

# ComSoC 2007 NA RCCC Membership Development



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Yigang Cai, PhD

Chicago Chapter Past Chair (2003-2006)

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# Chicago Chapter Overview

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- Officers
  - Chair: John Poust
  - Past Chair: Yigang Cai (2003-2006)
  - Secretary: Jack Sherman
  - Membership: Jack Sherman
  - Treasurer: Burnie Sander (Section)
- Membership
  - ~1900 (include also Computer Chapter)
  - Hundreds non-members in the distribution list
- ComSoc chapter Achievement Awards (2004 and 2006)



# Membership Development

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- Successful chapter activities attracting people
  - 9 meetings, workshops and conference per year
  - Distinguished Lecturers program
  - Interesting topics; distinguished speakers; web, email and newsletter announcement; university programs; telecom industry (Lucent, Motorola, Avaya, AT&T, etc) sponsorship
- Networking and professional development
  - Networking session during meeting, workshop and conference
  - Professional development education certificates
  - Post job opportunity to members
  - Post internship opportunity to students



# Membership Development

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- Membership drives
  - Always free activities open to the public, attracting many non-members
  - Membership application form available at all activities
  - SM elevation for qualified members
  - Frequent student activities
- Encourage and retain volunteers
  - Never short of volunteers in Chicago
  - Invited speakers turn to volunteers
  - Students activities attract student volunteers
  - Recognition



# Chicago Chapter Financials

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- No direct funding from ComSoc HQ
- \$10,000+ savings from previous conferences
- \$2,400/year budget from the section. Chapter financials are managed by Chicago Section
- ComSoc chapter achievement awards (2004 \$500, 2006 \$1,000)
- Free activity locations from IIT, Lucent, and Motorola
- Free meetings and seminars (with free snack and beverage) to the public
- Joint workshops and conferences with local industries and universities



# Chicago Success Experience

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- Strong chapter leadership
- Frequent communication with members
- Understand and meet the need of members
- Elevate qualified members to SM
- Maintain good relationship and collaboration with local industry and universities
- Always get supports from the section and ComSoc HQ



# Future Development

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- Future Plans

- Broaden the meeting topics to attract more audiences (we have sent a survey to our members)
- Increase members and student members involvement
- Enhance collaboration with local companies and universities (more joint workshops and conferences)
- Increase numbers of new members and SM

- More Supports from ComSoc HQ

- More Distinguished Lecturers from ComSoc
- Recommend Chicago speakers for Distinguished Lecturers program
- Guidance of technical programs
- Encourage fellows in participation of chapter activities