



Role of Chapters in Conference Organization – Michael Braasch

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Why should Chapters get involved with conference organization ?

- 1) Member engagement
- 2) Professional development
- 3) Networking
- 4) Outreach
- 5) Money

Member Engagement

- Holding a local conference or hosting a regional/national/international conference provides incredible opportunities for members of the local chapter to become involved
 - Participation on the conference organizing committee
 - Assisting with conference logistics
 - Leveraging local knowledge
 - Industrial partners; tours
 - Tourism info

Professional Development

- Keep current in fields of interest
- Gain exposure through presentations of papers and posters
- Gain experience in conference organization

Networking

- Much of the value provided by a conference is obtained in the hallway discussions
- Conferences bring together a critical mass of experts and practitioners
- Excellent opportunity for students to engage with the 'gray beards'

Outreach

- Chapters hosting and/or partnering with conferences can work to engage local student groups (best of all: IEEE student chapters!)
 - Add-on events; e.g. Radar Summer School
- Chapters provide the local connections that enable engagement with primary and secondary school students as well
 - E.g., design competitions

Money

- Chapters hosting and/or partnering with conferences are entitled to a portion of the conference surplus
- These funds are then available for a wide variety of Chapter business
- Example: Boston-section partnered with the 2019 IEEE Radar Conference

How to Start ?

- Assess the interests of your members
- Determine areas of concentration
- Contact current conference organizers and offer to host a future event
- Consider starting a local conference on a topic that is of interest to a large number of your members
 - Doesn't have to be a week-long event; a one or two-day conference can be very impactful