**Maine Section Activity Report**

Region 1 Board of Governors Meeting

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Nashua, NH

Ron Brown, Maine Section Chair

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* **The Maine Section is in the second year of revitalization with a multi-faceted approach. We have:**
* **A full slate of officers** for the first time in many years.
* **Regularly scheduled ExCom Meetings** to coordinate our activities -- and all Section members are invited to attend and participate.
* **Reached out** to adjoining Sections -- New Hampshire and New Brunswick and other Maine professional societies.
* **General meetings** where all, including other professional societies, are invited to attend.
* Many **outreach activities** to make the community aware of the IEEE and the ECE profession. These support the development of ECE as a profession and career and development of the IEEE.
* Frequently published **The Beacon**, our Section newsletter, which keeps members informed Section activities and contains links to other items of potential interest to Section members.
* **The Maine Section believes that to prosper we must expand outward!**
* **Full Slate of Officers**
* We beat the bushes to get more involved including:
* Graduate students.
* Recent graduates.
* Retirees.
* **ExCom Meetings**
* Regularly scheduled every month.
* Always electronic: Phone and Web.
* About one-third also in-person.
* Agenda available days ahead.
* All are invited to participate.
* Completed in about an hour; in-person one run a bit longer.
* Sandwiches served at in-person meetings.
* Typical attendance: 6.
* **Reaching Out**
* New Hampshire and New Brunswick.
* Other Maine professional societies.
* To their leadership by:
* Phone.
* Email.
* Meeting Notices.
* Newsletter.
* **General meetings**
* Other professional societies are invited to attend.
* Meetings are of general interest to encourage more to attend.
* Typically include a meal (not pizza!).
* Costs are subsidized to encourage attendance.
* For members by about 50%.
* For students by about 90%.
* Typical attendance is 25-30.
* Our big question is *How do we increase our attendance?*
* Our most recent meeting had two activities:
* Dr. Rafael Grossman surgeon, educator, and healthcare futurist spoke on technology in medicine.
* Rafael was the world's first to use Google glasses in live surgery.
* FMI: http://www.rafaelgrossmann.com/.
* Plant tour of Front Street Boat Yard.
* The yard builds and repairs high-end yachts -- up to about 200' and 485 tons.
* It uses the latest in boat repair and construction technology.
* This meeting was largely planned by a recent graduate.
* **Outreach Activities**
* We know that community involvement is important to new graduates and critical to their involvement.
* At the 4th annual IEEE STEM Ambassadors program, we worked with the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, IEEE members, other technologists, and grade school technology teachers to learn a simple and low-cost engineering project. The technologists then went into the classroom to do work the problem with students and tell our story. This year the program was held in southern and central Maine. Company tours were included in each teacher training session.
* We had a table at the University of Maine Student Symposium. The Symposium presents graduate and undergraduate research projects by University of Maine students. The Maine Section accomplished its goal of making the IEEE and its benefits known to attendees. We received further recognition by presenting awards to students.
* We had a table explaining what engineers do at the Career Day Fair at Oxford (ME) Elementary School. At Portland High School we worked with students as they presented their senior physics capstone projects.
* At the *Rural Maine's Next Economy* conference we presented an analysis demonstrating the tremendous economic potential of telecommuting technology professionals to the economic well-being of small rural towns in Maine. A single telecommuter raises a small town's household income by about 5%! This really raised eyebrows.
* As Maine Section Chair, Ron Brown was invited to participate in an MMSA conference to better define K-12 computer education. The purpose was to better define computer education for legislators, government agencies, and the general public with the ultimate goal of better computer science education in Maine schools. Ron was the only non-educator at the conference.
* Ron Brown was invited to be on the organizing committee of the Maine Engineering Workforce Summit, which brought together about 150 Maine business and academic leaders to discuss Maine's critical need for technically skilled employees and solutions to the issue.
* The section had a table at Central Maine Community College's IT Professionals Day that showed the benefits of IEEE membership to students. A presentation was also made to this end.
* We are working with Portland Adult Education to help technically skilled New Mainers to develop their job hunting skills and find work opportunities in their fields.
* **The Beacon**
* Published about every 6 weeks.
* Objective of **The Beacon**:
* Raise Section awareness by keeping the Section regularly in front of our members.
* Keep Section members informed of our activities.
* Typical Contents:
* Reports of ExCom meeting activities - current and future.
* Reports of general meetings - current and future.
* Reports of community outreach activities - current and future.
* Activities of our members.
* Links articles of interest in non-IEEE publications.
* Also distributed to:
* The leadership of the New Hampshire and New Brunswick Sections
* Technology academic leadership at Maine universities.
* Maine STEM education development leadership such as the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance.
* Maine Technology User Group leadership.