

VTS Joint National Capital Chapter (Washington/Northern Virginia)

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IEEE-VTS Chapter Chairs Meeting

September 7, 2015

Boston, MA



History

- Formed in 1978 during design and construction of the Washington Metro.
- Jointly sponsored by the ASME Rail Transportation Division and IEEE Washington and Northern Virginia Sections.
- Connections with both IEEE and ASME withered in the 1990s.
- Initiated effort in 2005 to restore connections with the IEEE and the ASME.
- New VTS Chapter formed in 2007 to succeed unrelated chapter disbanded around 2005.
- Awarded VTS Chapter of the Year 2008.
- IEEE Washington & Northern Virginia Sections Outstanding Chapter of 2009

Main Interests

- Locomotive and rolling stock technology
- New system starts and expansion of existing systems
- Positive Train Control, Electrically Controlled Pneumatic Brakes, Communications Based Train Control, Crashworthiness
- Electrification and energy storage
- Signalization, communications, control
- System and equipment safety

Activities

- Serve the technical and social interests of rail transit professionals in Washington, Northern Virginia, and Baltimore.
- Hold monthly lunch meetings from September through May.
- Invite a speaker to present on a railroad or public transit topic.
- Average attendance 25.
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) provides free room.
- One of the most active chapters in the Washington and Northern Virginia Sections.

Recent Presentations

- Cab Signal & ACSES System on Amtrak's Northeast Corridor
- MTA NYCT Communications Based Train Control Program
- Maryland MARC Train Service
- International trainsets on a mixed-use corridor at 160 mph
- Status of Electrically Controlled Pneumatic (ECP) Brakes
- Natural Gas Locomotives
- Lac-Mégantic: An avoidable tragedy
- Amtrak's Northend Electrification
- Dual-Mode Locomotives for Extension of High Speed Rail

Attendees



Membership Development

- 289 on mailing list, ≈50 IEEE, ≈ 9 VTS, ≈20 ASME
- Also mail announcements to 147 Washington Area Rail Engineering Society members
- Good response from IEEE Scanner announcements
- Typical attendance 20 to 50
- Difficult to locate and mail to student chapters

Challenges

- Ensure succession of leadership.
- Attract college students and young professionals.
- Engage members in the management of the chapter.
- Reach outside the DC area for speakers.

Officers

- Chair – Karl Berger, P.E. (IEEE-VTS)
- Vice Chair – Reg Mitchell (ASME)
- Treasurer – Stephen Bezner, P.E. (IEEE-VTS)
- Secretary – Ken Briers
- Program Chair – OPEN

THANK YOU