



IEEE Region 2 - Central Area

AB Shafaye

Phone: (717) 948-6349

Fax: (717) 948-6352

Email: mes121@psu.edu

Central Area Membership by Section

Section Activities

- **New Processes**

- West Virginia: meetings once a month
- Pittsburgh: Getting members' employers involved in sponsoring or hosting Section meetings

- **Educational Activities & Continuing Education Courses**

- West Virginia: Team of members & students placed 1st in DARPA's (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) Robotic vehicle contest last year; finalists this year.
- Pittsburgh:
 - Professional meetings on Patents, Copyrights, Preparing for Major Career Changes, & Offshore Outsourcing/Engineering Employment.
 - Technical Job Placement Strategies
 - Project Management for the Engineering Community

Section Activities

- **Tutorials**

- **West Virginia:** Grant-writing workshops

- **Pittsburgh:**

- Variable Frequency Drives
- Power Electronics
- Tutorial on Building a successful Consulting Practice

Section Activities

- **Awards Banquets/Ceremonies**
 - **Johnstown** Section celebrated its 50th anniversary.
 - Dinner in honor of past chairs
 - Anniversary presenter was Thom Tullia
 - Guest speaker was Russell Harrison from IEEE-USA
 - **West Virginia:** Section Chair met with several senators during the Awards/Banquet and apprised them of the IEEE and its activities.
 - **Pittsburgh:**
 - Annual Awards /History banquet every April
 - Fall Picnic every September
 - PES Chapter Outstanding Engineer Award
 - **Susquehanna:** local award presented to a student of an industrial high school program

Section Activities

- Industrial Tours

- **Johnstown:**

- University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
 - Power System Simulator

- **Pittsburgh:**

- Allegheny Energy Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Facility
 - Allegheny Energy Operations Facility
 - FPL Energy Meyersdale Wind Farm
 - Westinghouse Nuclear Simulator and Controls Facility Tour

- **Susquehanna:**

- County Courthouse AV systems
 - Tour of Harrisburg University's Facilities

Section Activities

- Meeting Topics (Lectures)
 - **Pittsburgh** (listed 24):
 - Human Factors in Image Processing
 - Power Protection and Conditioning
 - Serial Communication
 - Winning with Software
 - Miniature Micro/Nano-Robotics
 - Robotic Servicing of the Hubble Telescope
 - **Susquehanna**:
 - Distinguished IEEE speaker on topic of Electrocardiography for the Section's 50th anniversary dinner meeting
 - Arc-flash Generated During a Fault in the Power Industry

Section Activities

- **Engineers Week Activities**
 - **West Virginia:** Involved WV High Schools in the Lego competition. This has been a recruiting tool for IEEE and undergraduate programs related to IEEE.
 - **Pittsburgh:** Robot Car Races for middle schools
 - **Johnstown:** Engineers week banquet with Johnstown Chapter of PSPE
 - **Susquehanna:**
 - Member of Central Pennsylvania Engineer's Week Council (newspaper insert/articles, shopping mall exhibits, and banquet)
 - IEEE member, Omid Ansary, was recipient of one of three annual awards (Technical Achievement Award)

Society/Chapter Activities

- **New Initiatives**
 - **West Virginia:** Arranging IEEE meetings with WV government officials
 - **Pittsburgh:** Use of Distinguished lecturers
- **Society Meetings/Status**
 - **West Virginia:** Regular meetings every month
- **Other Notable Activities**
 - **West Virginia:** Networking with congressmen, senators and other government officials

Student Activities

- **Student Competitions & Awards**

- **Johnstown:**

- University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
 - Senior project presentations

- **Pittsburgh:**

- \$500 Book Scholarships offered to the students of 10 local colleges and universities with active IEEE student branch
- Robotic Car Races for middle school children at Science Center
- WV Science Bowl Sponsorship
- **West Virginia:** Students participated in the Lego competition; a very popular event organized every year at WV University's Institute of Technology.

Student Activities

- **Student Competitions & Awards**

- **Susquehanna:**

- Penn State Harrisburg students earned 2nd places in robot, project showcase, and ethics competitions in Region 2 SAC conference
 - Penn State Harrisburg student group earned 3rd place honors in the 5th annual design contest (Hearing Assistive Device) sponsored by the Rochester Institute of Technology's Student Branch

- **Other notable Activities**

- **Susquehanna:** Penn State Harrisburg had another successful SPAC

Affinity Groups' Activities

- Gold
 - **Pittsburgh:** Initial effort was unsuccessful, relied on graduate students, willing to give it a try, but without a wide base. Effort was not supported properly by other section members.

Affinity Groups' Activities

- Consultants Network
 - **Pittsburgh**
 - Consultants network has been consistently meeting once a month, but has trouble scheduling topics for meetings early enough to get into Bulletin; also, had a recent setback as the group temporarily lost the leader due to workload schedule.
 - Acting leader is non-IEEE member.
 - Recent topics included: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Contract Employment.

Affinity Groups' Activities

- Consultants Network
 - **Susquehanna:** Attempted call-in conferences since face-face meetings did not work; used SAMIEEE data to send invitation letters to members listed in “consultant” categories.
- Other Affinity Group Activities
 - None reported.

Other Notable Activities

- **Joint meetings with other professional societies:**
 - **Johnstown:** Engineers week banquet with Johnstown Chapter of PSPE
 - **West Virginia:** Joint meeting with ISA are organized on routine basis.
 - **Pittsburgh:**
 - One joint meeting with Facilities Engineers
 - Approached by Energy Engineers, but no joint meetings scheduled yet

Other Notable Activities

- **Pittsburgh:**

- The Section supports the Annual Future City Competition which promotes technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. This is done by some members on individual basis; not sponsored by IEEE directly.

- **Erie:**

- Conducted a Professional Development Seminar (M-PAC) in Spring 2005

- One technical topic: Nanotechnology

- Two professional development topics: emotional intelligence & leadership in organizations

Successes

- Pittsburgh:

- Plant tours are the best attended events

- Susquehanna:

- Rebuilt leadership team with succession path in place for senior officers

- Monthly meetings held regularly with great programming; with average attendance $\approx 20+$ members

Successes

- Susquehanna:
 - Published regular schedule for newsletters and website; and kept to schedule (with help from professional volunteers and student branch support for mailing)
 - Strong finances
 - Great working relationships (meeting venues, leadership) with two local colleges/universities – Penn State Harrisburg and Elizabethtown College (no student branch – yet – opportunity!)

Difficulties/Concerns

- Johnstown:
 - Recruiting members willing to serve as officers.
- Pittsburgh:
 - Membership Development
 - » Trouble getting GOLD started
 - » Difficulty in keeping student members active in Section
 - Need stronger person in membership development, or examples of success from other sections
 - Internal Section struggle between old ways and adopting new ideas
 - Need to attract new members

Difficulties/Concerns

- Susquehanna
 - Large geography (and shifting demographics/interests) makes section attendance inconsistent
 - No further growth in emerging leaders
 - Lack of interest in affinity groups
 - IEEE overall “image” – “what’s in it for me?” – membership value?

Help Wanted!

- Please submit your reports early!
- Please make sure that you update the Region Secretary as soon as there are changes in your section's leadership