

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

# IEEE R3 Richmond Section Report

July 19, 2021

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

Each year when it comes time to file the annual reports, there is confusion, at multiple levels of IEEE, whether a given OU has filed all of the required financial and meeting reports or not. For example, as a Computer Society Chapter Chair, I have to ask the Treasurer whether the financial reports have been filed. As a Section Chair, I have to ask the various Chapters and Affinity Groups whether their reports have been filed. At the Region level, people have to ask the Sections whether their reports have been filed or they have to check records which may not always be current to determine whether these reports have been filed. It would be extremely helpful if there was a way that the Treasurers and Chairs (or Directors in the case of Regions) could look at a real-time, definitive dashboard and see at a glance whether all of the required reports at their level of responsibility and below had been filed. This would make following up with people much easier. Several times I have run into groups that thought that they had completed all of their filing requirements but actually had not. I am not sure where in the IEEE organization to send a request for a feature like this. Any help in pointing me to the right recipient would be appreciated.

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

- Activity on the various Pandemic Challenge projects is increasing again after a brief lull due to things like family vacations. We are still working to pin down a date for a symposium where the Problem Solvers can gather with the Problem Owners, the Mentors, and the press to show off what they have been working on. The symposium will occur sometime in early to mid-August with the preferred date currently being August 15 and the preferred venue being the Engineering school at the local university (VCU).
- The Richmond Section ExCom will meet tomorrow night for its monthly meeting with the main topic being a brainstorming session on how the Richmond Section can help the local student branches restart. This will be our first hybrid in-person/virtual ExCom meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. All Section ExCom meetings have been strictly virtual during the pandemic.
- Fahim Chowdhury, a grad student at VCU and a YP member, has volunteered to be the Richmond Section's main point of contact with the Region 3 Education Activities Team. Fahim hosted the YP Town Hall during SoutheastCon 2021 and during that meeting, he urged IEEE leadership to engage more with pre-university students. His passion for this topic made him the perfect candidate for this role.

## Notable section activities (positive and negative)

- The Richmond Section Joint Chapter of the Magnetics Society and the Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society will be hosting a virtual talk by Distinguished Lecturer Masashi Shiraishi on "Spins in Low-dimensional Materials Systems: Transport, Gate-control and Conversion" on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Richmond Section is working with filmmaker Patrick Gregory to host a showing of his film on Frank Sprague, "the father of electric traction" on or around IEEE Day (October 6<sup>th</sup>). The film was partially funded by the IEEE Foundation. There is an IEEE Milestone plaque in VCU's Engineering West Hall honoring the first successful electric streetcar system which was introduced in Richmond in 1888. We also plan to have a social event that may coincide with the showing. We had planned to have a Q&A session following the film showing with both

Patrick and John Sprague (grandson of Frank Sprague and son of Robert Sprague, the inventor of the paper capacitor) but John passed away in early July.

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