

IEEE Alaska Section ExComm Meeting

Zoom Summary
09/01/2026

Quick recap

The meeting of the Alaska Section ExComm covered officer reports, financial updates, and planning for upcoming events and activities. Ken reported on his absence from the Sections Congress due to illness and discussed potential reimbursement for related expenses. The treasurer's report was reviewed, with questions raised about some transactions and investments. Discussion focused on organizing future section meetings, including potential tours of the Anchorage airport or train rides, and a family outing. Updates were given on student branch activities at UAF and UAA, and the need for more promotional materials like table drapes and swag was discussed. The status of scholarships and awards was reviewed, with plans to improve outreach and promotion. The group also discussed the need to begin the process for section elections and the potential impact of term limits on current officers. Technical issues with email and website integration were mentioned, and the transition of Zoom credentials was delayed due to health concerns. The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn.

Next steps

Eleonora

- Add a slider on the website homepage for the Engineering Excellence Awards with the deadline date. 📅
- Investigate and fix the issue with the HTML display on the events calendar page. 📅
- Show Mitch Roth how to manually add events to the calendar. 📅

Jeremie

- Draft and send out an announcement for the Engineer of the Year and Engineering Excellence Awards, and coordinate with Mitch Roth and Eleonora. 📅

- Reach out to Ong to ask if he will serve as the chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee again. 📅
- Follow up with Robert about the disposal of the old laptop and projector. 📅

Ken

- Follow up with Patrick regarding the \$500 student branch support payments and other unclear items in the treasurer's report. 📅
- Organize the September section meeting, now tentatively scheduled for the 24th, and follow up with the contact from Green Spark. 📅
- Investigate and pursue options for a section family outing or tour (e.g., airport tour, train ride) for October. 📅
- Contact the RUS representative to arrange a presentation for the November section meeting. 📅
- Reach out to his contact at IEEE USA for information on sourcing swag (e.g., table drape) and provide cost estimates for approval. 📅

Mitch Roth

- Follow up on the IEEE scholarships by obtaining biographical information from the UAA student (Frank/Fought) and passing the information for Sam Morse to Patrick for processing. 📅
- Save the scholarship information to the drive for Eleonora to use on the website. 📅

Summary

Meeting Officer Reports and Updates

The meeting began with participants checking in on health and travel issues, including Ken's recent illness that prevented him from attending Sections Congress. The group confirmed a quorum and approved the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting. The discussion then moved to officer reports, with the chair noting they had no updates to report at that time.

Financial and Technical Updates Meeting

The meeting covered financial reports and technical issues. Ken presented treasury reports showing \$46,000 in the checking account and discussed various financial transactions including \$1,500 spent on the Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, but noted uncertainty about a \$500 student branch allocation that required follow-up with Patrick. Gregory raised concerns about compatibility issues between Microsoft and Google platforms, particularly regarding multi-factor authentication that was causing communication problems between different email systems, especially affecting university accounts.

UAF Email and Storage Systems

The group discussed UAF's email and storage systems, with Richard explaining that while Google Gmail is used for email since 2009, Microsoft 365 is used for office applications, and employees store files in both Google Drive and OneDrive. They discussed changes to Gmail for nonprofits, which will now cost \$40 annually starting next year, and mentioned an upcoming meeting about transitioning away from Google services. Richard also provided updates about recent student activities including Party in the Park and a fair, noting the arrival of a new chancellor starting September 7th who has a PhD from UAF.

Student Activities Officer Reports Discussion

The group discussed adding someone to officer reports and moving an item from unfinished business to officer reports for student activities. They reviewed a recent campus kickoff event where the UAA student branch participated with a table and gave out IEesea coffee mugs to approximately 40 people. The team agreed to pursue getting more merchandise, including table drapes, and Ken committed to following up on a potential speaker for the September 17th meeting. They also discussed planning a family outing or tour, with Ken suggesting an insider's tour of Anchorage Ted Stevens International Airport as a potential venue.

Family Airport Tour Planning Meeting

Ken proposed organizing a family outing or airport tour for October, similar to previous events held in North Carolina. Jeremie offered to help with airport access through CRW's relationship with the airport, suggesting Shane as the main point of contact. The group discussed potential

tour options, including the airport itself and the Air Traffic Control Center, with Gregory clarifying that the event would be for IE^E members and their families.

Social Outing Planning Discussion

The group discussed organizing a social outing, with Ken proposing a train ride to Whittier, which would cost around \$10,000 to rent the entire train. Richard mentioned that the train operates from May 13th to September 17th, making timing a consideration. Ken also suggested organizing an end-of-year social event in early December, similar to previous successful events in North Carolina, though he acknowledged the challenge of finding an appropriate venue due to early booking requirements.

Alaska Telecom Presentation Planning

The group discussed scheduling a presentation about Alaska telecom build-out and government programs for November, with Ken deciding to pursue a presentation from the RUS (Rural Utility Service) representative rather than Glen Farm. They agreed to reschedule the event from November 17th to November 24th to allow more time for organization. Ken provided updates on ongoing audits and expressed concerns about the lack of budget progress for the Oceans 2027 planning, noting that no spending can occur until a budget is finalized. Eleonora reported that the contact form issue on the website has been fixed, though there are still some display issues with events that need investigation.

Scholarship and Award Updates

The group discussed the status of IEect-E-E scholarships, with Mitch Roth reporting limited progress due to illness and lack of response from students. Ken agreed to email the W-9 form link to Patrick and copy Mitch Roth, while Mitch Roth will follow up with students Sam Morse and Frank Otso Zocal. The team agreed to conduct a vote on the scholarships by email once biographical information is provided, and Eleonora requested that the information be saved to the shared drive for website purposes. Jeremie updated on the Engineer of the Year and Engineering Excellence Awards, noting that no submissions had been received yet, and Mitch Roth explained that while forms were posted online, the announcement hadn't been widely distributed due to technical challenges with calendar integration and his subsequent illness.

Engineering Excellence Awards Planning Meeting

The group discussed promoting Engineering Excellence Awards, with Jeremie agreeing to draft an announcement for review while acknowledging that announcements alone wouldn't be sufficient to generate interest. They agreed to create a website slider about the awards with a deadline, which Eleonora will handle. The team also addressed upcoming section elections, with Jeremie taking action to reach out to Ong about serving as nominations chair again. Regarding section swag, Ken volunteered to research options and costs, suggesting they need new table drapes and promotional items, with the group agreeing to potentially allocate \$500-\$1000 for these materials at the next meeting.