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Cc: 'Donohoe, Pat'
Subject: [IEEE R3] Richmond Section Report

IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

SEPT 21, 2020

Issues requiring action by the Region 3 Committee or ExCom

None at this time.

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

- Dr. Afroditi “Vennie” Filippas has been named the Chair of the Joint Section Northern VA/Richmond/Central VA/Hampton Roads Education Society Chapter and Dr. Rosalyn Hobson Hargraves has been named the Vice Chair. Both are members of the Richmond Section.
- Dr. Dale Herdegen has volunteered to work with the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg to start an IEEE Student Branch. Dr. Herdegen volunteered to help in response to an email that was sent out to all members of the Richmond Section requesting their input on which Sections Congress 2020 recommendations they felt were the most important. He noticed that one of the recommendations mentioned a “shortage of IEEE volunteers” and since his last child just left for college, he decided that now was the time to step forward. The volunteer role is a good fit because of Dr. Herdegen’s work with students through his employer, the MITRE Corporation, his proximity to the University of Mary Washington, and his connections with the university.
- One of our members, Robert Charette, is the author of the cover story in last month’s edition of IEEE Spectrum. The article is titled “Inside the Hidden World of Legacy IT Systems.” It can be found at <https://spectrum.ieee.org/computing/it/inside-hidden-world-legacy-it-systems>.
- I will be sending out a meeting announcement to our Section members announcing all of the various virtual IEEE meetings that are being held. It will go out as a single email announcement instead of multiple meeting announcements to keep from overloading our members with too IEEE emails. I sent an email to the Richmond ExCom mailing list requesting that they send me anything that they wanted me to include in the email. In response, I received an email from Marty Schulman of Region 2 with a link to a utility that he had developed (<https://www.employees.org/~mschulma/cgi-bin/IEEE/extract.cgi>). It makes it easy to extract events from vTools to use for sending a list via eNotice. If anyone has feedback on the utility, he welcomes it. His email is schulman@tuffmail.com.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Richmond Section ExCom had a good discussion at its recent monthly meeting. Some of the key topics covered were the results of Sections Congress 2020 and working with the VCU Student Branch.
- The Richmond Section had planned to have an IEEE Day airing of a film on Frank Sprague, the “Father of Electric Traction,” and his development of the world’s first successful electric streetcar system, which occurred in Richmond in 1888. The film was partially funded by the IEEE Foundation. Based on early feedback that the film’s creator received from some IEEE members, the film’s narrative is being reworked to make it easier to follow and the film will not be ready in time for IEEE Day. The plan now is to show the film at the Richmond Joint Engineers Council banquet in February. Due to COVID-19, that event is likely to be replaced by a virtual event that will include this film.

Chair, IEEE Richmond Section

Chair, Richmond Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society

Midlothian, VA 23112

Email: allen.jones@ieee.org

Phone: +1 804 639 9529 | **Cell:** +1 804 240 1182

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/allenjones

