

Baltimore Section
April Executive Committee Meeting Report
20 April 2015

This report summarizes the proceedings of the IEEE Baltimore Section Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting held on Monday, 20 April 2015 at the National Electronics Museum (NEM, <http://www.nationalelectronicmuseum.org>), Linthicum, MD.

1. CALL TO ORDER (@ 6:38 pm)

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR EXCOM MINUTES

- December – Vinod requested a motion. Collin made the motion to approve. Matt seconded the motion. All approved and the motion passed.
- February – The last incomplete sentence was mistakenly left in the minutes. This sentence will be deleted.
- March – Tabled for June meeting.

4. Executive Reports

- Chair
 - Vinod attended the Region 2 meeting and Robot Challenge. Both will be reported on later in the meeting
 - Jerry Gibbons needs to know if anyone is attending ICC 2015 in London.
 - Vinod will bring the full report on GlobeCom to the next meeting. They need volunteers and hopefully government agency sponsorship. There is a benefit for the section.
- Vice Chair
 - A check is going out to John Golzy for SAC Ohio State support. John said it went really well.
 - Rob received a request from Wally and Monica for funding from when they were trying to bring Globe Comm 2013 to Washington, DC. The conference ended up going somewhere else. They were encouraged to go to the sections to request funding. Expenses were not reimbursed within 60 days and there was no pre-approval. The conference would not provide reimbursement. The costs were approximately \$10,000. Washington, DC and Northern Virginia provided reimbursement. Collin, Vinod, and Rob will meet and discuss it prior to the June meeting. Additional investigation will be needed to determine if IEEE rules allow reimbursement. Dave Kisak was chair at the time and confirmed that they did not request preapproval.

They also did not belong to Baltimore Section. The money was never budgeted.

- The Region meeting in Columbus, OH trip went well. They set goals for the committee. Vinod and Rob came up with some ideas for societies to maintain connections with the section and to get more societies active. One idea is to host a chapter chair meeting to discuss what they need to know, website updates, available funding, etc. Vinod, Rob, and Collin will meet about it. Chapter chairs are not showing up for all of the meetings, and many websites are poorly maintained. The chapter chair meeting will be an organizational meeting of the section so it doesn't need pre-approval.
- Vinod is going to look into the possibility of starting a Computational Intelligence group.
- Secretary – The minutes for the year will be sent to Ed Colbert to post to the website.
- Treasurer –
 - There are very few expenses so far this year. Matt wrote checks for the down payment for the Chapter Chairs Dinner, Rob's travel to the Region 2 meeting, dinner before the April 2015 Ex Com meeting, and the Robot Challenge.
 - NoVA wants to make opportunities available for someone who wants to talk. This would be a good opportunity for networking if anyone is interested.

5. Committee Reports

- Robot challenge –
 - The Robot Challenge went well, and everyone had fun. Saturday was a light day but Sunday was busy.
 - 38 teams started building MESA robots. Of the MESA teams, only 3 actually got robots to work. Meeting in the next month with MESA leadership to start to coordinate for future.
 - Of 104 teams, anticipated about 60 would show up. 52 turned in written reports. 37 showed up for the event.
 - The latest report is attached at the end of the minutes.
 - Charles Herbert Flowers made impressive improvement and had approximately 35 teams. They had excellent quality, workmanship, and creativity.
 - Beth Tfiloh did very well on automation.
 - 64% of 2 legged teams completed the course. The first year, nobody completed the course, and scoring was originally based on 7 minutes. This year 4 teams completed in 4 minutes.
 - There were a lot of sports conflicts, and snow days put teams behind. One school lost 9 Thursdays. It was also close to Easter, and a lot of activities and vacations are scheduled for that week due to spring break. ACTs and a school band competition were this week, too.
 - There was a suggestion to add an option of building the wood block on a 3D printer. Some parameters such as weight and dimensions will be required.

- Next year they will offer automation with installed feedback. They demonstrated this with two of the teams this year. Remote control may be another possibility.
- Neville thanked everyone who participated. He will send a pdf copy of the program to anyone who requests it.
- Jay Gamerman has some checks that he will give to Matt. Neville will submit the remaining expenses soon.
- Southern New Jersey is having their robot challenge next weekend. Coastal NJ will have one in the future. Philadelphia is interested in starting a challenge for their area.
- Awards – The first round of invitations for the chapter chair dinner were sent out. The last date to RSVP is 1 week ahead of time. The dinner will be held May 13 at the BWI Marriott. They will not be as accommodating at Snyders. There will not be time to do certificates and ½ to ¾ of certificates were never picked up. Collin has last year's section chair pin for David Price. Vinod will need to order this year's since only the section chair can order the past chair's pin. Bill is trying to get last year's speaker to come this year. Appetizers will start at around 5 pm, and dinner will start at around 6 pm. As long as there is a speaker, the presentation will start at around 7:15. Awards for students, then volunteers and officers will be given out right after the presentation with a goal of being done by about 8:30. Dress will be business attire. There is a limit of 80 people or we will go over spending limit.
- Continuing Education – There was a continuing education presentation on March 1. The topic was Android programming. The speaker was excellent. He provided some source code and went through a weather application. The attendance was a little over 30. CEU certificates provided free of charge. There was a budget of \$300, and expenses were about \$180 plus about \$50 for registration for CEUs from IEEE. Expenses included plaque for the speaker and pizza.

6. New Business

- This year's elections – (Dave Kisak) There were not many officer volunteers for the 2015 election. They will be starting in May 2015 to find volunteers for 2016, but they need recommendations and suggestions. Chapter officers may be interested in volunteering for section offices. Some years have a lot more candidates. Rachel will make sure vTools is up to date and continue to reach out to missing chapters.
- The link for the continuing education website is https://ewh.ieee.org/r2/baltimore/continuing_education/CEEE.htm
- Ryan Klein is going to the IEEE-USA meeting.
- The senior member drive still scheduled for May 2. They have enough volunteers.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

7. Attendees

- Rachel Krepps
- Collin Krepps
- Robert Rencewicz
- Bernard Menachery
- Boris Gramatikov
- Brian Sequeira
- Neville Jacobs
- David Kisak
- Bill Semancik
- Vinod Mishra
- Matthew Stryjewski

Attachments

Status, Student Activities, 3-9-15

1. With over 100 teams registered, on paper we should be well set for an excellent turn-out this year. However, we have heard from our mentors that a number of teams have been affected by the snow day closures, and some of the MESA teams have not started building their robots when expected.
2. At the earlier meeting this afternoon with our mentors we have reviewed this matter, and are making efforts to encourage the schools/teams to make up the time. Mentors are doing a great job in this respect, and deserve a lot of thanks for the extra effort they are putting in.
3. The new format for the Newsletter has brought in a better response to our call for judge volunteers, and we have 11 new members on board.
4. We will be sending out reminders to all previous judges, PIT volunteers, administrators, and photographers from previous years, and hope to get commitments for this year's Event.
5. This year we will be demonstrating the robot automated with feedback sensing, our ultimate objective. Whereas we are not sure if this mode will be part of the Challenge going forward, we were pleased to note that the first robot adapted to operate in this mode has worked successfully, and we expect to demonstrate two teams operating in this manner at the Sunday event.
6. Expenses were minor this month, and all bills for Kelvin have been taken care of.

Status Student Activities 4-20-15

1. 38 schools and groups participated in the Robot Challenge project during the past academic year, many for the first time, and they were not able to complete their robots in time to participate in the Robot Challenge event held this past Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19. Many of these teams were sponsored by MESA, and one of our challenges next year will be to increase their participation.
2.
 - The top 3 places for **2-leg Manual Robots** were taken by teams from Charles Herbert Flowers High Schools – in 1st Place was Team “The Unfolding of a Revolution”, in 2nd place were “The Roman Goddesses”, and in 3rd Place the “Pearl Roundabout”.
 - The top 3 places for **4-leg Manual Robots** were also taken by Teams from Charles Herbert Flowers – in 1st place was team “London Bridge”, 2nd Place was “St. Basils Cathedral”, and in 3rd Place were the “Valley of the Kings”.
 - In the **2-leg Overall category** (which includes teams doing an Automation run), the top 2

places were taken by Beth Tfiloh High School, with “Team Pterodactyl” in 1st place, and “Team Freedom” in 2nd place. Charles Herbert Flowers, “The Unfolding of a Revolution” came in 3rd place.

- In the **4-leg Overall category** (which includes teams doing the Automation run), Beth Tfiloh team “Alpha Beta Wolf Squadron” took 1st place, the “Mystery Team” took 2nd place, and Charles Herbert Flowers team “London Bridge” was 3rd.

- The **best** Notre Dame Prep team came in 10th place, followed by Maryvale Prep in 11th place. Long Reach HS came in 23rd place, Atholton HS was in 24th place, and Sollers Point HS was 25th.

3. Of the 52 teams that submitted their Written Reports, 37 took part in all events. This figure is lower than the 54 teams that submitted their Written Reports last year and the 50 teams that completed all events. According to some of the teachers, this is attributed to the close proximity to Easter and conflicts with sports events.
4. Two significant features of this year’s event was the high proportion of 2-leg teams that completed the course: 64%, compared with 28% last year, and the greater creativity of the robot bodies. 11 teams achieved top honors for their robot bodies, and for the carrying cases that matched the themes of their robots. Two special trophies were awarded, one for 2-leg robots and one for 4-leg robots.
5. Two features we plan to offer next year are to make the wood block using a 3-D printer, and to add Automation with end-stop Feed-back as an option.
6. We would like to thank the all the IEEE members who volunteered their time and effort to making this event so significant for the students that participated. A program sheet with all their names was printed and distributed, and I will be happy to send a PDF copy to anyone wishing to print out a copy.
7. Checks were received from Charles Herbert Flowers (\$98) and Beth Tfiloh (\$529). Expenses this past month were \$1219.76.