

IEEE Milwaukee Section 2006 Meeting Minutes

Minutes of IEEE Executive Meeting
January 24th, 2006
At Maxwell's Restaurant

Attendees:

Section Officers: Brian Cunningham, Glen Wrate, Tom Smith, Elizabeth Whiting

Chapter Chairs: Larry Hause (EMBS & PACE), Val Werner (Power), Ram Bhatia (Industrial Apps.), John Saffar (Computer), Jim Blaha (EMC & Director)

Section Directors and Other Chairs: Bill Henning, Paul Tindall, Robert Molthen

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Brian Cunningham.

Brian Cunningham questioned approval of last meeting's minutes.

Liz Whiting, Tom Smith, and Val Werner re-iterated important motion made in previous meeting (actual motion included below).

“**Val Werner** motions that each chapter receive \$600 per year. If the chapter does not use this money by the end of the year, it then returns to the section's account. If the chapter earns more money on top of the \$600 given to it, it may keep that amount in its own account. The chapters with their own additional earned money will have expenses deducted from their \$600 Section given money before they must use their earned money. If they do not use all of their \$600 Section given money, the portion not used by the end of the year will be returned to the section's account. Also, if a chapter needs additional funds it must petition the section for extra.”

Motion was made note of and meeting minutes were approved.

Brian Cunningham passes discussion onto **Tom Smith** for Treasury report.

Tom Smith hands out two documents: 2005 budget summary and 2006 projected standings. He proceeds to explain each document. Page 2 of the 2005 budget shows the amount of money left at the end of 2005 in the section's checking account (\$26,676.84). He states that we still may owe something for the holiday party because we have not yet received the final bill for the open bar.

Glen Wrate informs the group that the bill will be \$13.00.

Brian Cunningham states that we need to determine as a section how much money

we have lost or made.

Tom Smith informs the group that we are in good standing after the holiday party due to receiving an extra \$1040.00 from Region 4 because they had extra money that they divided among the most active sections. Our section's standings are about \$3,722.65 to start 2006 with.

Bob Molthen asks if each chapter should have the ability to maintain their own account?

Brian Cunningham agrees that for the EMB and EMC chapters this would be good.

Tom Smith states that it may create more difficulties, though, having several checks from different banks going back and forth between the section and its chapters. He also adds that some chapters write checks that they may not necessarily have the funds for yet in their accounts, but rely on the section to help cover the costs till they can reimburse the section.

Brian Cunningham motions that we keep the treasury report as is, **Larry Hause** seconds, and the motion is passed.

Brian Cunningham announces the Milwaukee societies that IEEE Nationals has designated as viable chapters for money. They are AP/IM/ED/MTT (chair: **Shri Joshi**), Computer (**John Saffar**), EMB (**Larry Hause**), EMC (**Jim Blaha**), Industry Applications (**Ram Bhatia**), Magnetics (**Mark Judds**), Power (**Val Werner**), and WIE (**Edina Bajrektarevic**). He questions the group about our sections without chairs that cannot receive money this year because they were not active last year.

Larry Hause explains that we should get life members of IEEE-Milwaukee to become the chairs of these societies because they are allowed to hold "joint" meetings with other societies and have it count towards their active state.

Jim Blaha questioned what it takes to become a life member.

John Saffar stated that you must be 65 and then they prorate it back to determine also how much of your life you have been a member.

Glen Wrate suggests we ask Dr. Vincent R. Canino to be Controls chair and inform him that it would require minimal responsibility.

Bob Molthen included that all he would have to do as chair is email the members of the Control society to inform them of the meeting that they should attend.

Glen Wrate also suggested that we ask Dr. Edward W. Chandler to be chair of the Communications society.

Jim Blaha commented that we have great representation by MSOE and at least one strong representative of Marquette, but no one from UWM.

Larry Hause stated that he knows UWM's student section to be very active.

Glen Wrate agreed that their student section is strong, but that we needed to get a good faculty connection established in order to become more involved with them.

Bob Molthen stated that he may be able to get a faculty member and that he would look into it further.

Brian Cunningham passed out the proposed 2006 budget and moved the discussion to it for approval. He summarized it, pointing out major expenditures such as \$2500 for our two technical section meetings from last year, \$2500 for the holiday party, and \$3800 in mailings.

Tom Smith suggested that since regional and board notifications come through email, that we should stop the mailings and just use email as well.

Larry Hause re-iterated his comments from last meeting, pointing out the national statistic that only 64% of members actually receive/respond to an email.

Glen Wrate added that he has had bad responses from sending email notifications and negative feedback.

Brian Cunningham concludes that we stick to mailings.

Jim Blaha inquires who will do the mailings this year? And points out that it is at least \$2200 just to print ~1600 mailings.

Val Werner suggests we create refrigerator magnets with specific dates highlighted, indicating when a member should make an effort to check the website for information regarding up-coming events. The website should also, then, be included on the magnet.

The group agreed that this was an excellent idea.

Larry Hause redirects the discussion back to the projected budget and points out that according to the summary, we are planning for a deficit this year.

Brian Cunningham concurs, but states that some of the items are estimates such as the table for Engineer's Week.

Bob Molthen and **Val Werner** agree that it is a good thing to have a table at the banquet.

Bob Molthen questions how many of the chapters will not use all of their allotted money so that it will be returned to the section?

Brian Cunningham states that four chapters did not use their money last year (Computers, Communications, Magnetics, and Controls).

Val Werner states that we could get more than \$800 for holiday party if more people attended and that we could get more people attending if we held it at a bigger venue such as the zoo.

Brian Cunningham asks the group if we want to keep spending so much money on the Holiday party when it really doesn't apply to Electrical Engineering.

Bob Molthen suggests that we continue having it, but make sure it pays for itself.

Val Werner agrees and states that many did not come this year because they were not notified in time and then, there also was limited space.

Brian Cunningham sets up tentative date of December 8/9 and a backup date of December 15/16. He then asks if we should change the cost of the event.

Val Werner reminds him to keep families in mind.

Jim Blaha suggests a preliminary pricing of \$25 per adult and \$10 per child.

Tom Smith inquires about doing it in the fall or summer.

Jim Blaha informs the group that they have had bad luck with events held in the summer.

Paul Tindall also states that the end of the year election meeting is usually held at the Holiday party and so it's a good time to have it.

Glen Wrate informs the group that Sylvia Wrate will once again help out with the planning/preparation of the event.

Brian Cunningham moves discussion towards getting attendance up.

Val Werner reminds group that award banquets always seemed to grab member's interests.

Jim Blaha states that as Awards chair he will look into setting up an awards banquet possibly at Miller Brewery for May and set up a meeting in April to choose awards.

Brian Cunningham states that we still need to vote on purchasing a table for Engr.'s

Week.

Larry Hause motions that we do, it is seconded, and passed.

Brian Cunningham volunteers to investigate getting refridgerator magnets made.

Brian Cunningham motions that for 2006 we give all viable societies the \$600 we agreed upon from **Val Werner's** motion at the last meeting, it is seconded, and passed.

Brian Cunningham also motions that we allocate \$200 into reserve for WIE this year, \$400 next year, and then \$600 the following year. The motion is passed.

Glen Wrate suggests that we go forward with a balanced approved budget rather than wait for changes to be made before approving it. He states that we reduce mailings to \$2200 assuming that the refridgerator magnets will be cheaper and

Glen Wrate then motions for approval of the proposed budget, it is seconded and passed.

Brian Cunningham began discussion of this year's calendar. He informed the group that the Region 4 meeting was this week and that he would be attending. He inquired if anything else was necessary for him to prepare for other than just being present.

Jim Blaha recapped his experience the past two years at the conference and how he gave a presentation detailing the activities of our Milwaukee section.

Larry Hause stated that he would be attending as chapter's coordinator and that from the email notifications he has thus far received it sounded like they were planning on just having meeting discussions rather than presentations.

Brian Cunningham brought up the issue of the national PACE meeting in St. Louis. He informed the group that it would cost ~\$1000 which maybe 50% reimbursed.

Larry Hause stated that no one has attended this conference for the past 3 yrs and since we're already on a tight budget, he doesn't see the need for anyone to go this year either.

Brian Cunningham asks group to decide upon tentative dates for the spring and fall seminars.

Jim Blaha says that the EMC seminar is on March 28th.

Larry Hause says that the EMB seminar is on April 21st.

Val Werner suggests an evening meeting instead of seminar for the spring and then hold the longer seminar in the fall.

Ram Bhatia questions the objective of the seminars and the requirements for each

chapter?

Brian Cunningham answers that all may have their own speakers for smaller meetings held beforehand and then, later on we all gather together for a keynote speaker. He adds that an April meeting at MSOE (because it has more reasonable rental prices) around April 5th or 12th (Wednesdays) would be best.

Glen Wrate volunteers to contact Marilyn Searing tomorrow regarding availability of rooms.

Val Werner asks which groups would be interested in holding meetings?

Ram Bhatia, Jim Blaha, Val Werner, Liz Whiting, and possibly **Shri Joshi's** groups respond.

Val Werner asks if we are now getting credit for our senior members?

Jim Blaha says that he is still looking into the issue.

Glen Wrate states that we need to determine a good keynote speaker for these seminars.

Brian Cunningham suggests Russ Harrison from IEEE USA or John Gorda. He volunteers to contact these individuals regarding this issue.

Val Werner asks if they could open **Jim Blaha** and his joint fall morning seminar that will be held in September or October to all chapters.

Glen Wrate agreed this would be a good idea and that the other chapters could hold their own meetings concurrently and use their own \$600 to cover cost of food.

Val Werner inquires about the date of our next board meeting.

Brian Cunningham states he was looking at keeping it a dinner meeting on a Tuesday and suggests February 21st.

Glen Wrate recommends Edwardo's on Bluemound since they have a conference room upstairs.

The group agrees.

Brian Cunningham moves discussion to next topic of student membership and whether we should send a speaker to discuss importance of IEEE membership.

Ram Bhatia asks if IEEE has a Powerpoint defining what it is about?

Jim Blaha says yes they do and you can access it through the website.

Brian Cunningham states that he will contact Dr. Joerg Mossbrucker regarding the students.

Brian Cunningham inquires group about holding a 4hr presentation or seminar on how to update/create a better resume and go to job interviews, etc.

Jim Blaha says that most colleges already do that.

Larry Hause informed group that Chicago section held one awhile ago that was extremely successful for unemployed engineers. Connie Kelly was their organizer.

Jim Blaha remembers Connie distinctly from past Region 4 meetings and the like and tells Brian to talk with her this weekend and then get back to us.

Brian Cunningham asks group to decide upon different tours that may be held throughout the year. He suggests SRC, Argonne National Laboratory (<http://www.anl.gov/>), Generac Power Systems (<http://www.generac.com/>) and other smaller tours that may be done during the lunch hour and are short and thorough.

Glen Wrate states that MSOE students did a quick tour of GE Medical.

John Saffar recommends Rockwell.

Ram Bhatia states that ABB may possibly be able to do a “mini” tour.

Brian Cunningham suggests Cooper Power or Waukesha Electric?

Bill Henning states he'll have to check with Nicola Tesla. (haha)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02PM.