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Meeting summary for IEEE Alaska Section ExComm Zoom Meeting (02/04/2025)

Quick recap

The board discussed recent events, updates, and potential opportunities, including the need for more engineers, the increase in IEEE assets and membership, and

the completion of the section's financial reports. They also addressed the status of a potential region meeting in Anchorage, the extension of officer terms, and the recent election results for the Alaska Executive Committee. Lastly, they discussed the need for a more organized and updated website, the upcoming banquet for the I Triple E award winner, and the upcoming meeting in February.

Next steps

- Robert Posma to publish the 2025 budget in QuickBooks within the next 2 weeks.
- Ken to follow up with Conloe regarding website assistance and copy Ong on the communication.
- Robert Posma to email Jennifer and Curtis to request a brief bio and topic information for the February meeting announcement.
- Mitch to create and publish the event notice for the February meeting.
- Richard to handle food arrangements for the Fairbanks location of the February meeting.
- Robert Posma to coordinate food arrangements for the Anchorage location of the February meeting.
- Robert Posma to reach out to Osama Abaza regarding the EPICS project and invite them to present at a future section meeting.
- Mitch to confirm with Tom Gurski and set up the March presentation on electric vehicle conversions.
- Mitch to check his availability and inform Ken about using the second banquet

ticket for the Engineers Week event.

Summary

IEEE Meetings and Financial Updates

The board discusses recent events and updates. Nolan reports on attending a regional IEEE meeting in San Francisco, noting that membership is increasing nationwide and there's concern about the need for more engineers. Ken mentions attending IEEE meetings in Las Vegas and New York, reporting that IEEE assets have crossed \$1 billion and membership is at 500,000. Robert, the treasurer, states he has completed the section's financial reports and will publish the budget in the next two weeks. The board agrees to add discussion of a recent EPICS grant to UAA to the agenda under new items, as it was unexpected and presents an opportunity to engage with the professor involved.

Anchorage Meeting and Officer Terms

Mitch asks about the status of a potential region meeting in Anchorage and the extension of officer terms. Nolan confirms that the Anchorage meeting was briefly discussed but not planned, requiring follow-up. Richard explains that his PES chair term has been extended to March 31, 2026, after some administrative confusion. Robert Posma mentions extending other officer terms to February 28. The group discusses the need to update member lists and incorporate new at-large members once election results are official.

Alaska Election Results Transparency Concerns

The group discusses the recent election results for the Alaska Executive Committee. Ken points out that according to the MGA Operations Manual, the teller has completed the required steps by notifying candidates of their election. However, Mitch expresses concern about the lack of detailed results, including vote counts and specific positions elected. Robert Posma confirms that they only received a congratulatory email without detailed information. The group debates whether this constitutes sufficient reporting of results, with some members emphasizing the importance of transparency in the election process.

Election Confusion and Section Manual Review

In the meeting, Mitch expressed confusion about his election to a different position without clear communication. Ken clarified that the election was done according to the Operations Manual, and Nolan suggested that Ong should send a report with the election results. The team also discussed the term limits for officers, with Robert Seitz suggesting that each officer's term should extend until the first meeting of the next year. Lastly, they briefly touched on the review of the Section Operations Manual.

Website Management and Ecosystem Focus

The team discussed the need for a more organized and updated website for their organization. They acknowledged the challenges they've faced in managing the website and the importance of staying within the ecosystem. The idea of hiring someone to manage the website was proposed, with Ken suggesting they start with Conloe, the ultimate authority on their servers. The team also discussed the potential of reaching out to other sections within their region for assistance. The conversation ended with the decision to prioritize staying within the ecosystem and to seek Conloe's guidance on the next steps.

Website Development and Banquet Plans

The team discussed the need for website development and maintenance, with a proposal to allocate \$2,000 to get the process started. Mitch expressed his willingness to maintain the website once it's set up, but acknowledged his lack of knowledge on the latest website technologies. The team also discussed the upcoming banquet for the I Triple E award winner, with Ken and Mitch volunteering to attend and help with ticket sales. The final schedule for the banquet was not yet confirmed.

Nolan's Absence and Upcoming Meetings

Nolan announced his upcoming absence for most of the month, leaving for Texas and then Disney World. He expressed his inability to manage any meetings for February and possibly March due to his exhaustion and the craziness he's been dealing with. He suggested that the vice chair, Jeremie, should take on the task of scheduling and planning for the upcoming meetings. Nolan also mentioned a potential speaker from the Alaskan Energy Authority, but it was unclear if he would be able to attend. Ken confirmed that the meeting space at UAA was already set up, but the February meeting had not been published yet. Richard mentioned that he would be handling lunch arrangements for the February meeting.

February Meeting Planning and Topics

The team discussed the upcoming meeting in February, with Ken confirming that it would be in person. They also discussed the need for a bio and title for the speaker, Curtis, and Robert Posma agreed to contact Jennifer for this information. The team also discussed potential topics for the meeting, including a presentation on rail belt reliability and coordination, and the possibility of a presentation by Dr. Alex Hills. The team also discussed student engagement, with Richard mentioning the success of the IE student group in Fairbanks and the upcoming meeting on the 19th. The team agreed to finalize the arrangements for the February meeting and to publish the details.

Award Processing and Hybrid Meeting

The team discussed the handling of an award processing from the Educational Activities Board (EAB) for a project on AI-powered assistive technologies for hearing-impaired drivers. They agreed to reach out to the project lead, Osama Abaza, to discuss the possibility of a presentation to the local section. They also considered inviting Tom Gurski from Blue Dot Motor Works to present on electric vehicle conversions in March. The team decided to hold the next meeting on March 4th and to potentially have a hybrid meeting format, with some members attending in person and others remotely.

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Best,

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