana – Lafayette Electrical Engineering department are invited to attend this meeting. The meeting consists of a meal, a speaker, and time for social interaction between student members and local section members. The topic of discussion for “Student Night” is geared towards job market entry, resume’ preparation, interview preparation, etc. This meeting is great for the students and also the section. Students have the opportunity to speak with engineers who work for local companies, and they are introduced and encouraged to join the local section upon graduation. We have had as many as 200 people in attendance for “Student Night”.

The past year has been both enlightening and successful. We look forward to the coming year.