

# VTS National Capital Chapter (Washington & Northern Virginia Sections)

*Karl W. Berger, P.E.*

*IEEE-VTS Chapter Chairs Meeting*

*28 August 2018*

*Chicago, USA*



# History

- Formed in 1978 during design and construction of the Washington Metro.
- Joint IEEE-IAS and ASME Rail Transportation Division.
- 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 joint chapter of the Washington and Northern Virginia Sections.
- Awarded VTS Chapter of the Year 2008.
- IEEE Washington & Northern Virginia Sections Outstanding Chapter of 2009
- IEEE Northern Virginia Section Chapter of the Year 2017

# Main Interest:

## Land Transportation

- 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

- *Modernization of the Washington Union Station Passenger Concourse*, David Zaidan, Amtrak
- *NARP: Building Consensus for Passenger Rail*, Abe Zumwalt, National Association of Rail Passengers
- *CSX Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction Project*, Brandon Knapp, PE, CSX Transportation
- *Northeast Corridor Commission*, Mitchell Warren, Director, Northeast Corridor Commission
- *Remaining Life Prediction of Rail Vehicles*, Derek Maier, PE, Amtrak & Kevin Carmody, PE, STV Inc.
- *Enhancing Rail Passenger Ride Quality and Safety through Improved Track Geometry*, Michael Craft, Amtrak
- *Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study Update*, Bruce Horowitz
- *Crashworthiness*, Martin Schroeder, PE, Jacobs

# Attendees



# Membership Development

- 273 on mailing list, ≈50 IEEE, ≈27 VTS, ≈20 ASME
- Also mail announcements to 111 Washington Area Rail Engineering Society members
- Good response from vTools announcement
- Typical attendance 20 to 50
- Working & Retired professionals in equal numbers
- Difficult to locate and mail to student chapters

# Challenges

- Existential threat from possible loss of venue
- Ensure succession of leadership.
- Attract college students and young professionals.
- Engage members in the management of the chapter.
- Attract speakers outside the DC area.



# Officers

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

# THANK YOU