

Approval of new R8 Committee Governance Documents

To: Region 8 Committee

From: Tony Davies, Chair of AdHoc Subcommittee for Region 8 Operations Review

Executive Summary

The Subcommittee has revised the Region 8 Bylaws and created a Region 8 Operations Manual, achieving substantial simplification and shortening of the Region 8 Bylaws by transferring material to the Region 8 Operations Manual, accompanied by correction of ambiguities and mistakes.

This item is on the Agenda so that Motions to approve these Governance Documents can be debated and voted on. Bylaw changes do not come into operation until approved by the MGA Board, and so if approved by the R8 Committee, the starting time of both Documents must be synchronized to the date of MGA approval.

Goals/Objectives:

There were a few known Bylaw problems to be resolved and a need for some specific amendments as a consequence of recent approved changes including that from a one year to a two year term of office for the Director-Elect and removal of the restriction that Vice Chairs must be of Senior Member Grade or above. An Operations Manual was considered to be a much-needed guidance document. If the new documents are approved, it is expected that they will support the good management and administration of the Region 8 Committee, and assist new Committee members to make a better contribution more quickly.

Milestones:

The documents were sent by e-mail in almost final form to the whole of the R8 Committee on 21st August 2010. This was well in advance of the 28 day deadline specified in the current Region 8 Bylaws, allowing time for comments and questions.

If these governance documents are approved, and the MGA Board approves the changes to the Region 8 Bylaws in November 2010, the Subcommittee will have completed its tasks before the end-of-year deadline. Unless reestablished, the AdHoc Subcommittee ceases to exist at the end of 2010.

Outcomes:

1. Substantial simplification and shortening of the Region 8 Bylaws, accompanied by a correction of ambiguities and mistakes, a few specific amendments described below, and the transfer of much material into a Region 8 Operations Manual, created from scratch.
2. A proposal to the R8 Committee to approve the new Region 8 Bylaws subject to approval of the Region 8 Operations Manual, each to come into force when the MGA Board has approved the new Bylaws.

Reminders:

Changes to the Region 8 Bylaws require a two-thirds majority and the subsequent approval of the MGA Board.

Changes to the Region 8 Operations Manual require a simple majority and no approval of the MGA Board or any other body is needed.

Therefore, it is expected that changes in the Bylaws will continue to be infrequent, while changes in the Operations Manual to track changing needs and opinions may occur more frequently, especially while it is a new document being tested in actual use.

Recommended action:

The Region 8 Committee to discuss the proposed Governance Documents, and to debate and vote on the Motions proposed herewith.

Financial Impact to IEEE:

Motion 95-1B would lead to a very small increase in the costs of holding a R8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee meeting. The others have no financial implications.

Implementation: If the Motions are approved, the outcome and the request to MGAB to approve the revised Region 8 Bylaws will be notified to MGA Department staff by the R8 Secretary immediately after the conclusions of the Prague meeting, with a request to place this on the November 2010 MGA Board agenda, and the R8 Director will provide any required support and explanations at the time of the MGA meeting.

Motion 95-1A: The R8 Committee approves a change in title of the Vice Chair – Membership Activities to Vice Chair – Member Activities

Explanation: in IEEE, Membership Activities has come to mean recruitment and retention of members, while Member Activities has a much broader meaning, including all activities which relate to members.

Pro: more accurate indication of the role of the Vice Chair.

Con: none

Motion 95-1B: The R8 Committee approves an increase in the number of members of the R8 N&A Subcommittee elected by the Section Chairs from two to three.

Explanation: this restores the balance of elected versus ex-officio members, which was changed by the extension of the Director-Elect term from one to two years, since there is now a Director-Elect in every year.

Pro: gives the elected members more voting power.

Con: small increase in the cost of holding an N&A meeting.

Motion 95-1C: The R8 Committee approves a change in the words used to describe the boundaries of Region 8 to accord with current practice, and so to remove reference to Iceland and replace the reference to USSR by FSU.

Explanation: Iceland is politically defined as part of Europe, and therefore does not need to be separately mentioned. FSU is now the usual abbreviation for the countries of the former USSR

Pro: more appropriate and avoids obsolete terminology.

Con: out of line with current definition in IEEE Bylaws [*], for which a request for an equivalent change could be made.

Motion 95-2: The R8 Committee approves the amended Region 8 Bylaws, subject to any changes required in the case of any of Motions 1A, 1B, 1C not being approved or being amended, this approval of the Bylaws being conditional on the approval of Motion 3 to follow.

Explanation: major simplification, corrections and improvements, made possible in this form by transferring material to the new Region 8 Operations Manual

Pro: easier to understand and limited to the most important long-term requirements.

Con: none

Motion 95-3: The R8 Committee approves the newly created Region 8 Operations Manual, to come into operation if and when the Region 8 Bylaws as approved in Motion 2 are approved by the MGA Board.

Explanation: Future guidance to the R8 Committee will be available from the two documents and the Operations Manual contains many details which do not require the involvement and approval of the MGA Board.

Pro: easier mechanism to change Operations Manual than Bylaws, and changes can be approved for immediate effect.

Con: none

Note: *Motion 95- 3 to be put to the R8 Committee only if Motion 95-2 (or a compatible amendment of it) is passed. If Motion 95-2 is not passed, then Motion 95-3 will be withdrawn.*

[*] (In I-402. Geographic Organisation of Members – at <http://www.ieee.org/documents/constitution-bylaws-policies.pdf> accessed on 15th August 2010)

Associated documents:

- Proposed Region 8 Bylaws
- Proposed Region 8 Operations Manual
- Introduction to Region 8 Committee
- Present Region 8 Bylaws