

## Allen Jones

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**Subject:** [IEEE R3] Richmond Section Report

# IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

Feb 25, 2021

## Issues requiring action by the Region 3 Committee or ExCom

None at this time.

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

- Interest is growing in the Pandemic Challenge that the Richmond Section is planning to hold in the spring. This event is funded by the \$1000 Region 3 COVID-19 grant that was received last year plus a proposed \$1000 contribution from the Richmond Section. The challenge will pair teams of Problem Solvers (composed mainly of high school students, university students, and young professionals) with Mentors (composed mainly of more experienced IEEE members) to work on developing real-world solutions to real-world problems identified by Problem Owners (drawn from a variety of public and private sectors). Teams will generally work virtually. The Richmond Section will reimburse the teams for up to \$100 each to help them cover their expenses. Co-sponsors (mainly from area companies) will be recruited to provide free goods or services to support the teams. Since the CDC is saying that things *might* return to normal this fall, we feel that this is likely to be our best opportunity for this year to engage with our members and with the public.

## Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Richmond Section ExCom developed a proposed budget for 2021 and will be voting on it in the ExCom meeting next month.
- The Richmond Section ExCom completed the Section Vitality Survey.
- All OU Chairs and Treasurers are being reminded of the financial filing deadlines in February.
- Reminders to renew will be sent to all members who have not yet renewed. The emails will go out from the Section Chair and the Chapter and Affinity Group Chairs.
- Although the 50% dues reduction has helped significantly with Student and Graduate Student renewals, the Virginia Commonwealth University Student Branch is struggling. They are down to a single remaining elected officer who is overloaded from handling virtual classes as part of his Graduate Teaching Assistant responsibilities. The Student Branch Chair from 2018-2019 has said that he thinks we will probably have to rebuild the Student Branch practically from scratch once students return to in-person learning.

### Allen Jones

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