



The Beacon



The Newsletter of the IEEE Maine Section

March 6, 2019

<http://www.ieee.org/maine>

Welcome to The Beacon, the IEEE Maine Section's newsletter. If you have anything that you would like to see in the next Beacon – meetings of the Section, other meetings, conferences, an interesting article you read, etc. – please send it to ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com. Also, you are welcome to sit-in on and participate in our ExCom meetings. They are normally held the first Tuesday of the month and you can call in. Interested? We welcome your comments, suggestions and yes your criticisms too! Just notify Walter Rawle, wrawle@hotmail.com, and he will send you an agenda and sign-in information..

Maine Section and PES/IAS Joint Chapter Meeting

On December 20th, 2018, the Maine Section and the PES/IAS Joint Chapter held a year-end event at the Freeport Hilton Garden Inn. This is the second consecutive year for such an event and it has been a success both years. The year-end event is an opportunity to gather with fellow IEEE Members and guests, enjoy a nice meal, a technical presentation, and to look back on the year past and look ahead to the coming year.

Charles Sweetser of OMICRON gave a great presentation on the *Value of Transformer Testing*. The Power & Energy Society presented its 2018 Outstanding Engineer Award to Brandon Davies, Supervisor of System Protection Engineering at TRC for his many years of valuable contributions to the power engineering profession through his commitment to PSRC and mentoring of colleagues. Walter Rawle spoke to the activities of the Section over the year. Carol Spaulding spoke to the activities of the PES/IAS Chapter. Ashley Pezanowski spoke about the student branch activities at UMO. It is not without the help of all IEEE volunteers that these events are possible, so thank you to all volunteers. Also, thank you to all who continue to maintain your memberships. In the year ahead, please consider who you will nominate as the 2019 Outstanding Engineer.

MEPEC Expo

Nick Aiken and Ron Brown staffed the UMaine IEEE Student Chapter/HKN booth at the MEPEC Expo at USM on March 2nd. Don Hummels UMaine ECE Chair also asked Nick to represent UMaine-ECE. Nick did a great job! He showed initiative, was personal, knowledgeable, and well spoken. In short, he represented the IEEE, HKN, and the ECE Department well. The photo shows Nick in action with our eye-catcher – a van de Graff generator. Aside from



engaging visitors to the booth we handed out lots of literature about ECE careers, much of which has been generated by the section. If you would like electronic copies of this literature to interest prospective ECE students, contact ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com.

MEPC Dinner

Ron Brown represented the Maine Section at the MEPC dinner at the Season Grill in Portland on March 1. In doing so he got to discuss developing our role with USM with Jeremy Qualls, the new Dean at USM. We hope that this will lead to a stronger IEEE presence at USM.

MESPE Educational Symposium

Also on March 1 Walter Rawle, Maine Section Chair presented a well-received educational session titled “The Detection of Incipient Fault in Rotating Machinery”. This symposium was part of the MEPC program.

Maine Section History Project

The Maine Section is working to have RCA’s 1920s receiver location in Belfast, Maine where the first commercial trans-Atlantic radio broadcast was received memorialized as an IEEE Historic Site. We are doing this with the support of the IEEE UK and Ireland Section and plan a corresponding memorialization in the UK.

Aside from its location of particular interest to the Maine Section is that the receiver antenna at Belfast was a Beverage or wave antenna. Harold Beverage was from North Haven, a 1915 University of Maine EE graduate, the designer of the 10 mile long Belfast antenna, became chief research engineer in communications at RCA in 1929, and VP of R&D in 1940 RCA. He received the IEEE Medal of Honor in 1945. We even have a copy of Beverage’s hand written design note!

A quick summary of the accomplishment from the March 15, 1925 *New York Times* is:

“Hello, America! This is the Hotel Savoy broadcasting from 5 Savoy Court, London, England, Station 2LO” so heard radio listeners in the United States at about 6:15PM on March 14th 1925. Thus began successful trans-Atlantic radio broadcasting! It was carried by landline to station 5XX Chelmsford UK for broadcast by long wave to RCA’s receiver facility in Belfast Maine. From there it was transmitted by RCA’s station 1XAO in Belfast to an experimental station in Van Cortlandt Park New York, and finally sent over Western Union landlines to stations WJZ in New York and WRC in Washington, DC.

Student activities

The section received 2019 plans from all three student groups at UMaine Orono. These student groups are now eligible for financial support from the section.

We did not, however, receive anything from the USM student group. Last year this student group had been placed on unofficial probation. We are having difficulty developing a contact at USM and the previous student adviser has left USM. Unfortunately, the section may need to proceed to dis-establish this group. Betina Tagle has volunteered to lead student activities. Walter Rawle will discuss the USM situation with Betina to develop a plan of action and report back to ExCom.

We are also focusing on establishing a UMA SB with an emphasis on cybersecurity and software engineering. Many thanks to Betina Tagle and Lauren Mayhew for leading this effort.

Financials

The Maine section launched a successful 2019 by completing all financial reporting by the January 30 deadline. Many thanks to Stan Koski and the various chapter/group leadership teams for making this happen.

The Maine Section closing balance January remains at \$42,301.74, so we are in sound financial condition.

ExCom Committees

The ExCom concurred with these committee assignments.

- Awards & Recognition Committee Chair: Rosemary Smith
- Educational Activities: Curt Beverage
- Immediate Past Chair: Ronald Brown
- Member-At-Large (Junior): Alisha Chaney
- Member-At-Large (Senior): Kevin Conroy
- Membership Development: Richard Wilkins
- Newsletter Editor: Ronald Brown
- Professional Activities: Rich Hilliard
- Student Activities: Betina Tagle
- Webmaster: Rich Hilliard
- Women in Engineering: Carol Spaulding
- Student/YP Representative: vacant

Walter is proposing Alisha or Candidate nomination.

Artificial *U*ntelligence

Just before sending this Beacon edition to you, I ran it through spell check. The word *cybersecurity* bounced. Spell checker's suggestion? *cybersex*!