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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

None at this time.

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

- During the last Richmond Section ExCom meeting, we discussed the global decline in student membership and its connection with the current pandemic. Universities in the area are holding most classes virtually with labs still being in-person but with social distancing and minimal group sizes. The distancing makes it more difficult to form the social connections that are important for a strong student branch. One of our ExCom members who is from academia said that most students seem to be resigned to the fact that the precautions will continue for a while longer and are dealing with it, but some students are finding it very difficult. Many of these same students may not be reaching out for help. We brainstormed on what we can do to help and decided to try to formulate something centered around the pandemic related projects that R3 is helping to fund. There are several related things that we are thinking about pulling together:
 - Many college students want to feel like they are doing something that makes a difference.
 - Many of the area primary and secondary schools are having classes virtually and students from low income backgrounds are often struggling with these classes.
 - Some college students are struggling with the sense of isolation.
 - Volunteering not only helps the recipient of the volunteer effort, it also improves the outlook of the volunteer.
 - Industry professionals in the Richmond Section have wanted to have more of a tie-in with the area students, but currently in-person meetings are not an option.

We are trying to formulate something where student and professional volunteers can work together virtually to tutor primary and secondary students who need extra help due to not being in the classroom. This would have the side benefit of showing the college students that IEEE does not just have an academic side, it also has a humanitarian side and a professional side.

Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Power and Energy Society Chapter is holding a “Battery Technology and Application in Power Grids” virtual technical seminar on Thursday, October 22nd - <https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/243433>.
- The Young Professionals Affinity Group and the Computer Society Chapter have both formed Nominating Committees and are preparing to seek nominees for office.

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