



The Beacon



The Newsletter of the IEEE Maine Section

December 23, 2016

Happy Holidays

The Maine Section has had a great year! More meetings! More participation by more members! More presence in the community! My thanks to everyone who in any way contributed, and I look forward to working with you again in the coming year. In the spirit of the season I bid all of you peace. ...Ron

Maine Science Festival

We have been asked to be a sponsor for the Maine Science Festival which will be held in Bangor March 17-19, 2017. We will take this up at our next ExCom meeting, so please let me or any officer know your thoughts on this. ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com. FMI: www.mainsciencefestival.org.

Computer Science Education Summit

Ron Brown, as IEEE Maine Section Chair and Communications and Computer Society Vice Chair, participated in the K-12 Computer Science Education in Maine seminar held November 16, 2016 at Thomas College.

The seminar, sponsored by the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, included 16 educators. The purpose of the conference was to better define computer science education so its purpose is better understood by legislators, government agencies, and the general public with the goal of better support for computer science education in Maine. Ron was the only participant who was a non-educator.

Robotics Institute of Maine Needs our Support

We received a request from the Robotics Institute of Maine (RIM) about a shortage of mentors, coaches, and volunteers for competitive middle and high school robotics teams around the state. Did you know that Maine is a leader in school robotics programs?

Since its inception in 2012, RIM has helped to more than double the number of teams around the state, and our programs support more than 1150 students.

One of the challenges faced by teams, new and existing, is finding a retaining mentors that will help them learn the skills needed, such as engineering design, programming, electrical engineering, CAD, machining, and safety.

RIM's hope is to support the teams in their quest to learn these skills, and that they then have the interest and desire to pursue these skills further into a career. So far, their numbers support that goal. Of their graduating seniors, over 89% are reporting that they are pursuing a STEM career in higher education.

FMI: Karen Giles, Director, Robotics Institute of Maine, 207-542-4086, roboticsinme@gmail.com, www.robotsinmaine.org

Save the Date: Engineers E-Week Banquet and Expo.

The annual Maine Engineers Week Banquet will be Friday March 3rd at the Seasons Conference Center at the Ramada Inn, 155 Riverside Drive in Portland. The Expo will be from 9AM to 2PM. The Maine Section working with the student chapters at UMaine and USM plans to have a table where we will demonstrate ECE's contributions society.

The Press Herald/Sunday Telegram normally published an Engineers Week Supplement which features short articles about different engineering disciplines. Did you recently do a fascinating project? Do you have an idea for an article? If so, help us get the word out about the fun things electrical and computer engineers do. Let me know and I will put you in contact with the folks at the Portland Newspapers so you and our profession can get the publicity we deserve.

Future ExCom Meetings

Walter Rawle, our incoming Secretary, is currently scheduling our upcoming ExCom meetings. As soon as the dates are firmed up, they will be forwarded to the Section Membership. And we would like your participation -- all are welcome!

Since most all meetings are via teleconference, attendance is easy whether you live in Portland or North New Portland.