

Region 2 Telcon Meeting
5 February 2009

1. Region 2 Director Bill Walsh called the meeting to order at 7 PM.
2. Bill Walsh reported that he had attended an IEEE board retreat in Jan and has an upcoming IEEE board meeting in February. He plans to have 2-3 telecons this year. Marc Apter will have the rewritten bylaws at region 2 meeting in April.
3. Ralph Ford attended both an IEEE-USA and an MGA meeting. Membership in the IEEE is down, and attention is being paid to retention. We have to contact those folks who have not renewed their membership for 09¹. He said that Region 6 has an automated email tool that sends an email to new members to point them to contacts in their section. He is finding out more about this tool and will work with Ailar to implement it in Region 2. There is a continued emphasis on SPAC's, an area in which Region 2 is strong. There is an emphasis on the Career web pages due to the economy. He also will work with the Erie section.
4. Jeff Friedhoffer covered communications in the Region. The web page, ieee.org/region2 is being used to convey relevant information about activities in the region. There are two moderated email lists, one for the members of the Region 2 committee <region2-leaders@listserv.ieee.org> and one for the officers of the sections <region2-chairs@listserv.ieee.org>. Use is being made of the Region 2 on line community, <https://www.ieeecommunities.org/region2>. All members of the committee and section leadership are encouraged to join the community and use it to exchange ideas, as was done for the issue of senior member elevation problems. Finally there is the vTools meeting tool, which is only being used by the NoVA section in Region 2. All meetings in Region 2 that are scheduled with this tool are available from the Region 2 web. Note that local meetings scheduled with this tool are also available to individual members from their myIEEE page. Encourage sections and chapters to start using this tool. Note that users have to be in the volunteer database.
5. Carole Carey discussed the upcoming IEEE-USA meeting. 10 sections will have representatives as of the date of this telcon. PACE funding for 09 is about the same as in 08.
6. Ryan Fillman discussed the Student Activities Conference; a copy of his presentation is on the meeting's web page. The conference will run concurrent with the Region 2 Spring meeting 17-19 April. They need ideas for a speaker for the conference. It was suggested that it be tied into the IEEE 125th and Gordon Day was suggested as a speaker. Bill Walsh has already invited Gordon Day to attend. A job fair is scheduled for Saturday 18 April and they are looking for employers to participate. Ralph offered to help with finding employers for the job fair.

¹ Since this telcon an email was sent out by Hq to sections with the names and contact information on these non-renewing members to be contacted.

7. Aimee Garay-Molly discussed the work that she is doing on TISP and how it fits in with her professional work on STEM² which is tied into the Central PA STEM Initiative. A TISP training workshop is planned for March 6. The organization that she works for is developing a proposal which includes funding for TISP through the Penn State TIF Funding initiative.
8. Bill Semancik gave the Treasurer's report. Vil Arafiles is finishing the 2008 reporting, which includes the L50, PACE report, and the SAC awards 1099s. Bill's report on the financial status is that we are in good shape.
9. MGA was covered by Bill Walsh. A Senior Member drive will be held in the region with the sections asking people who are eligible, to apply for elevation. A senior member evaluation panel is being convened to run concurrent with the R2 spring meeting. This will allow us to address questions that arise about our applicants. It was noted that recently, a number of applicants have been rejected. This is being addressed by MGA.
10. Murty Polavarapu discussed the IEEE-USA role in present economic climate; they are providing Career services and working on influencing public policy. Murty is planning to hold open houses in each area of R2 with help from the area chairs. Holly Cyrus volunteered to put this out for the members. He is attending a meeting in Washington, DC the Saturday after this telcon. He wants to determine the number of IEEE members who are unemployed and would like to pull it from SAMIEEE. Finally he asked how to make members aware of job postings. Dennis Molly said that the Johnstown website has a jobs page and that could be a model for other sections.
11. Meril Buckley discussed the August 09 125th anniversary celebration in Philadelphia. This means that we are the host Region. We have to plan for this event.
12. Bill Walsh's wrap-up was that he wants good communication and all should feel free to contact him whenever needed by phone or email.

² STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

Attendances:

Bill Walsh

Ralph Ford

Jeff Friedhoffer

Bill Semancik

Dennis Molly & Aimee Molly

Holly Cyrus

Bob Walston

Murty Polavarapu

Carole Carey

Ryan Fillman

Ailar Javadi

Li Bai

Larry Stern

Meril Buckley