Retirement Association UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

2021-22 Report

Electronic Technology Committee Bruno Browning, Chair

The goal of the Electronic Technology Committee (ETC) is to educate UWRA members on technology-related topics of interest. The committee uses three primary formats for its programs—lecture-style, informal small-group interactive sessions called Tech Clinics, and articles in The Sifter newsletter. The ETC also maintains an email address, uwra.tech@gmail.com, for questions and comments.

The majority of ideas for programs come from committee members. The 15-member ETC has a diverse composition ranging from "techies" to technology novices. This diversity is important for the committee to develop topics and approaches that work for the broad UWRA membership. During the year, three members resigned (Karen LaMere, Ann Wallace, and Louise Robbins), and one joined (Scott Springman). Ann Wallace and Bruno Browning shared leadership of the ETC. The committee roster: Rachel Baker, Bruno Browning, Kathy Christoph, Judy Craig, Marcy Doelp, Brad Hughes, Orv Jordahl, Faisal Kaud, Paul Reichel, Steve Reischel, Hugh Schmidt, Millard Susman, Jim Vannes, Scott Springman, and Sandi Haase ex officio.

Committee activities in 2021-22 included:

Sifter articles

- "Repairing Apple Devices" by Rachel Baker in the November issue
- "Imaginative Technologies for Student Learning" by Brad Hughes in the December issue
- "Windows 11 Coming Soon to a PC Near You" by Rachel Baker in the December issue
- "Addressing Wi-Fi Dead Zones in Your Home" by Orv Jordahl in the January issue
- "Password Management
- "Available as a UW Retiree Perk" by Millard Susman in the February issue
- "How to Get Started with a New Device" by Orv Jordahl in the April issue
- "Why Don't I Have a Password Manager?" by Rachel Baker in the June issue

Programs

- "Imaginative Technologies For Student Learning" by Gordon Enderle, Kristen Pecanac, Martin Foys, and John Zumbrunnen, organized by Brad Hughes, Kathy Christoph, and Bruno Browning
- "What is Quantum Computing? Why should you care?" by Mark Saffman, organized by Millard Sussman
- "Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain Technology -- Explained" by Brad Chandler and Shailesh Shah, organized by Tom Eggert (co-sponsored with the Committee on Financial Matters in Retirement)
- "Hidden digital gems in UW Madison Libraries" by Lisa R. Carter, Jesse Henderson, Elizabeth Lightfoot, and Jaime Martindale, organized by Brad Hughes, Louise Robbins, and Kathy Christoph
- "The role of digital media Digital Disinformation and Election Integrity" by Young Mie Kim, organized by Hugh Schmidt, Louise Robbins, and Kathy Christoph
- "Everything you want to know about Chromebooks and were afraid to ask!" organized by Orv Jordahl et al.

Tech Clinics

• The ETC held no Tech Clinics during 2021-2022 due to the Board decision not to have face-to-face activities. We hope to resume them in 2022-2023

Hybrid UWRA Meetings

Late in the year, the ETC began consultation with the Board about how the UWRA can conduct hybrid face-to-face/remote events in the future when face-to-face activities become more practicable.

Additional programs, Tech Clinics, and Sifter articles are under discussion. Examples include using a password manager, UW research on artificial intelligence and machine learning, purchasing streaming services, healthcare IT, home solar and alternative energy, purchasing an EV, robotics, and blogs by UW authors.

Future meetings will be held on the first Thursday afternoon of the month, from 1:00-2:30pm. Bruno Browning will share leadership of the committee in 2022-23 with a co-chair yet to be identified.

Committee Members

Rachel Baker Orv Jordahl Scott Springman
Bruno Browning Faisal Kaud Millard Susman
Kathy Christoph Paul Reichel Jim Vannes
Marcie Doelp Steve Reischel Sandi Haase, ex-or

Marcie Doelp Steve Reischel Sandi Haase, ex-officio Brad Hughes Hugh Schmidt