



**2018 IEEE Maine Section
Member Survey Report**

***W.D. Rawle, PhD
Chair, IEEE Maine Section
March 31, 2018***

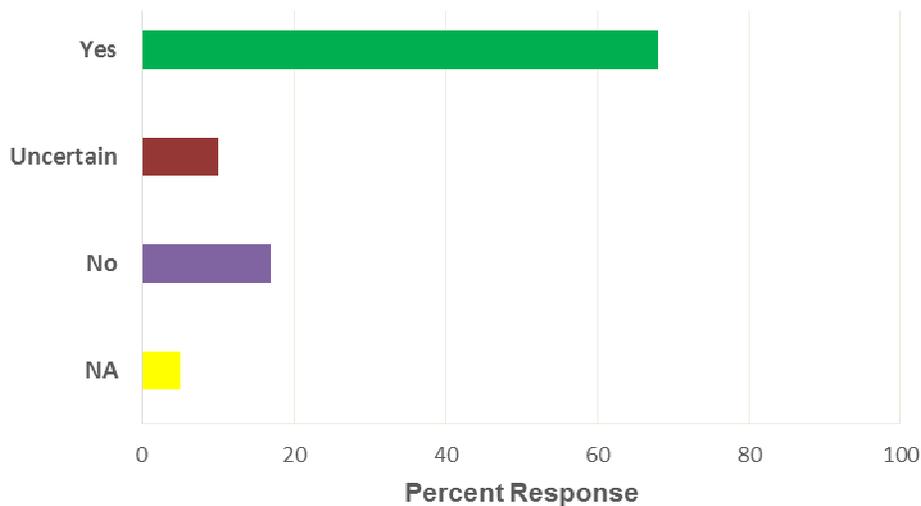
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Introduction:

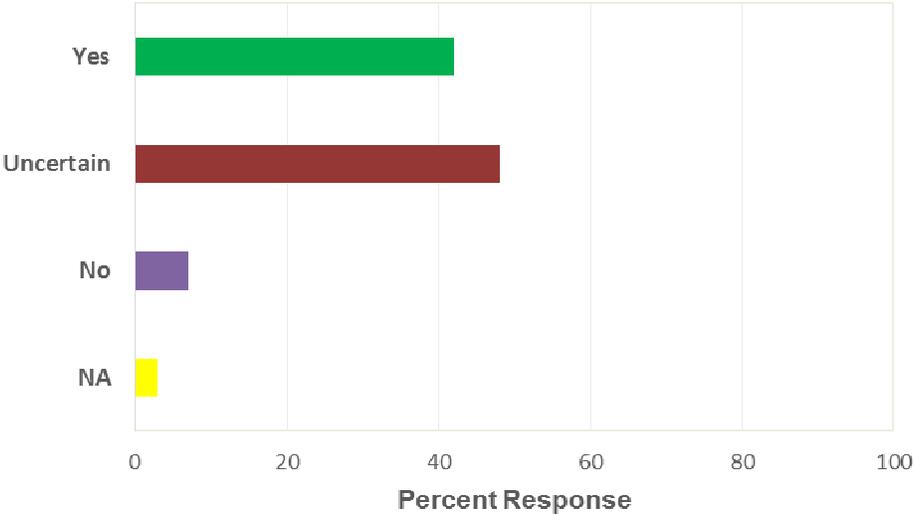
A survey of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Maine Section members was conducted, using the GetFourEyes (www.getfoureyes.com) toolset, from January 4 to January 31, 2018. The objective of the survey was to gather feedback on member meeting preference; technical and business interest; and other factors that may assist the IEEE Maine Section executive committee in providing better service to its constituents. This report contains the results of that survey with observations and recommendations for future Maine Section activities.

Survey Results:

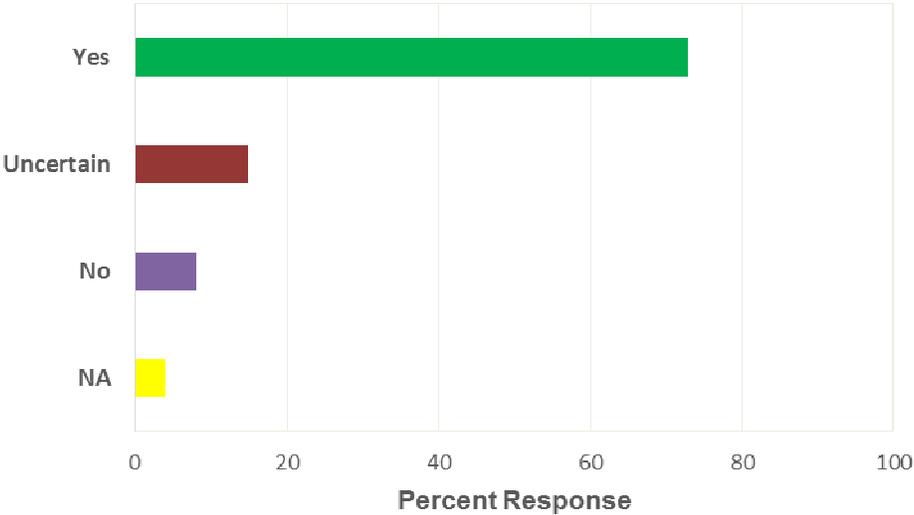
Question 1: Does the location of an IEEE event affect your ability to attend? For example, if an event is held in Portland, is it difficult for members from Bangor to attend?



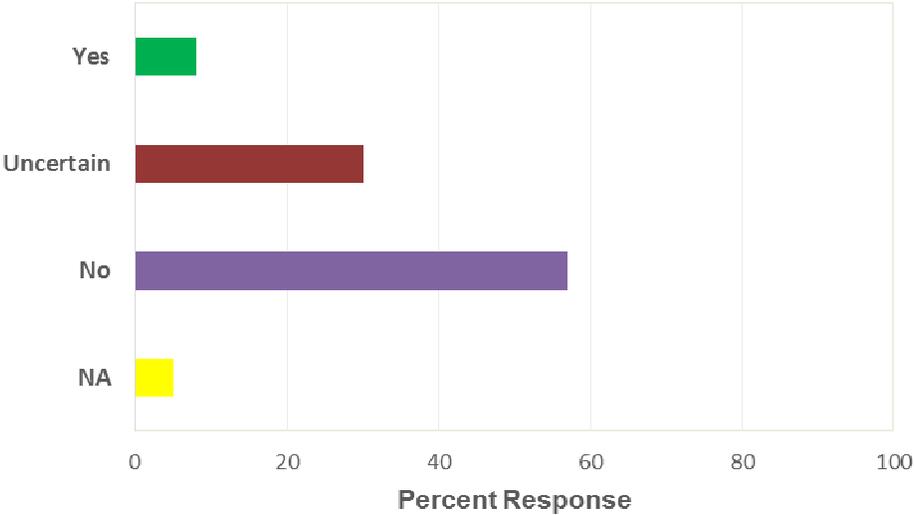
Question 2: Do you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, believe that an Annual General Meeting, with dinner and a speaker, is an event you would attend?



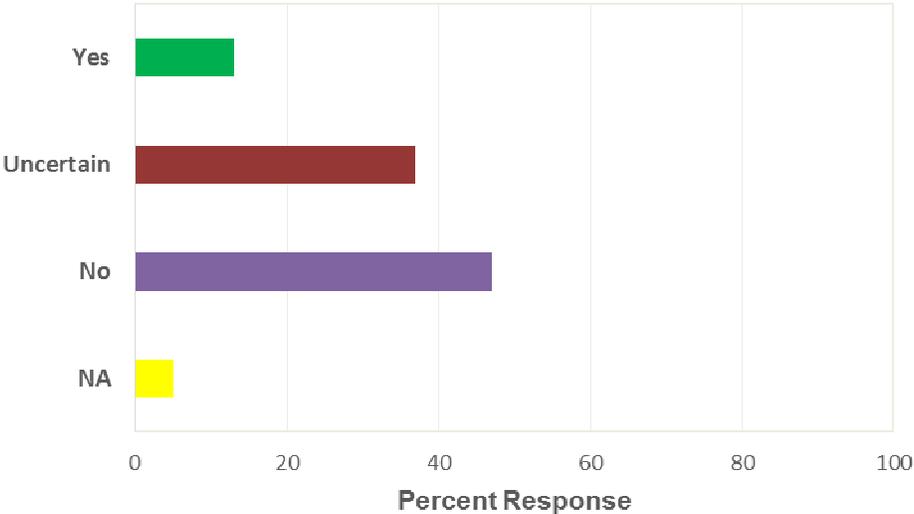
Question 3: Given the distance that some IEEE Maine Section members may need to travel to an event, do you believe that remote connections (Skype or Webex) would be an acceptable alternative to in person attendance?



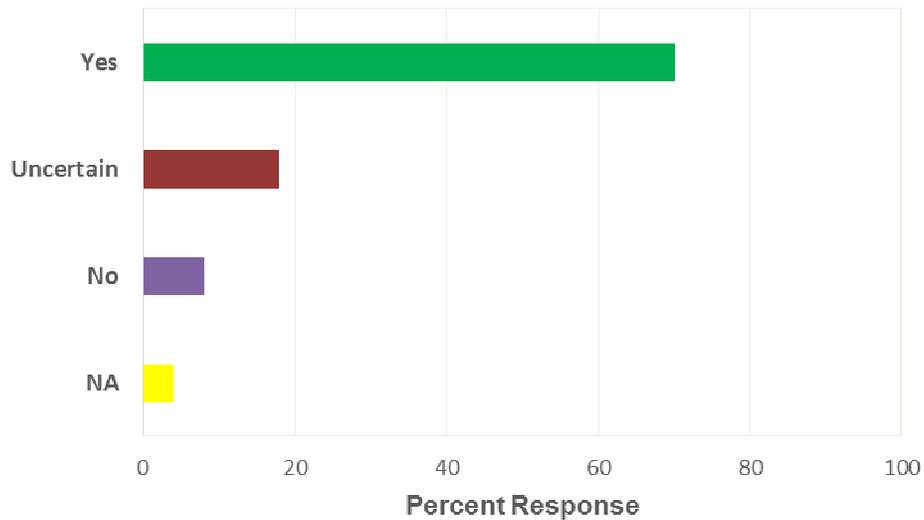
Question 4: Would you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, prefer social events over technical or business events?



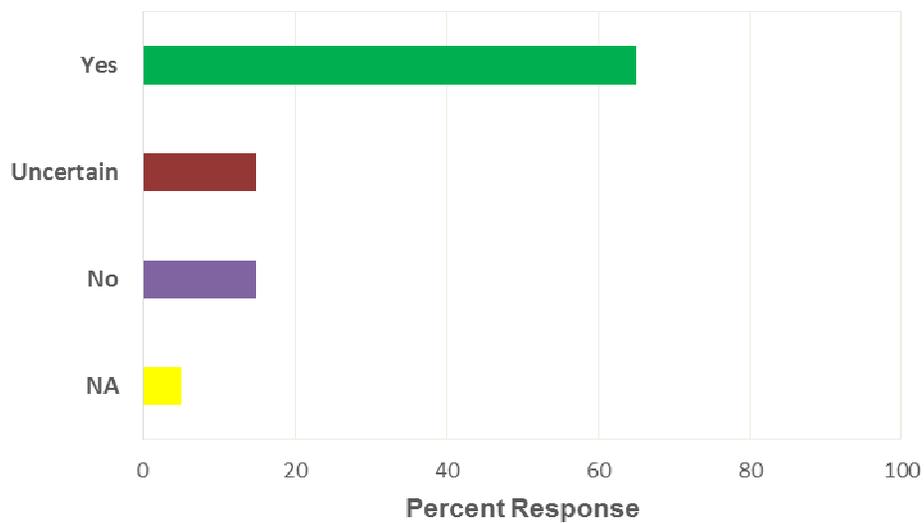
Question 5: Would you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, prefer business oriented events, such as presentations on entrepreneurship and intellectual property law, over social and technical events?



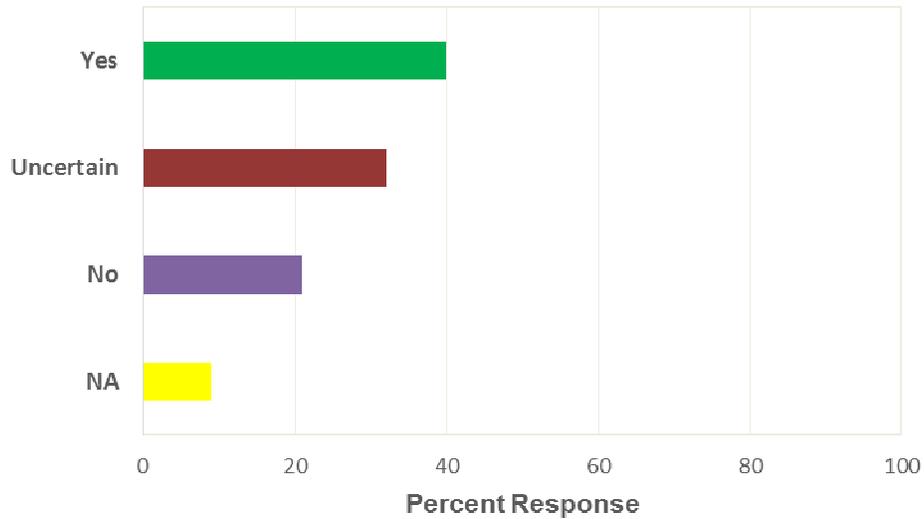
Question 6: Would you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, prefer technically oriented events, such as presentations on emerging standards, new technologies, or reviews of fundamental engineering topics, over social or business oriented events?



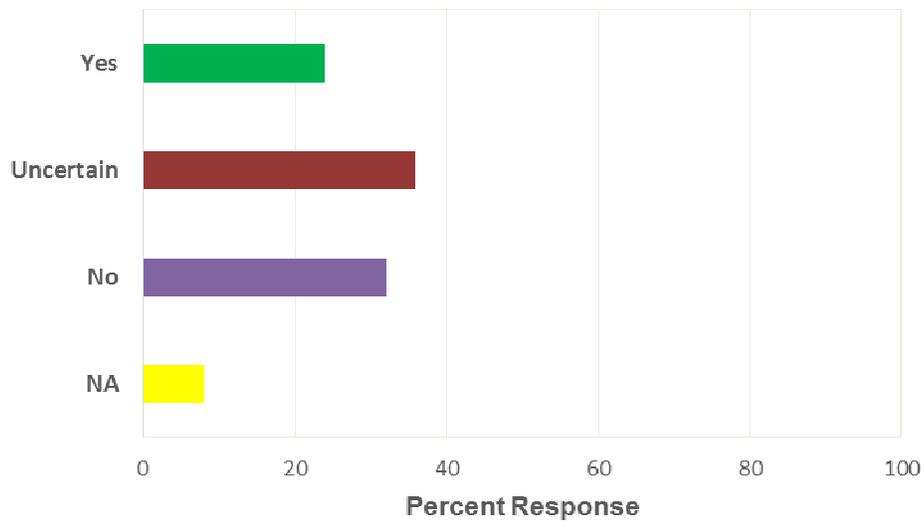
Question 7: For technical events, is it useful to have continuing education units associated with the activity?



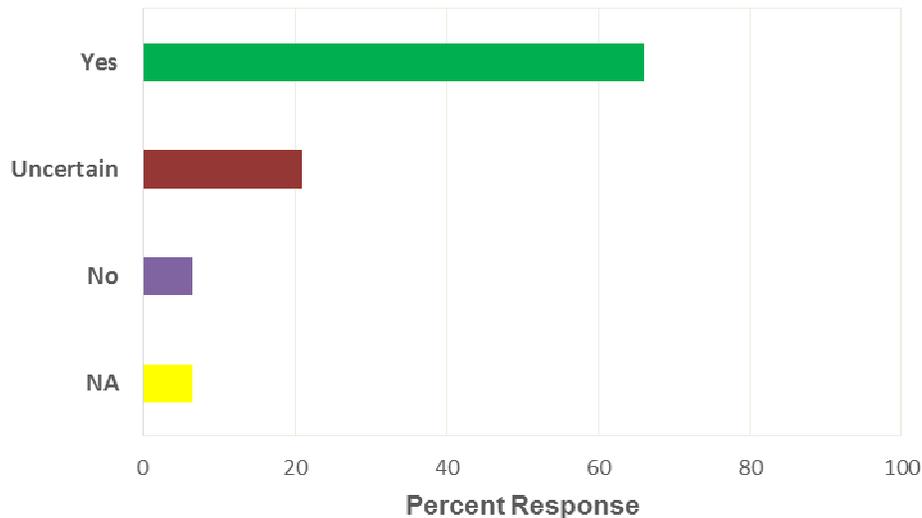
Question 8: Do you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, find IEEE activities relevant to your current employment?



Question 9: Do you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, believe that IEEE activities enable career advancement: promotion within your current organization or a move, with greater responsibility, to another organization?



Question 10: Do you, as an IEEE Maine Section member, believe that you would derive greater benefit from your membership if the IEEE Maine Section facilitated greater collaboration between the state's industrial, government, and academic organizations?



Question 11: Please provide any additional comments that you believe might assist the IEEE Maine Section executive committee in serving you better with planned activities and events. Thank you for participating in this survey. If you have any questions or comments about this survey, please send them to wrawle@hotmail.com

- Thanks for the opportunity. I have been retired for approximately 14 years, live in Fort Fairfield, ME (about a six hour drive to Portland) and have caregiver responsibilities. I maintain IEEE membership to read various articles/info general knowledge of developments in the field.
Keep up the good work for active members. Thank again.
- Technical meetings combined with tours works well. The number of events per year is factor in my attendance, with six being a good target number.
- I like to see the Maine Section still strong and active and cares about it's members. Being on my way to 93 years of age, care for my wife, and patriarch duties to my 32 grandkids and 10 great grandkids, etc. my inputs to this survey would be a non-factor. Keep up your fine work for our great professional organization. Your Belfast gathering/meeting last year was entirely exciting.
- I'm retired so please accept that many of my answers are not relevant.

- I feel that a greater number of annual technical/social meetings would be a benefit to the Maine Section and all of its members.
- Please be more considerate of your typical employed members when scheduling and locating events.
- Since I am a self-employed, semi-retired, EXcom Member, I expect that my responses do not reflect those of the general membership.
- For licensed PEs in Maine, granting PDHs for technical presentations would be a big benefit (even if an additional payment for the PDHs is required.)
- I would love us to have business oriented events but I do not prefer them over technical events.
I find IEEE events relevant to Power Engineering but I haven't seen many Maine Section events that are relevant to Power Engineering.
- As a 71 year old retired engineer I am just not sure how changing the section is going to make it easy for me to get involved.
- I am retired and some of the questions are only relevant to employed members.
- Recognize all Maine section members receiving IEEE awards, promote the expertise that exists here in Maine. There were two who received IEEE PES awards this year.
- 1) I believe as we are spread out around the state, it might be beneficial to hold meetings in different places. (The person living in a particular area on the month of the meeting could secure a room/location to utilize.)

2) As an educator and consultant, I have many areas of expertise I am willing to share/present if anyone is interested. It would be great to build panelist discussions and host conferences/expos in areas of interest around local businesses and technology.

3) I am more business and technologically oriented more so than social; I feel meetings should have an air of business associated with them as we are representing a major organization in the computer and engineering field. That's just my thought.
- Scheduling of Maine section events could vary in location, day and time of week, to best serve various participants.

- I believe there should be a mix of social, technical and business events. I am unable to provide a suggested ratio. I believe employer sponsorship in the form of paid time off and mileage reimbursement are key drivers to attendance of any event. Social events are a tough pitch to employers. I feel that social events would have better attendance if smaller scale and targeted to a region, such as Bangor, Augusta and Portland. Social events are important to nurture contacts. Some of us only see one another in person at these types of meetings. It might be nice to know who is attending in advance. To me, business events do not seem oriented to the majority of members.

Summary Conclusions

The results of the 2018 IEEE Maine Section Member Survey provide valuable insight into how the section executive committee may better serve its members.

1. Remote connectivity and the availability of professional development credit is highly desirable among IEEE Maine Section members.
2. General purpose meetings, such as an annual general meeting with speaker, especially if the presentation topic is not of a specific technical nature, does not provide significant value to the membership. Social and business oriented events provide very little value to the section membership
3. Event planning must be improved to accommodate work schedules for early and mid-career members. Event content must be aligned to more closely meet the technical needs for both section members and their employers.

Thank you for participating in the 2018 IEEE Maine Section Member Survey. Questions or comments regarding this survey are welcomed. Please send correspondence to the 2018 IEEE Maine Section Chair, W.D. Rawle, PhD, wrawle@hotmail.com