

**To:** sec-r03@LISTSERV.IEEE.ORG  
**Cc:** 'Donohoe, Pat'  
**Subject:** [IEEE R3] Richmond Section Report

# IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

June 21, 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

- Teams are continuing to work on the Pandemic Challenge that Region 3 and the Richmond Section have been hosting. Two new teams were added recently – one additional team working on the Choropleth mapping challenge and one team working on the Cooling Innovations challenge (which addresses the refrigeration of vaccines in areas that may not have a readily available electrical supply). The challenges are resulting in additional IEEE members volunteering to serve as Mentors to team members.
- In the coming month, the Richmond Section will start focusing on rebuilding the two Student Branches that are located in the Richmond Section. The pandemic has severely impacted both of them. The Virginia Commonwealth University Student Branch will be getting a new Student Branch Counselor (or actually two Student Branch Counselors who will share the role.) We are still in discussions with the Virginia State University administration regarding who should serve in the role of Student Branch Counselor. We want to have Student Branch Counselors in place for both of these Student Branches prior to our next Richmond Section ExCom meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> since determining how the Richmond Section can help rebuild these two groups will be one of the main topics of that meeting.
- The Richmond Section did not apply for the next round of Region 3 project funding due to a lack of bandwidth to work on this prior to the deadline. We also felt that with our emphasis in the early fall being restarting the Student Branches, we would not be able to complete the projects by the required deadline. Because we have found that these projects are a great way to engage members and the public, we do plan to start working on projects that are set up along the lines of the Pandemic Challenge, but we will not be starting on this until the late fall. We plan to cover the project costs with funding from the Richmond Section.
- The Richmond Section has tentative plans to host a showing of a film on Frank Sprague, “the father of electric traction,” on or around October 6<sup>th</sup> (IEEE Day). Sprague developed the first successful electric streetcar system which was built in 1888 in Richmond. The film is by Patrick Gregory, a local cinematographer / filmmaker, and was partially funded by the IEEE Foundation.

## Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- In late May, the Richmond Magnetics Society/Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society Joint Chapter along with the Washington/Northern Virginia Magnetics Joint Chapter and the Boston Magnetics Society Chapter hosted a talk by Distinguished Lecturer Bert Koopmans on “Femto-magnetism meets spintronics: Towards integrated magneto-photonics.” (<https://events.vtools.ieee.org/m/271985>)
- On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Richmond Section had its first in-person (outdoor) event since the pandemic started. The event was hosted by the local Industry Applications Society Chapter and the local Young Professionals Affinity Group and consisted of rocket building and launching (mostly for members’ children), a cookout, and a separate outdoor gathering at a local brewery. The event was very well attended.

- Dr. Patrick Martin has sent out an initial round of emails to gauge interest in starting a Joint Robotics and Automation Society/Control Systems Society Chapter in the Richmond Section.

**Allen Jones**

**Chair, IEEE Richmond Section**

**Chair, Richmond Chapter of the IEEE Computer Society**

Midlothian, VA 23112

**Email:** [allen.jones@ieee.org](mailto:allen.jones@ieee.org)

**Cell:** +1 804 240 1182

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/in/allenjones](http://www.linkedin.com/in/allenjones)

