**Connecticut Section 2018 Report**

The Connecticut Section has had regular monthly Excom meetings in 2018 and has been particularly active in the areas of Robotics, Membership Development, Power & Energy and student branches as described below.

**Robotics and Automation Society Chapter**: The consistent and dedicated work of our chapter leaders Biao Zhang (Chair) and Haoyu Wang (Vice Chair) resulted in the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) selecting Connecticut as the recipient of the 2018 Chapter of the Year Award. Haoyu received the award at the RAS Annual General Meeting in Sydney Australia.

In March, the chapter provided judges and sponsorships at the Trinity College Robotics Contest which was attended by 100 middle school girls.

**High School Robotics Team Sponsorships:** In 2018, the Connecticut Section continued to engage High School students through the sponsorship of three FIRST Robotics teams and one Vex Robotics team. IEEE engagement is enhanced by our requirement that a sponsored team have at least one IEEE member as a mentor. We also hold Excom meetings at sponsored schools so the students can interact directly with us to demonstrate their robotics projects and updates us on their competition performance. These impressive young people bode well for our profession’s future.

**Membership Development Event/PACE/Senior Member Elevation:** A major 2018 highlight for the section was a Membership Development event held on a Saturday in March at Central Connecticut State University and hosted by the CCSU student branch. Our Membership Development Chair, Oscar Tonello did a great job organizing this multi-faceted event and driving it to completion. There were tables for each Technical Society chapter and affinity group so members could interact with the section’s volunteer leaders. Approximately 40 people attended. A popular feature was a Senior Member elevation table where members could share their resumes and interview with Senior Members to receive recommendations. Nine section members have been elevated as a direct result of this event. The day ended with a PACE lecture on intellectual property by a patent attorney. We plan to repeat this event in November.

**Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair:** TheConnecticut Section routinely supports the yearly Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair with awards and finalist judges. Life member Bill Wessman leads this up for the section. This event is a statewide science and engineering fair open to all 7th through 12th grade students residing, or enrolled, in Connecticut schools and was held at Quinnipiac University on March 14th. We used this as a micro-volunteering opportunity by putting out a section-wide call for volunteers instead of our usual practice or relying on our core group of active volunteer leaders. We got a great response from some very qualified IEEE members whom we might not have engaged otherwise.

**Power & Energy Society Chapter:** PES is one of the most active Chapters in the Connecticut section under the leadership of Jason Philhower (Chair) and Mark Wallace (Vice Chair). The following events have been held in 2018: University of Bridgeport fuel cell microgrid lecture and tour, ISO-New England backup control center lecture and tour and a joint lecture event with the Computer Society Chapter on Cybersecurity in Power Systems. PES chapter awarded two Outstanding Engineer Awards this year.

**Annual General Meeting:** The Connecticut Section 2018 Annual General Meeting and Dinner is scheduled for October. The venue and speakers are confirmed. In addition to social time and awards, we seek speakers with a general technical flavor but geared toward non-IEEE spouses and guests. This year’s presentation topic will be on the timely topic of “Machine Ethics: Ensuring Ethical Behavior from Autonomous Systems” by IEEE Member and Computer Science professor, Michael Anderson and his wife Susan who is a philosophy professor at UCONN.

**General:** We were saddened by the loss of two long-time Excom members; John Gallichotte and Brad Elker. The section presented plaques of appreciation to the families of both. I am grateful to Region 1’s Charles Rubenstein for helping resolve a problem John’s family was having his ieee.org email account with IEEE HQ.

As the new section chair, I am grateful for the continued support of my fellow volunteer leaders and the continued help and advice of our Past Chair, Peter Kootsookos.

Respectfully submitted,

George Berntsen, Connecticut Section Chair