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| C:\Documents and Settings\nicholef\Local Settings\Temp\wz01c7\ieee_mb_white.gif | **MGA REGION VITALITY NEWSLETTER** October 2013 |  |
| This newsletter will be issued monthly on behalf of the MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee, reporting on programs and activities in support of increasing Geographic Unit Vitality.  |

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| C:\Documents and Settings\nicholef\Desktop\Downloads\T Scott Atkinson Bus Photo 28 Mar 2011.jpg***T. Scott Atkinson*** *Vice Chair, MGA Chair, MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee* | **“VITALITY REQUIRES LEADERSHIP”****ISSUE:****What is the CONCERN about vitality?****ANSWER:****It is to increase operational effectiveness of MGA Geo Units that will focus on increasing the satisfaction and active participation of members.****Monthly Vitality Focus:*****Message from the Chair:**** **Volunteer Leadership Training Program**

**Main Concepts for MGA vitality being considered.*** **ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS**
* **OPERATING PROCEDURES**
* **ALIGNMENT OF RESOURCES**

**Your feedback graciously encouraged.****Cheers,****Scott**s.atkinson.ieee.org |



***Did you know that based on a survey the results showed out of all things being important to members that industry involvement is of most importance to them coming in at 70%?***

How can you help the Section in your Region support Involvement with relevant local industry?

Here are a few suggestions:

**Enhance collaboration between Industry-IEEE to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.**

\*\*Have a local “Industry Day” by bringing industry executives and senior managers along with the IEEE members.

**Increase awareness of IEEE activities (both technical and social) by local Industry Leaders (Management may not have engineers) allows members for active participation.**

\*\*Section should have one Industry Liaison position to work with local industry.

**Interactions with local industry help unemployed IEEE members and student**

 **members for additional job opportunities.**

 \*\*Host technical meetings at industry

 location for better visibility of IEEE activities.

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| \*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\* NEXT RVC WEBINAR  |
| OCTOBER 17, 2013  |

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|  | **Vitality Pilot focus of the month**  |  |
|  | VOLT Program  |

In our last issue, we provided a brief description of a current pilot called VOlunteer Leadership Training (VOLT) Program. In this issue, we want to give you an update on the progress of this exciting program since its June kick off.

In 2013, the MGA Board selected *modernizing the volunteer experience* as one of its top three goals. In support of this goal VOLT was conceived as a pilot program to be offered to volunteers who may be considered potential future leaders in their geographic units. This six month pilot is scheduled to run until the second week in December 2013. Targeted participants submitted an application to participate and were required to meet certain criteria indicating their potential to move on to new and upward roles as leaders in their geographic units.

The guiding principle behind VOLT is that volunteers are the pillar of the IEEE organization and the main drivers for IEEE activities worldwide. Volunteers perceive IEEE as a key resource to gain knowledge and skills to further their professional growth and enhance their contribution.

To keep volunteers engaged, energized and motivated to serve in leadership positions is a challenge. The VOLT program seeks to address these challenges by accelerating the volunteers’ knowledge of IEEE's organization, products and services, and resources and tools available to them. The program also allows participants to understand their role as volunteers within their geographic units and within the larger IEEE, and gain practical leadership experience and skills to apply in their professional environment.

The VOLT program is administered by an Ad Hoc committee, whose members are committed, long-term serving IEEE volunteers themselves, Loretta J Arellano (Chair), Dr. Ali Abedi, and Scott Tamashiro. Twenty one volunteers from 8 regions are enrolled in the pilot and each one has been assigned a mentor. Mentors are more seasoned IEEE volunteers with board experience who can guide them through their journey. The program uses a ‘blended approach’ that includes formal and practical hands-on learning. It contains two tracks: one with IEEE related content and a more practical track on leadership related skills.

Weekly sessions lasting one-hour are conducted via webinar and facilitated by IEEE MGA staff. MGA’s VP Ralph Ford started off the program with an overview of IEEE followed by separate sessions for each of IEEE's organizational units. The program includes a homework assignment every other month complemented with a practical hands-on session as well as a team project that involves the IEEE organizational units and Affinity Groups. As of the end of September 2013, the program had already reached its mid-point after holding 16 sessions. Each session is recorded and materials are made available to participants via Google Drive. Participants who cannot attend the live webinar have the option to listen to the recorded session. A 3-question survey has been developed and is sent to participants shortly after each session with the purpose to collect feedback about its effectiveness.

How will success of the VOLT program be measured? – Measuring the pilot success is an important component and it will set the stage for a more robust on-going broader program to develop and prepare future IEEE leaders. To this end, we conducted a survey of the participants prior to the start of the program to measure their initial level of knowledge. A mid-program survey is going out, and a final survey is planned for the end of the program. These surveys will provide useful feedback and give the metrics to measure the effectiveness and success of the program. Preliminary results of the VOLT pilot and future recommendations will be presented to the MGA Board at its November 2013 meeting with final results presented at the February 2014 meetings. The Ad Hoc committee is also looking to leverage Section Congress 2014 to have participants speak about their experiences and lessons learned from the pilot.

In addition, we are planning to showcase VOLT on the November issue of *The Institute* and at the upcoming MGA Board Series to be held in New Jersey that same month. Each of the five pilot teams will have the unique opportunity to do a project debriefing at the Director's Forum on the evening of Thursday, November 21, 2013. This will be a good opportunity for the VOLT participants to be exposed to the board and a chance for the board to see the effects of this pilot.

All in all, the outcome of the VOLT program seeks to yield a more interested and motivated IEEE volunteer , an increased pool of candidates for officer positions, which could become a basis to develop a succession pool, and a volunteer’s reinforced decision to continue his/her professional journey within IEEE’s community for years to come.

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|  | **Monthly Highlight: Section Vitality Checklist**  |  |

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| The following is a list of actions/activities sections can carry out on their path to a vital and successful section. They are organized in chronological order as to when they are suggested to take place.First Quarter of the Year (January – March)* Complete and hand in all IEEE mandated documentation (e.g. L50 finance report) to close the previous year.
* Report all Section Officers, Affinity Group, Chapter, and Student Branch Chairs.
* Update section website.
* Train new officers through the Center for Leadership Excellence
* Plan and budget for Section, Chapter, and Affinity Group activities for the year.
* Conduct joint meeting with student branches, e.g. technical presentation, S-PAC.

Second Quarter of the Year (April – June)* Conduct a Membership Development activity, e.g. membership elevation meeting.
* Conduct Professional Development Activities, e.g. organize workshop/seminar.
* Communicate with section members on IEEE activities, such as webinars.
* Engage with Regional Leadership and activities, e.g. attend annual regional meeting.
* Review AG and Chapter activities to guarantee continuity.
* Submit nominations for awards, e.g. regional or society nominations.
* If not affinity groups or chapters, strive to form one gauging SAMIEEE for people’s interests.

Third Quarter of the Year (July – September)* Promote a pre-university activity in your area, e.g. TISP, science fair judging.
* Conduct a Career Workshop, e.g. resume writing, employment network.
* Submit nominations for awards, e.g. MGA.
* Establish partnership with industry, e.g. joint technical presentation/training.
* Conduct joint meeting with student branches, e.g. student training, STEP event.
* Support an affinity group function in conjunction with the section.

Fourth Quarter of the Year (October – December)* Conduct an event to support involvement with local industry.
* Hold Officer Elections.
* Share and collaborate on humanitarian/community engagement projects.
* Membership recruitment event, e.g. social event.

*NOTE: IF you checked off at least half the items on this list, you are on the way to be a successful section.**Provided by Murty Polavarapu, Region 2, Regional Vitality Coordinator* |

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| **Calendar** | **COMING UP** |
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| **October**  | * Distribution of the Section Survey Questionnaires (1st part of October)
* Next Region Vitality Coordinator Webinar Planned (October 17)
* Analysis of the survey responses (mid October)
* Review GUOS Committee Recommendations
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| **November** | * Completion of the GUOS Committee Vitality Recommendations (Early November)
* MGA Board Meeting (November 23) Target date for our delivery of recommendations to the MGA Board as a result of our 2013 Committee work.
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| **January****2014** | * Potential implementation date for MGA Board Approved Vitality Recommendations (January 1st or as determined by the MGA Board)
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|  | **Region Vitality Coordinators (RVC’s) Program**  |  |
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**NEXT WEBINAR OCTOBER 17TH**

The next Region Vitality Coordinator webinar is scheduled for Thursday 17 October 2013 at 10:00am – 11:00 am EDT. Please stay tuned for the webinar details.

**RVC’s Role**

To assist the RVC’s in their functions, this newsletter is designed to keep focus on the Geo Unit (or Section) Vitality as an important program to provide the benefits desired by members. Your feedback is key to this program and will be shared in future newsletters with other RVCs and Region Directors.

Please send us your questions or input so that we may post them along with our responses in future newsletters.

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|  | **Contact Us**  |  |
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