



## Connecticut Section 2018-2019 Report

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Connecticut Section has had regular monthly Excom meetings in 2018 and 2019 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. The Connecticut Chapter was featured in the September 2018 issue of the IEEE Robotics & Automation Magazine.

**High School Robotics Team Sponsorships:** 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 continue to 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.

**Membership Development Events/PACE/Senior Member Elevation:** Our Membership Chair, Oscar Tenello has continued driving membership development events on a biannual basis with strong support by the Excom members. Events were held in November 2018 and March 2019 at Central Connecticut State University. Chapter and Affinity group, and Student Branch leaders met with members who normally are not active locally. In addition to assisting approximately 15 members in achieving Sr. member elevation, PACE lectures were held on the topics of cybersecurity and Design Thinking.

**Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair:** Connecticut Section continued its support of the Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair in March 2019 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. We use this as a micro-volunteering opportunity for some very qualified IEEE members whom we might not have engaged otherwise.



**Power & Energy Society Chapter:** PES has been one of the most active Chapters in the Connecticut section but is undergoing a leadership change due to work and academic commitments the previous chair Jason Philhower. Fortunately Jason had been working closely with Vice Chair Mark Wallace who has now stepped up into the Chair position. Fuel cell and power electronics lectures and tours were conducted at Trinity College and Central Connecticut State University. A PES Outstanding Engineer of the Year award was presented to UCONN professor Peng Zhang for his work on microgrids and alternative energy systems.

**Young Professionals Affinity Group:**

The Connecticut Excom is very pleased with the progress made with our Young Professionals Affinity Group. A well attended Social was held in September 2018. A momentary setback in this progress occurred when the Affinity Group Chair Saumya Sharma had to relocate to another state for work. Fortunately, a YP member who attended the September social, Don McMenemy quickly volunteered to take up the Chair. A follow on social was held in February 2019.

**Annual General Meeting:** The Connecticut Section 2018 Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held in October 2018. Thirty-eight IEEE members and guests were in attendance. In addition to enjoyable social time and dinner with members and spouses, we had an engaging presentation 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:**

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