

Huntsville Regional Chapter of INCOSE Meeting Minutes August 16, 2007

1. Meeting was convened by President Chester Williams, Jr. at 5:50 p.m. with a Welcome, presentation of a Volunteer Award for distinguished service to Foster Perry, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and a brief overview of upcoming events for the remainder of this calendar year; to include scheduled future Speakers for our HRC meetings.

2. President Williams introduced our guests, of which we had four, Mr. & Mrs. Neely and Mr. & Mrs. Maples; visiting Engineers from within the Huntsville-Madison-Decatur community. President Williams spoke to them about INCOSE and especially the HRC-INCOSE, and finished addressing them, with asking them to seriously consider joining INCOSE and how to do so.

3. President Williams then introduced the guest speaker for the hour, HRC-INCOSE Vice President, William F. (Bill) Sowder, who is also a Technologies Group Director at Teledyne Brown Engineering, who presented on the topic of "Supersystems". Abstract read:

"What might appear to be an empty space as we are taught to believe, is actually a seething ferment of virtual particles. Vacuum is not inert and featureless but alive with throbbing energy and vitality. A real particle such as an electron from classical physics must always be viewed against this background of this frenetic activity. When an electron moves through space it is actually swimming in a sea of virtual particles of many varieties. The dynamics of these interactions constitutes "Supersystems" that will become frontiers for future explorations. It is time for us to seek the "Energy in the Vacuum".

It was a great presentation that provoked a lot of thought and questions, both during and at its conclusion. We will post the presentation to our website.

4. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.