



How to Rejuvenate Inactive Chapters

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Elya B. Joffe
Region 8 ChCSC Chair



Outline

- How do you Know when Something's Wrong?
- The Early Steps
- Chapter Reorganization
- Let's Get Going...
- How to Avoid this Situation in Future?



How do you Know when Something's Going Wrong?

■ Inactive Chapter

- When it does not hold at least 2 meetings a year for 3 consecutive years

■ MGA Chapter "Watch List"

- "Last Minute" notification
- You don't want to get there...



■ No L31 or Chapter Officers' Reports

■ No Newsletter/Magazine Reports/Articles

■ Reduced SM or Award Nominations



The Early Steps

■ You need a “champion”

- Someone “mad on the idea” to take the lead
- He will form a team to “pull this off”



■ Define the current state of the chapter

- Officers, members, finances, etc.
- Assess the condition of the chapter

■ Decide where the Chapter wants to go, what we want to be

- Set a baseline
- Do not aim too high
- Start by reviving the chapter into a vibrant chapter with consistent meetings and activities



Chapter Reorganization

■ Build the Team

- Decide what Interim officer positions are **absolutely** necessary
- All you need to allow the chapter to operate most effectively

■ Determine the specific duties of each officer

- Describe them in detail
- Define required commitment



■ Elect “temporary” interim officers...

- ...with a **defined time frame** to get things up and going again

■ Plan for a full slate of officers for the following year

- A great way to engage volunteers

Let's Get Going...

■ Starting activities is the best way to recover fast...

- Networking is what members seek
- Take the practical paths... Org charts will get you nowhere by their own merit



■ Plan the first meetings

- Determine times and places for at least the next 3 meetings/events (real or virtual)
- Determine topics and possible speakers or events
- Socialize – **Networking is between people!**
- **Beer and Pizza do magic!**

Let's Get Going...



■ Engage more people

- There IS magic in numbers!
- Discuss ideas to get more people interested in the chapter meetings and activities
- GOLD/student activities e.g., robotics competitions, demonstrations and presentations, technical workshops, colloquiums, socials, etc.

■ Update Chapter mailing list

- Is everyone on the mailing list?
- Send around sign-in sheet to include current email addresses
- Be sure to invite non-members also – they are the best source of your future membership

Let's Get Going...

■ Bring Value to the Members

- People join for technical content and networking
- Discuss whether the Chapter should hold a local colloquium
 - Bring value to the membership
 - Allow for vendors to have a venue to show their stuff
 - Bring in revenue to continue holding meetings
 - Bring in and recruit more S/C members (heavy discounts for members!)



■ Set Future Organizational Meetings

- Do not make this a “one shot” – this is an ongoing process
- Discuss need for future organizational meetings! Set dates!
- Additional meetings can be decided by the new slate of officers
 - At least one more full meeting with the new slate of volunteers
 - To better understand responsibilities and set goals, objectives and proactive action items for immediate future



Let's Get Going...

- **Objectively Evaluate your performance!**
- **Do not give up!**
 - Be ready for a slower start than expected
 - Not everyone will be as enthusiastic as you
 - But... If you do it well – it will work!
- **Seek help, when necessary**
 - From the Section and the Region – **we are here to help!**
 - Appoint a S/C “Angel” to support the Chapter on a daily basis

We wish you success!



How to Avoid this Situation in Future?

■ Keep track of the Chapter Activity

- It is much easier to maintain a chapter than to rejuvenate it!
- Even if the Chapter “belongs to the Section” your S/C is a stakeholder
- Monitor reporting
- Review MGA “watch lists”
- Prompt the chapter to take action
- Appoint an “angel”, to coach the chapter



■ Initiate .Chapter Reporting to the S/C

- Be proactive!
- Follow the EMCS Example, for instance:
- http://www.emcs.org/chapters/chapter_activity_reporting.html

Questions

