Baltimore Section
March Executive Committee Meeting Report
12 March 2018

This report summarizes the proceedings of the IEEE Baltimore Section Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting held on Monday, 12 March 2018, at the National Electronics Museum (NEM, http://www.nationalelectronicsmuseum.org), Linthicum, MD.

1. CALL TO ORDER (@ 6:45 p.m.)

2. INTRODUCTIONS

3. ATTENDEES

Sherwood Olson (Baltimore Chair)
Ken Wong (Baltimore Treasurer)
Ben Menachery
Barin Nag
Ram Bhagat
Robert Berkovits
Bill Semancik
Neville Jacobs
Michael Pearse
Boris Gramatikov
Hong Yu
Steve Bonk
Brian Sequeira

4. APPROVAL OF PRIOR EXCOM MINUTES

Motion was presented to approve December 2017's and January 2018's minutes. There were minor changes to the minutes: UMBC was changed to U of MD College Park; Tim Cash's name was corrected; and Berkovits's name was added to December's and January's attendance roster. Motion passed to approve minutes from both months with requested changes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Chair:

Sherwood briefed that Dr. Paul Cotae had requested funds from Baltimore, D.C., and Northern Virginia to promote bringing GlobeCom to a local venue in 2024. It was requested that Baltimore Section provide $3000 in 2019 (see table below) for travel and per diem costs to present our case to the GlobeCom committee. It was stated that travel and expense reimbursement must be within IEEE rules.

Sherwood attended the Region 2 meeting in Bethlehem, PA. There were a couple of noteworthy themes that were discussed:
1. IEEE is pushing local humanitarian efforts and recommended that sections support local projects.
2. Membership retention is still a concern, in particular those student members that graduate and do not transfer to member status. One suggestion is to allow student members to retain their IEEE email address for a period of time after they graduate even if they don't pay for membership dues.

	Travel to	Cost	Support	Payment due	Observations
1.	GC 2017	$3,500	IEEE DC and COM 19	Q4/2017	$3000 from COM19 and $500 from DC Section
2.	ICC 2018	$2,000	Dr. Paul Cotae	N/A	From other sources
3.	GC 2018	$2,000	Dr. Paul Cotae	N/A	From other sources
4.	ICC 2019	$3,000	IEEE NoVa Section	Q1/2019	Should be included in Budget
5.	GC 2019	$3,000	IEEE Baltimore Section	Q4/2019	Should be included in Budget
6.	ICC 2020	$3,000	IEEE DC Section	Q1/2020	Should be included in Budget

3. IEEE membership has dropped in all regions; Baltimore Section has about 3,500 current members.

The Internet of Things Weather Station workshop will be held in April. The $10 fee for student attendees will be waived for IEEE student members as a member benefit.

Reminder that continuing education certificates are free to members – up to two in a calendar year.

South Area (Baltimore, D.C., and No VA) is considering a request to bring the 2020 Sections Congress to a local venue. There is no commitment at this time but it is required that a request be submitted to Region to consider the South Area.

Sherwood received a request to consider pursuing an IEEE Milestone Proposal. The milestone under consideration is the Baltimore (more specifically: Annapolis Junction)/D.C. telegraph. This would be a joint effort between Baltimore and D.C. sections.

Dr. Abshire from D.C. Section reached out to the South Area through Email requesting support for the March for Science. It was also stated that Region 2 director contacted IEEE legal counsel for guidance on IEEE supporting the March for Science. There was no further discussion on the matter.

Vice-Chair:

Nothing to report.

Treasurer:

Ken presented the February financial report.

Secretary:

Nothing to report.

5. COMMITTEE/SOCIETY/AFFINITY REPORTS

Committee Reports:

Awards and Recognition: Bill discussed the Chapter Chairs Dinner and brought to the committee's attention that he had several options for the attendance gift. His current thoughts were between a stainless steel Thermos and a mobile device battery charger. A decision about which item to purchase as a gift was not made nor was a decision required at the meeting. It was also decided that the section would invite the UMBC students – who designed and coded the Robot Challenge Competition scoring software – to be the speakers for the Chapter Chairs Dinner.

Student Activities: Neville provided his monthly report on the Robot Competition, which is attached.

Ben reserved a conference room at Northrop-Grumman for judging the Robot Challenge written reports.

Educational Activities: Boris mentioned that he is looking for speakers to present at a Saturday workshop. He is pursing topics in the area of cyber-security.

Webmaster: March Baltimore Section Newsletter has been posted to the website.

Society Reports:

Computer Society: Barin requested help with setting up the 17 Apr Computer Society meeting.

Michael discussed his efforts with the Robothon, which is a robotic competition for students to be held on 8 Apr in York, PA. (Motion presented under new business section.)

EMC Society: Bob is pursuing a May EMC society meeting featuring an IEEE fellow speaker.

Affinity Reports:

Young Professionals (YP) is seeking to co-sponsor meetings with other chapters. See Garima Bajwa, YP Chair, if you would like to co-sponsor an event with them.

6. OLD BUSINESS

NTR

7. NEW BUSINESS

PACE: It was mentioned at the Region 2 meeting that the PACE funding program is being eliminated. Furthermore, PACE funds for 2018 are being reduced due to other funding priorities.

Bill mentioned that there is a semiconductor foundry tour being hosted by Northrop-Grumman Advanced Technology Lab (ATL) on 21 Mar at 6 p.m.

Michael Pearse motioned for the section to support a new event called the Robothon robotics competition that is being held in York, PA on 8 Apr. The motion was for $2000 to help the Robothon purchase robot kits for the student competitors. The motion was not seconded and it did not proceed to the discussion or voting phases. There was discussion afterward about why the motion was not seconded; essentially, the committee required more information about the event and how it is sponsored.

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ben motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:25 p.m. and was seconded by Bill. The next ExCom meeting is 23 Apr.

9. APPENDIX

Draft List of funds and Treasurer Report may be requested from the Baltimore Section Secretary by Email.

Status, Student Activities 3-12-18

1. Registration was closed February 15, teams are working on their robots, and Written Reports are due March 30. The Challenge will be held on April 15, a little over one month from now.

2. There will need to be either a change of venue or a change of schedule this year as the Baltimore Museum of Industry have a conflicting activity that day that somehow got overlooked. After reviewing various options, the Robot will make a decision this evening.

3. The Real Time Scoring software and the hardware system was checked out yesterday and is now fully operational. Alex Miu and his team at UMBC will be demonstrating the final version, with documentation, on Friday March 16.

4. We currently have 27 judges signed up for the event. Last year we had 31 plus 4 maybes, and due to the shorter hours this year, we will need more. Please ask your associates to volunteer and send their names to me (Nevilleed@aol.com).

5. We apparently do not have enough statistics on the Robot Challenge to satisfy IEEE criteria, so we are preparing a survey to get a better idea of our performance.

6. A suggestion has been made to give trophies to the Teachers as well as the teams that do well at the competition. The cost is quite modest, and we feel the recognition is well deserved.

7. Almost all schools have paid their bills, and checks have been received for 749.95

8. My expenses for the past 4 months were $887.42 and was mostly for storage charges, parts, kit shipping charges (mostly reimbursed) and food for the Teacher/Mentor Training sessions.

Neville Jacobs