MINUTES: 2/21/2012

There were 5 IEEE members, 2 Students, and 5 guests present

Location: DeVry University at 5540 W. Executive Drive, Tampa, FL 33609
Room: 210
Date: February 17, 2012
Time: 6:30pm to 8:34pm.

The February 2012 Meeting of the RAS Society was called by Chairman George Schott at the DeVry University. There were a total of 12 people made of 6 IEEE members, 2 Students, and 5 guests present.

OFFICER ROLL CALL:

o       Chairman – George Schott-Present

o       Vice-Chairman – Ken Fiallos-Present

o       Treasurer - George Schott acting-Present

o       Secretary – Sean Denny-Present

o       WEB Master – Victor Basante-Absent

o       Membership coordinator –Jim Anderson- Absent

o       Facilities Coordinator – Robert Franklin- Absent

o       Publicity coordinator – Jim Melton-Excused

o       Programs coordinator – Jim Melton- Excused

o       Chapter Photographer – George Schott

The Motion to approve the Minutes as published was made by David Figueroa; Seconded by Ken Fiallos.  There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The RAS Treasury has not been updated since December, according to George Schott.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Ken Fiallos stated that Electrathon Races is being sponsored by Skills USA.  This allows the program to be open to High School Academic Programs and Hosting Competitions.  The first State Competition is April 28th, 2012 in Pensacola, FL.

Bill Waggoner is a Technical Mentor and Judge at the Upcoming Robofest.

George Schott is helping a FIRST Lego League Club in Clearwater.

 ROBOFEST PRESENTATION:

 Pinellas County Schools Teacher Emma Alaba gave a history on the Robofest competition.  This year’s Competition is March 10th in Clearwater.  Robofest is an Annual autonomous robotics competition that focuses on learning Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).  It was founded in the year 2000 by Dr. CJ Chung at Michigan’s Lawrence Technological University.  Motivates 4th to 12th Grade Students in STEM and maximizes students to learn by Integrating STEM.  It promotes creative and innovative thinking, teamwork, ethics, and builds a STEM workforce.

The Robot must feature: Required Autonomous Sensors, Student Driven Competition, handle unknown factors with the Game Field, Any robotics System or Software, Affordable Registration Fee, and Accessible Materials.  The annual task is known but unknown variables include heights and distances.

 Teams of 2 – 7 students can participate in any one of several categories.  Robofest incorporates Math in competition with few rules and restrictions.  There is no limit on the number of sensors, motors or materials.  It allows more creative freedom so students “can think outside the box.”  There are Pre and Post-Assessments for Math and Science.  There is a team Photo-contest.  Everyone is a winner therefore Medals and Certificates are given to all participants.

Registration fee is $50.00.  No remote controls or joysticks are allowed.  Emma reiterated “Sensors are required.”  The “Robots to the Rescue” Game rules include two rounds at 2 minutes each.  They have 30 minutes to solve the problem before each round.  The robot’s width and length must be a maximum of 35 cm.  Students Drew David and Matthew Nipper ran a demonstration of their robot knocking Lego-bricks off the table as it completed its circuit.  They said they spent 8 to 12 hours and $400 to $500 to achieve this.

 Emma concluded by asking for judges and photographers for Robofest on March 10th.

             NEW BUSINESS: Bill Waggoner lead a discussion about a STEM Paper released from Tallahassee stating that College Professors have a misconception about Engineers.  Bill stated he was disappointed that IEEE was not spreading the word fast enough.  Sean Denny stated the local Florida West Coast Section is accomplishing the education of Pre-College Students and Teachers through the Teacher In Service Program.  There is an IEEE Education Symposium planned for May 19-20 at the Tampa Airport Hilton.  This week is Engineers Week and the Tampa Bay Engineering Week Banquet will be held at Tampa’s A La Carte Pavilion on February 24th at 5:30pm.  George Schott stated that we are IEEE and our efforts are having an effect.

            ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We will meet at the Brandon Campus of Hillsborough Community College for the March RAS Meeting.

 Adjourned at 8:34pm by Albert Brown; Seconded by Bill Waggoner.

Respectfully submitted by

Sean Denny,

Tampa Bay IEEE RAS Chapter Secretary

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