How to Rejuvenate Inactive Chapters

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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](http://www.emcs.org/chapters/chapter_activity_reporting.html)
Questions