

Unapproved Minutes of the 88th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting Sofia/Bulgaria – 14th/15th April 2007

(For presentations we refer to the R8 Private Committee Pages
on the Region 8 Website at <http://www.ieee.org/r8>)

1) Introduction & Round Call:

The meeting opened at 1:33pm with a welcome by **IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy**. Director Remy thanked the Committee Members for coming to Sofia. He added special words of thanks to the Bulgaria Section for providing a present to all members and for the organization of the meeting.

IEEE Region 8 Secretary Christian Borgert conducted a round call for R8 Op-Com and Section Chairs – Quorum stated with 47 voting Committee Members present out of 57.

2) Adoption of the Agenda:

Region 8 Director Remy introduced the agenda for Saturday and Sunday. He pointed out that this is a very tough agenda. On Saturday, the room must be feed at 5:30pm sharp, taking all the material out, as there will be another event in the room this evening.

Director Remy asked the committee, if there are any additions to the agenda.

Ragnar Kåhre (Sweden Section) moved to add an item 'Other Business' to the agenda. Director Remy commented that this is OK; but Director and Secretary need to have the list of these items via e-mail before the end of the day.

Elias Nassar (Lebanon Section) suggested adding their motion on 'Financial contribution to hold the First Electrical and Electronics Engineers Week in Lebanon' to the agenda; Director Remy commented that this would be also part of the new item 'Other Business'.

3) Approval of the Belgrade Minutes:

Region 8 Secretary Christian Borgert proposed the Minutes of the 87th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting in Belgrade/Serbia, held 14th/15th October 2006, for approval. Anthony Davies asked to delete the words 'Mr. Davies didn't want to discuss but confirmed.' on page 135 of the agenda book. Director Remy agreed.

Minutes approved unanimously with that change.

4) Motion on VC SA Voting Rights

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy pointed out, that Martin Bastiaans as VC Student Activities was appointed by him after the election of the VC SA position failed in Belgrade. A Director can appoint only non-voting members to the Region 8 Committee. As the VC SA position is part of the Region 8 OpCom

and therefore a Member of the IEEE Region 8 Committee, Director Remy moved to give Martin Bastiaans voting rights as VC SA. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5) IEEE Excom Presentation:

IEEE Secretary Celia Desmond sent best regards from the IEEE Board of Directors to the Region 8 Committee. The presentation was held without slides due to some technical problems. [Comment C. Borgert: Slides are available now on the Region 8 Website.]

The IEEE Board consists of the IEEE ExCom with the three Presidents (President, Past-President and President-Elect), VPs for six areas (RA, TA, PUB, EA, Standards and IEEE-USA), Treasurer and Secretary. Together with the 10 Regional Directors and the 10 Division Directors they build the IEEE Board.

Region 8 is doing very well with regards to membership growth and number of Chapters. Congratulations from the IEEE Board have been submitted by Celia Desmond followed by applause from the Committee.

Thanks for society activities in general as well and especially for the members coming to the workshop on certification for wireless engineers yesterday; there does already exist a certification for software engineers. It will be easier for IEEE Members to get that certification than for non-members. It will be used as a benefit for IEEE membership.

Celia Desmond pointed out, that the 1600 Chapters are the heart of Technical Activities. IEEE needs to strengthen the relationship between TA and RA to support our members in the best way.

Celia Desmond concluded the presentation with the information that the slides on the wireless workshop are in the agenda book on pages 71/72.

Director Remy opened the forum for questions to Celia Desmond. No questions came from the floor. Applause from the Committee to Celia.

6) IEEE Foundation Presentation:

IEEE Foundation President Richard Gowen (see presentation) started his presentation with the remark that in the presentation his Christian name should be changed to Dick; his friends call him Dick and IEEE Members should be his friends.

The IEEE Foundation is supporting projects they are interested in and that they believe they are good for the Members. They also organize the incoming money. Goal is to support projects that are increasing membership.

The IEEE Foundation Board consists of 12 Directors, **Rolf Remshardt is the representative from Region 8** – all Directors are elected by the IEEE Board. Currently IEEE Foundation is having 15M US\$ available. Awards Director Antonio Bastos is supporting history activities. There are also Foundation grants on new initiatives; 76% of the money goes to IEEE organizations, 24% to NGOs, etc. R7 is having their own foundation – so no grants are going to Canada. Dick Gowen shared the information with the Committee that 10 proposals have been granted for Region 8 this year. There is a long list of projects, which can be done. It's a pleasure to support Education, History Activities and so on. Major problem for today is that they have many donors, who would like to give money; but the

IEEE Foundation is not having enough projects to support. Region 8 is asked to support projects in developing countries, for example in History – Living Science project to record living Electrical Engineers on their invention.

Dick Gowen shared the goal with the Committee helping **Region 8 to find more projects on new initiatives.** Dick Gowen is available for further discussion during the Region 8 Meeting. He is known to be the man having money. But he is getting it by asking for it! So he is asking the senior officers of Region 8 not just to donate money, but to visit the website and try to do it online.

Director Remy opened the floor for questions to Dick Gowen:

Pilar Molina Gaudo (Region 8 GOLD Coordinator, Spain Section) asked how the Region 8 Fund is working and what are the differences to the IEEE Foundation; Dick Gowen answered that IEEE Foundation is not getting this money, it is a different fund. Region 8 Funds are distributed by the IEEE Region 8 Director.

Director Remy thanked Dick Gowen for the presentation and for being with us. This comment was followed by applause from the Committee.

7) IEEE Regional Activities:

Managing Director Regional Activities Cecelia Jankowski started her presentation on Regional Activities (see presentation) at 2:15pm with the comment, that this is the same presentation as sent to the Regional Directors. Part of the presentation contains information as discussed this morning in the session of the Transnational Committee, where the main interest was on what information is going via Scoop to the Section Chairs. Cecelia Jankowski is having Peggy Lefkin as Supervisor RA Administration with her; Peggy Lefkin is new in Regional Activities but experienced in IEEE. Cecelia Jankowski's staff is supporting Regional Activities worldwide. In the team there are a number of people with financial background. The team is working on 'myIEEE.org'; IEEE also brought in a staff member with TV experience for ieeTV. Cecelia Jankowski pointed out that there are many exciting areas of work; the members will see what is coming out during the next months.

Cecelia Jankowski reported on a project on OU Management, which is looking on giving some capabilities to work with Section Members; first project is a meeting planner for Sections. Next steps will be to add credit card information to the user profile and ieeTV. The team will bring back the paper copy of the member directory – this time it will be online as well, especially for younger members. Part of the work is also to look for new ideas – Cecelia Jankowski asked the Committee Members to go to myIEEE and suggest what is needed to make it better.

The IEEE TV project was accepted as new initiative in 2007 and got funded to bring new content on ieeTV; the team is currently accepting new proposals for content; GOLD meeting yesterday complained about the poor content.

Another project is the Business Management Systems (BMS) – IEEE did not do a major update during the last years, just minor ones. Now they will do the major step. Result will be a 360 degree view of members as customers.

Cecelia Jankowski reported that when you go online you will see a shopping basket; before you had to go to different sites for shopping, now all should be linked from one page. The goal is here to have information updated before the upgrade. Hopefully this is ready for the 2008 renewal cycle. SamIEEE will still be called the same, but the currently used Business Objects Software will be changed to another in June/July timeframe. Training will be offered for volunteers. The RA technical team promised that the new system will be much easier to access.

A Dash Board will be offered as a new concept for regularly requested reports; the only thing is to enter Section or time frame – all other entries are done automatically. The screenshot in the presentation is showing the new interface. Also in the presentation is shown how a graphic option will be added to get an idea on the dynamics in membership growth.

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy thanked CJ for an excellent presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Başak Yüksel (Turkey Section) asked the first two questions:

- 1) With regards to the Meeting Planner Tool – will there be staff support for the meeting planner webpage?

Cecelia Jankowski answered that this is a web tool which brings you step by step through the planning path. Tool is designed to be easy to use with no support needed; the team is in the process to observe, if staff support is needed.

Başak Yüksel added the question, if the meeting planner will be open source? Cecelia Jankowski answered: No – but the system is flexible enough. Currently Sections are testing the system.

- 2) Second question was on SamIEEE: Will it be possible to send e-mail to people with a certain interest?

Cecelia Jankowski commented that she doesn't know if the system is able to do so. But the most suitable system for broadcasting e-mails would be the e-notice anyway.

Rami Mushcab (R8 Industry Relations Coordinator) asked if SamIEEE is able to give the number of members from Industry, Academia and so on?

Cecelia Jankowski answered that this question came up before. She thinks that there is a field in the database, which is currently not in use. Most probably not in the first release, but in principle it's possible to add an industry/academia flag to the database.

Isa Qamber (Bahrain Section) complained that two members in his Section have been members before being then moved to affiliates.

Cecelia Jankowski replied that she needs to look into that in detail and suggested to take it offline. Isa Qamber was asked to send the names to Cecelia Jankowski. Jean-Gabriel Remy requested to be on copy.

Sean McLoone (UK&RI Section) asked on the OU Management, if there will be as part of the improvement an easier L31 process?

Cecelia Jankowski answered that it is planned for reasonably soon to change the system and increase the flexibility in putting in data and take out reports.

Dirk van Hertem (BeNeLux Section) asked if there is somebody checking the data in the database, like very old e-mail addresses and so on?

Cecelia Jankowski replied that she just interviewed a person for such a position, but since 1996 it is possible for all members to enter their information. We rely on the members to update their own data. E-Mail will be sent to ask them to check and update the information in the system shortly.

Vladimir Katić (Serbia and Montenegro Section) came back to the UK&RI question on the L31 form and reported on a site problem in the reporting. Once he entered the data and submitted the form. Then he found out, that there was an error in the phone number. He couldn't correct it and submitted it again – he couldn't delete the wrong of the two entries. Vladimir Katić requested to add an edit button to the system.

Cecelia Jankowski answered that this would be possible.

The question session ended with thanks from Jean-Gabriel Remy followed by applause from the committee.

8) Awards:

At 2:40pm **IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy** started the report on Awards. First item was the Clementina Saduwa Award. Clementina Saduwa was a member of the Region 8 Committee and was assassinated in January 2007. With the help of the CEO of Ericsson, who happens to be a friend of Jean-Gabriel Remy, they were able to establish the award quickly. The award is now also accepted by IEEE A&R. Jean-Gabriel Remy moved to give the award to Clementina Saduwa posthumously and give it to her family during the next Region 8 Committee Meeting in Bucharest. **Motion accepted unanimously.**

The award will comprise a plaque and a check. It is funded for 2007 and 2008.

The IEEE Region 8 Committee honored and remembered Clementina Saduwa with a minute of silence.

George Paunovic as IEEE Region 8 VC TA reported on **Chapter of the Year Awards** (see presentation). For this year they received only 12 applications for the big and small/medium category, to be more specific 5 for the small/medium and 7 for the big chapter category. As Region 8 is having around 400 chapters George Paunovic asked to get more applications for next year.

The winners this time are the Education Chapter of Saudi Arabia Section for the small Chapter category with 15 meetings reported; and the IA/IE/PEL Chapter of France Section for the big chapter category with 50 meetings reported in 2006. George Paunovic commented that this is a very good result; this statement was followed by applause from the Committee.

Saudi Arabia Section Chair **Nabil Al-Dabal** received the award on behalf of the chapter; France Section Chair **Gerard-André Capolino** got the award on behalf of the chapter. Pictures were taken followed by another round of applause from the Committee.

IEEE Director Jean-Gabriel Remy presented some other awards:

- **Kevit Desai (Kenya Section)** received a banner for 25th Section Anniversary of the section.
- **Rolf Remshardt (R8 MD, Germany Section)** received a GOLD Award for his efficiency in serving as R8 GOLD Coordinator.
- **Gerald Anleitner (Germany Section)** received an award for his Leadership in GOLD and the start of the GOLD Society Pilot Program.
- **Marko Delimar (R8 VC MA, Croatia Section)** received a RAB Achievement Award for his efficiency in Student Activities.
- **Mohamed Aboud (Egypt Section)** received the Section GOLD Award; Egypt Section Chair Mohamed Younis received the award with the request to forward it to Mohamed Aboud.

Applause was given from the committee and pictures were taken.

9) Educational Activities Board:

At 2:55pm **IEEE VP for Educational Activities Moshe Kam** reported to the Committee on the Educational Activities Board and Region 8 (see presentation): Main topic of the presentation was on where IEEE Region 8 can participate in Educational Activities:

1. There will be a conference “**Meeting the Growing Demand For Engineers and Their Educators 2010 - 2020 International Summit**” in Munich/Germany November, 9-11 2007 chaired by Art Winston. Focus on decision making engineers to change standards. Outcome will be a document on engineering and education constituency. EU and VDE as first projects. Call for action to support the conference with papers and participants.
2. Moshe Kam introduced the problem that women are underrepresented in the student bodies. 2% of the engineering workforce are women. Therefore they tend to drop out of activities. Work on Programs to go to 1st year classrooms and promote EE for women. Region 8 to support that initiative **by informing Section EA Representative**, EAB would be happy to give additional information via phone.
3. Just before, we had a nice award ceremony. You have to know that **EAB is having awards** for continued education, museums, etc. as well. Please nominate candidates for EAB Awards.
4. Teacher in Service / Classroom Program. EAB has done quite a few workshops, 8-10k teachers are currently in the program. Goal should be to see 10x the number of teachers participating in the program in the future. Moshe Kam asked Region 8 to run this program also in the Sections. This kind of activity does not cost the Section anything. EAB is paying all expenses even a year after the workshop. Now is the time to declare your intent! The program could be also run in areas (several neighboring Sections together).
5. ‘TryEngineering.org’ is a rich source of information for students and teachers. Moshe Kam shared the idea to offer this site in other languages. R8 can help by providing interviews from these countries, as the current

- translation is done based on the US site. All to look at the site and suggest changes and look for errors.
6. EAB is also offering support on accreditation by providing help to accrediting bodies in formation, including training of evaluators. They do also provide help to groups that want to start new accrediting bodies. Last but not least they do education about accreditation. Sections were asked to provide information on local accreditation bodies and work together with EAB.
 7. EAB introduced a new product: 'Expert Now'. 50 modules are available at the moment, 75 will be provided until end of the year; there is a plan for 100 modules in 2008. Moshe Kam suggested to use these modules for Section and Chapter Meetings and reported on a best practice to take 2-3 rooms and repeat module 1 or 2 times; an expert can be in the room to stop the movie, if needed for questions and discussion. In 2007 EAB will provide any of these modules **for free on CD**; EAB's only request is to **provide feedback** on how it was going.
 8. As a summary Moshe Kam concluded that EAB is looking forward to working with the Sections in Region 8!

IEEE Director Jean-Gabriel Remy thanked Moshe Kam for the presentation and opened the floor for questions:

Alexander Mikerov (Russia NW Section) asked, if a botanic garden is an electronic field?

Moshe Kam answered that most educational activities are happening in museums and libraries. Life sciences will play a growing role in engineering. He would like to keep gardens inside the program.

Anthony Davies (Region 8 SC2008 Coordinator, UK&RI Section) commented that the problem of women in engineering is caused because women are smart and know about the hard life of an engineer, because of the long working hours and so on.

Moshe Kam added that he wrote an article on that – but that we can not wipe out one gender and need to find a way to correct the current situation. Research was suggesting to show women in the very beginning that Engineering is a profession for women.

Pilar Molina Gaudo (Region 8 GOLD Coordinator, Spain Section) added that women go into a profession, because they can help humankind. We need to address that EE can help to make that dream reality as well.

<Coffee Break 3:19-3:39pm>

10) Past Director's, Region 8 VC SP's, Chair N&A Committee's Report:

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy stated that we are ahead of the schedule and asked Professor Baldomir Zajc to take advantage of the free time slot. IEEE Region 8 Past-Director Baldomir Zajc (see presentation) reported on the work of the Nominations & Appointment Committee and the plan for 2007; he also announced to share some of his own thoughts.

With regards to the N&A Committee composition Aleksandar Szabo and Volodymyr Tarasenko got elected in Belgrade. Also the IEEE Region 8 Director and the Director-Elect (none at the moment) are members of the committee with the Past Director as Chair.

In 2007 Candidates for Director-Elect 2009/10 will be nominated. Why do we nominate candidates again this year? Last year we proposed Józef Modelski and Jaafar Al-Ibrahim as candidates for Director-Elect 2008, but we changed last year also the bylaws. Region 8 went like all other Regions to a 2 year term for Director-Elect. That's why N&A Committee will propose candidates for Director-Elect 2009/10; these candidates will be announced during the next meeting. In addition to these candidates N&A Committee will also propose candidates for the three IEEE Region 8 Vice Chairs; Secretary and Treasurer for 2008. They will be elected during next R8 Meeting.

Baldomir Zajc continued his report with comments coming from the Strategic Planning Committee field.

Region 8 should somehow moderate the number of new Sections; we have 51 right now and there is a possibility for another 50. Very often Sections don't show enough activities after establishment. Section established with 50 new members, just for petition, is not promising for a further membership growth in each case (several negative examples).

During his term as Region 8 Director we changed the bylaws to establish Sub-Sections. New Bylaws allows new Subsections where Sections still do not exist and Subsections belong directly to Regions (8, 10). Region 8 can start activities with a sub-section, that can become a section later if activity is sufficient.

Baldomir Zajc reported on lots of talks in RAB about dividing R8 because of the huge number of Sections. He made clear that he is against these plans; Planned separation between **big and small Sections** with adequate rights is unfair (we did not mention that when establishing them) and financial benefit is none. Big Sections never opened such questions! Only all together can and should be developing activity with common experience and practice. Region 8 sections need to learn from one another.

R8 conference policy (R8 fin. support and then strong IEEE promotion there, low reg. fees) made R8 conferences very popular. Eurocon 2007 in Poland got 700 papers and are in reviewing process now. Conferences are also financially successful. A couple of years ago they were often negative and it was hard to get any end report. For 6k\$ investment it is available a high IEEE promotion, MD, Educational activity. Even profit is rising recently and it is fair to invest it in IEEE activity there where members did not charge their force at organization of the event.

Section Presentation in front of entire R8 Committee (and not Assessment in front of some Assessment Committee finishing with some Minutes). All Sections are seeing the practice of other Sections and can learn a lot.

Workshop Strategy: Antagonism between R8 support (giving for IEEE promotion) and expected financial income (not usual practice in R8) is often present. Also this investment for IEEE promotion is far higher as the value of invested money.

Investment for IEEE promotion at R8 Conferences and during Workshops is of high value and successful for R8 projects

IEEE Director Jean-Gabriel Remy opened the floor for questions:

Anthony Davies asked for the plan to continue Sections Presentation.

Baldomir Zajc reported that for this meeting the time was very short and OpCom decided to skip Section Presentation. Director will answer for next meeting.

11) IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect Candidates' Presentations / Q&A

At 3:55pm **IEEE Region 8 VC MA Marko Delimar** moderated the presentations of the candidates for IEEE Region 8 Director Elect. Marko Delimar pointed out, that Section Chairs should think about questions already now. The order of the presentations has been chosen by alphabet.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim (see presentation) started his time with the comment, that he is glad to be here and to talk for 5, 6 or 8 minutes. He comes from Saudi-Arabia, and his presentation outline is on the 2nd slide of his presentation.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim is holding a B.S. from California State University in Sacramento/CA (USA) from 1981; he is IEEE Member since 1987 and got elevated to Senior Member in 1991. Jaafar Al-Ibrahim is working for Saudi Aramco and was holding several IEEE positions.

Team work is the main goal; Region 8 is the largest Region, but we really work together and love each other. IEEE is the largest professional organization in Region 8 with 60k members in 51 Sections. As a final remark Jaafar Al-Ibrahim provided his contact details and thanked the Committee for listening. The Region 8 Committee thanked Jaafar Al-Ibrahim with applause.

Józef Modelski (see presentation) opened his time with the remark, that he was nominated by Region 8, i.e. by you as members. He thanked the Committee for the nomination. With regards to his personal career Józef Modelski pointed out, that he is now over 20 years professor and 10 years director; additional details can be found on his website. He wrote over 250 technical papers and holds 8 patents,

For IEEE Activities he is Fellow and Chair of one of the first joint chapters AES/AP/MTT in Poland. His mother society is MTT. Józef Modelski was serving as IEEE Region 8 OpCom member and is currently President-Elect for the MTT Society.

He accepted being a candidate because, while holding several positions in Region 8, he met with many colleagues and got lots of support. His goal is to be more successful to get members from industry. A closer cooperation between Region 8 and technical committees is on his agenda as well. Józef Modelski will put special focus on new initiatives like ExpertNow. His dream is to ensure Region 8 a new place in IEEE. Currently IEEE is a US centric organization. His thanks to the Committee for the attention was followed by applause from the audience.

Marko Delimar opened the floor for questions:

Alexander Mikerov (Russia NW Section) asked a question to both candidates: Members of my Section are interested on the candidate's position on the Technical English Program.

Józef Modelski admires Alexander Mikerov's fight for several years to get the program funded and having already first success. In the beginning most of the Region 8 Committee was having some distance. This is an important but not the most important program.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim commented shortly to have the same opinion on that.

Jordan Kolev (Bulgaria Section) asked a question to Józef Modelski: Is there any conflict of interest in being President in MTT and Director-Elect?

Józef Modelski answered that he will be Society President in 2008 and Region 8 Director 2009/10. He used to attend many conferences and to travel 20 times a year in average. The decision was made to limit the number of conferences to 3-4 a year and spend time for Region 8 and so on.

Jose Delgado Penin (Spain Section) with a question to both: What are your plans to create areas in R8.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim answered that we would like to stay as a Region. That situation is giving us strength as we support each other.

Józef Modelski pointed out that for the next two years the situation is perfect; for the future he thinks that especially with the growth in China and India the IEEE Headquarters will be tempted to make changes in the regional structure.

Branislava Drazenovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina Section) with a question to both: How specific are you to support Student Branches and Chapters?

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim commented that creating more chapters and bringing up more incentive programs / awards to help chapters to perform better will bring success. Józef Modelski shared his good experience with chapters. We have to continue and add some ideas as presented by him before.

Erik Stilling (Denmark Section) asked both candidates on how they will help to bridge the society and section gap.

Józef Modelski commented that there is no interaction between Sections and Societies; we use Chapters as a link. Proposal from this morning was to start with something, i.e. invite Society Presidents from our Region and run a workshop like this morning. It is very difficult to change the general strategy from Headquarters on; it is easier to start immediately on the Region / Section level. Societies to inform Section, if they run a conference in that country, Section to organize IEEE Booth at this conference, etc.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim added that coordination is very important.

Peter Hill (Region 8 Life Member Coordinator) asked both whether they would like to propose to do something about the differences in the 51 Sections or not.

Jaafar Al-Ibrahim announced that they will brainstorm on problems and come up with solutions. In general he would like to keep the Region as it is.

Józef Modelski pointed out that in Region 8 we have some old, very huge Sections like UK&RI, France and Germany; but also some new with <100 members. He can understand Section Chairs of huge, famous Sections to complain having only one vote in the Committee same as smaller Sections. In Belgrade some bigger Sections have been disappointed by the voting process. In his personal view it is better to have a longer decision making process and stay with the current system.

Marko Delimar asked the committee to share information on the candidates with the members in the Section. All information is available on the web. **Chairs are asked to invite their members to vote.** For this year's election we don't want to have 5 or 10% of members voting – we would like to have much more.

12) IEEE President-Elect Candidates' Presentations and Q&A:

At 4:23pm IEEE Region 8 VC MA Marko Delimar conducted a session with presentations and questions from the candidates for IEEE President-Elect. As before the candidates presented in alphabetical order:

Marc Apter (see presentation) introduced his personal and professional background. IEEE needs to look at young engineers, because they do things in a different way. We don't need to change – but we need to add for growth.

Marc Apter showed some priorities for IEEE presented in a 1984 election campaign and pointed out, that most of these issues are still valid. With regards to Region 8 he commented that this is the second biggest Region in IEEE providing good candidates for IEEE positions. In 10 years there should be a president coming from Region 8. For this year's election the first thing is to vote, the second step is to suggest candidates. Marc Apter closed his remarks with a word of thanks for the attention; applause from the Committee finished the presentation.

Pedro Ray (see presentation) opened his presentation with the remark that he is coming from Region 9 – so he is the only candidate from outside Regions 1-7.

He owns several companies and has a lot of IEEE experience being in the sixth year as board member serving as IEEE Treasurer, Secretary and VP RAB.

Pedro Ray shared the following plans with the Committee: First to create a membership services board, which takes care of the members. Currently there is no accountability, every board is doing something. Secondly, membership needs to be affordable. IEEE has to do something about membership dues; his idea is to base dues on three principles: (1) Add value to membership, (2) offer IEL downloads, (3) use of 'Expert Now' and similar benefits. At the lower end of service / benefits we need to lower the dues. The revenue stream via ieeTV and others needs to go also to Regions and Sections. Also Societies need to win as money is coming in. Pedro Ray made clear, that beside having a vision and a mission you also need to execute! Region 8 is the second biggest Region in IEEE and is doing well on conferences. Dividing the Region would require, that

somebody else needs to give up a board seat – so it's a political issue. But Region 8 is doing great and as of now we just started the discussion. As a final remark Pedro Ray concluded that either this year or very soon we will see a candidate from outside the US winning the election for IEEE President. This comment was followed by a round of applause from the Committee.

John Vig (see presentation) started his presentation congratulating Region 8 as one of our most excellent Regions; looking around it seems to be like a mini UN. Region 8 is best in Student Activities. John Vig gave a special word of thanks to the Students in Region 8, the Student Branch Congress in Paris was an outstanding event. He sees Region 8 in ten years with 100k members. In a couple of years there will be a president from R8, 100 conferences in R8 chaired by somebody from R8. IEEE will be a truly transnational organization.

John Vig continued his presentation with some biographical details – he requested the audience to remember the URL from his website. He is proud to have founded the Sensors Council. IEEE finances and membership are the main challenges. Finances are good at the moment as we increased our reserves; currently we have >500 US\$ per member.

John Vig is most concerned about two aspects of membership: Society Membership and Student Retention. Reason for that is partly homemade by the success of online products. The old benefit message will become obsolete in the near future. Google will help to find publications and e-mail addresses of authors. More than 50% of conference attendees are not IEEE members. So we need to add a couple of other reasons to the value of membership! IEEE does a lot for humanity and profession, but we are not talking about that to make our members proud of membership. John Vig concluded the presentation with an invitation to visit his website and contact him via his e-mail address.

He thanked the committee for the attention; this was followed by a round of applause from the committee.

Marko Delimar moderated the Q&A Session for the three candidates:

Andreas Luxa (Germany Section) asked all candidates for one sentence to the mission statement on standards as other organizations like IEC are the biggest competitors for IEEE.

John Vig replied that IEEE is sometimes too slow to come out with standards; goal would be to smarten up the process. We need to be first and need to be best.

Marc Apter agreed that in most cases we are too slow. We need to come up with a better way. On the other side there is a big concern, that our standards are shifted to areas, where the companies are sending people to the meetings. Goal is to get more members involved, not only companies.

Pedro Ray commented that we are behind standards in Europe; we need to exercise leadership with our brand name.

Alexander Mikerov (Russia NW Section) asked what percentage of all engineers are IEEE Members.

Marc Apter replied that he does not have the answer – neither the other candidates. Penetration in academia in the US is less than 20%. Outside the US, the share is probably lower.

Pedro Ray added that it is important to recruit in China and India.

John Vig explained that some years ago penetration was 40% and falling. But there are other areas, not only the engineering field, to find additional members. IEEE needs to get broader. That is an opportunity for IEEE to recruit not only engineers but also other people in the profession. 2M people have access to IEEE-Explore, but only 20% are members.

Pilar Molina Gaudo ((Region 8 GOLD Coordinator, Spain Section) asked the candidates for any ideas on how to enhance IEEE relationship to the EU. In a second question she asked about plans to re-establish a Region 8 Office.

Pedro Ray does not see an office for the near future. With regards to the relationship with the EU he commented that IEEE normally does not discuss with governments, only with academia. There is only a contact to the government in the US as there is no other professional organization. If this committee thinks, that there is a need to talk to the EU, then they will do it.

Marc Apter does not see the need for that. The Region 8 Committee needs to define benefits for our members having IEEE to talk to the EU.

John Vig agreed with colleagues that there is no need for a Region 8 office. For example if you are in Bulgaria, you don't need an office in Brussels. All business is done electronically. IEEE has tried to collaborate with the EU, but no program was successful so far. IEEE is about individuals and not about organizations.

Başak Yüksel (Turkey Section) asked the candidates on how they will make IEEE more transnational – and how they position IEEE's technical benefits.

John Vig mentioned that IEEE is having a transnational scorecard; YOU can change the IEEE by submitting names and candidates for the different committees.

Pedro Ray confirmed that all depends on having the right candidates. Offering the same benefits everywhere is not easy. Insurances for example failed. It is difficult to be truly transnational.

Marc Apter addressed that it is up to you to figure out, what is an offer for your Section. The process is in place that if you make money, you can keep it. The only condition is that it needs to be run through IB&SC as done in Singapore and Hong Kong as examples. Best thing with regards to being transnational is to do many little things locally.

Marko Delimar concluded the Q&A session with the remark, that it is a great chance to ask candidates during the time here in Sofia.

13) Concentration Banking

At 5:03pm **Marc Apter** and **Pedro Ray** gave an update on the benefits of concentration banking (see presentation). There is a new initiative IEEE has for the Sections: If you get the debit card you get 500\$ on it. Those Sections with custody account have in principle such a debit card; only some paperwork is needed

for the incentive. Benefit is for the L50, as you don't need to send papers because HQ is already having all the documents.

Presentation is done on behalf of Mike Sosa who is not present during the meeting; Marc Apter and Pedro Ray asked the participants of the Region 8 Committee Meeting to write down important information. **IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy** asked IEEE Region 8 Electronic Communications Coordinator Thomas Watteyne to put that information on the web.

14) IEEE Member Business Unit (MBU)

At 5:07pm **Pedro Ray** introduced the new concept of MBU to the Region 8 Committee. This presentation took him 30 minutes in Lima during the Region 9 Meeting!

In 2005 the IEEE Board gave the Regional Activities Board the task to be responsible for membership growth. 2006 as VP RAB Pedro Ray held a retreat; the result was to establish a Membership Business Unit. IEEE is a 30M US\$ enterprise, and is service oriented. Vision and Mission Statement as well as goals and strategies have been introduced. Member needs are to be tailored during their IEEE life cycle. With regards to data mining Pedro Ray commented that nobody is doing that in the organization at the moment.

He introduced the MBU time schedule, which was passed unanimously at the IEEE Board. Business processes involving volunteers has a timeline where and when staff is working on; in addition to that also technology (IT) changes are required. So far US\$ 300k has been spent on consultants, 1000s of hours from volunteer and staff. Pedro Ray asked the Region 8 Committee to address questions during the social event tonight.

15) Sections Congress 2008:

At 5:15pm **Anthony Davies** was giving a short introduction on Sections Congress 2008 in Quebec City (September 19 – 22). All he wants to say is addressed to the Section Chairs by e-mail and is also available on the website.

The theme is 'Celebrating volunteer achievements worldwide'. One primary delegate per Section is paid by RAB, normally Region 8 holds a meeting the day before – but the Committee needs to decide. The Sections Congress was in Canada before, but never in R8. **Submissions for SC2011 are due very soon**; Anthony Davies suggested **Sections to submit cities from Region 8 as candidates** for 2011. All Sections should try to send additional volunteers; Sections to put money aside already this year. Anthony Davies asked the Sections to make sure to send more than one person and make sure they are prepared. He is currently getting regional speakers to SC2008 and needs suggestions. Anthony Davies concluded his presentation with the hint to stay some more days for vacations. It's a nice place.

Meeting ended 5:19pm; to be continued at 8am on Sunday.

Evening Event.

Sunday, April 15, 2007:

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy opened the 2nd day of the meeting at 8:11am.

16) Director's Report (see presentation):

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy expressed his hope that the Committee enjoyed the dinner; he added thanks to the Bulgaria Section for the organization. His report will be more an action plan than a report, because he is just elected. He introduced the outline of his presentation.

Concerning the discussion on Region 8 Boundaries the bylaws are protecting us; Jean-Gabriel Remy gave the strong advice not to open 'Pandora's Box'; the definition is clear: Region 8 boundaries may not be changed without approval by the Region 8 Committee. 60% of members are in Western Europe.

Jean-Gabriel Remy introduced the 2007 composition and definitions for the Region 8 OpCom. He mentioned that GSMs can vote, but they are not eligible for positions as they shouldn't handle member's money. In 2007 Region 8 does not have a Director-Elect; this will only be the case for this year – after that we will always have a director elect based on the bylaw change to have the term of IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect for 2 years as all other Regions.

Jean-Gabriel Remy introduced his principles for 2007, which are to have a reduced number of officers. Region 8 Vice Chairs are responsible for actions and budget. Region 8 should work same way like in industry, i.e. having champions to work on a project but a limited number of people being responsible.

He is having a strong focus on electronic communications. Region 8 is having a very good team, see new website as an example.

Developing membership is a main goal; there is a big potential for growth because we have a big population.

The Region 8 Committee consists of Region 8 OpCom and the Section Chairs; Section Chairs can be represented during the meeting by other Section members after appointment by the Section Chair.

We currently hold the Spring Meeting of the Region 8 Committee. The Fall Meeting will be 13th / 14th October 2007 in Bucharest / Romania. The two meetings are half of the Region 8 budget – Section Chairs have to know that, even though it is good to have these two meetings a year.

Sections in Malta, Italy and Greece have been asked to host the Region 8 Committee in spring 2008; the Fall Meeting will be together with SC2008 in Quebec City, probably September 17 – 19, 2008 – to be confirmed. Region 8 OpCom will keep you informed. In the future Section Chairs will know the place and dates of the meetings two years in advance.

We also have to finance the distribution of R8 News. After that not so much budget is left. He asked Headquarters to raise our rebates as the rebate is in Dollar and the dollar lost against the EUR and travel costs increased drastically with the number of new sections.

Jean-Gabriel Remy introduced Vision & Mission Statements for Region 8. Vision and Mission Statements are in accordance to MBU. (Marked in blue is what is relevant to Region 8)

Jean-Gabriel Remy pointed out that to ensure staffing of conferences is critical and should be an ongoing effort. Another task is to follow up students, when they graduate. Region 8 should create a database of young people who we can follow as long range activity.

He introduced the MBU principles and goals (marked in blue is what is relevant for us). Region 8 should try to have lots of meetings and good relationships between our members.

Jean-Gabriel Remy introduced the organization for 2007. This year we don't have a Director-Elect; the two candidates have been presented yesterday. The Region 8 Director introduced the team and reported that Christine Nora agreed to help. He commented that we can use resources in the best way. The new A&R Committee consists of three section chairs and one Student Member.

On his plans Jean-Gabriel Remy announced his goal to have the best growth in membership within IEEE; US membership is declining and the age of members is increasing. The financial situation is difficult. The graphs at the end of his presentation are to be included in the minutes. [Comment Secretary: Full presentation is available on the Region 8 Web.]

Urs Roethlisberger (Switzerland Section) started the question session with the request to comment on the increased cost per member.

Jean-Gabriel Remy answered that the rebate is calculated on a certain formula, that has not been changed for many years; the increase in rebate is not in line with the increase in cost. Increasing costs are meetings (half of the budget) and R8News (the more members we have the more we spend).

Alexander Mikerov (Russia NW Section) asked, if the list of officers is new and in the meeting material.

Jean-Gabriel Remy announced that all this information is available on the web.

Aleksandar Szabo (IEEE Region 8 Professional Activities, Croatia Section) mentioned, that GSMs can vote for the Director; now it's time to tell Section Chairs that GSMs are full members with all the rights of members like being a Section Officer, sign petitions etc.

Elias Nassar (Lebanon Section) asked, if it is possible to have an electronic newsletter to decrease cost.

Jean-Gabriel Remy commented that this is a good question and that he has discussed that. An electronic version of the Region 8 News is available on the web site. But Region 8 is not able to eliminate the paper version soon.

Başak Yüksel (R8 News Co-Editor) pointed out, that the cost of Region 8 News as total is high, but per member it's only 1.25 US\$ and the news is valuable for our members. Members prefer the paper version. For those who would like to read it in an electronic form, it is available on the web.

John Vig added that 'The Institute' and others are published on paper and as an electronic version. Much less people are reading the newsletter on the computer.

Anthony Davies wanted to add to this comment that the paper version is extremely useful, if you talk to senior people in industry about IEEE and so on. IEEE Members still do not have the possibility to read the electronic version everywhere.

Mark Apter gave an administrative advice: If R8 decides to go to an electronic version of the news, they still have to produce the printed version. It's a requirement to offer the same benefit to all members, in particular if they don't have an e-mail address.

Victor Fouad Hanna (France Section) reported on a good experience with the electronic version in France; 10% of the members still get the paper version as they don't have the hardware available.

Tunde Salihu (Nigeria Section) made the Committee aware of the fact that in his country internet access is a big problem and requested to continue the paper version.

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy concluded that with this discussion it is clear that we continue with both versions.

Charles Turner (UK&RI Section) asked on the current status of electronic voting.

Marc Apter replied that electronic voting is part of the OU package for Section and Chapter Elections. For IEEE President and Director we stay with the paper ballot. Requirement is that to every member without an e-mail address you have to send a letter. So if you have 90% of members with e-mail address, you can save money.

Cecelia Jankowski reported that only one part time person is dedicated to electronic voting in her team; but if a Section is interested they should contact her for the procedure.

Jean-Gabriel Remy commented that electronic voting is clearly a benefit.

Benito Palumbo (Italy Section) requested to add electronic voting to the bylaws to have it legally accepted.

Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the Committee for approval of his report. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Andreas Luxa (Germany Section) moved to change the agenda to have only 10 minutes for the Vice Chair reports and max. 10 minutes for discussion to have more time for new business. Benelux was seconding this motion.

Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the Vice Chairs what they think about that.

George Paunovic (Region 8 VC TA) commented that at this moment it is impossible to change it. His team members have prepared their report for a time of presentation as forecasted.

Martin Bastiaans (Region 8 VC SA) is in favor of the motion as the report is in the agenda book and he will put the slides of his presentation on the web. We can do new business first. Marko Delimar (Region 8 VC MA) seconded. – **Motion carried.**

17) Treasurer's Report (see presentation):

IEEE Region 8 Treasurer Brian Harrington started his presentation with some housekeeping and announced that the room accounts are paid directly by Region 8. He asked the participants to use the excel form for the reclaim, which he will send out as soon as he is back from Sofia.

The financial report started with an update on where we stand end of 2006. Brian Harrington commented on the Region 8 Net Worth that there has been a reduction in Assets during the year but that investments are doing well.

The budget for Committee Meetings is 100k US\$ per meeting; normally cost is split 50/50 for conference rooms + hotel and travel. Now this ratio moved to 60/40. Brian Harrington was asked by some people, why we come to Eastern Europe that often; reason is to save money as disposal income in Region 8 is decreasing because of the dollar exchange rate.

Brian Harrington reported on big items in budget starting with the Voluntary Contribution Fund, which was doing well. On Region 8 News he commented on the discussion before that the cost per member is low and the News is a good marketing tool. The Treasurer Budget is higher than before as he conducts a yearly independent audit now.

SC2008 may cost a lot of money. Region 8 needs to save money in 2007 for that big event. The Student Branch Congress is an expensive event, but unique in IEEE and very good for Student Activities; he plans to allocate money for the next SBC2008.

Brian Harrington pointed out that the 2007 budget is balanced. He still cannot believe that in Paris 2005 Region 8 Committee voted for a negative budget; also last year we voted for a negative of US\$ 90k. Only because of late incoming projects was it balanced.

The 2007 Budget Proposal is balanced. But how do we control the budget? Section Chairs may remember that in Belgrade we got into trouble at the end of the meeting as too many motions were approved without knowing the budget impact. Now the Vice Chairs are responsible for the budget and projects; they report to the Director on what is done.

In his final remarks Brian Harrington remarked that the goal should always be profitability. The Committee will decide; but his proposal is for no negative budget for this year and having discussion with the Vice Chairs on projects with the existing money. Brian Harrington asked for comments and discussion on budget.

Ragnar Kåhre (Sweden Section) agrees with Brian Harrington. He was in Paris and was horrified by the way Region 8 Committee spent money; the 2007 budget is a good frame. Though he would like to suggest having a way to present the budget impact of different projects to know how much money different people cost.

Brian Harrington replied that his idea is as well to have Vice Chairs to report on their projects on a budget level.

Martin Bastiaans mentioned that Student Activities is planning to stay within the budget.

George Paunovic confirmed that the same is true for Technical Activities. He added that if we accept the budget there is no other way. Vice Chairs are just balancing the budget.

Alexander Mikerov expressed appreciation of Brian Harrington's work. This comment was followed by applause from the Committee.

Dirk van Herthem (Benelux Section) asked why a Student Branch Congress with 350 people costs 50k US\$ and a R8 Meeting with half of the people costs twice as much.

Marko Delimar replied that students had a lower level hotel. Also, the total SBC budget was bigger than shown in the Region 8 Budget due to other sources of funding and local sponsorships.

Charles Turner asked the Committee for a round of applause for the Treasurer's work. He requested to establish a Region's policy of having reserves.

Egypt moved to accept the treasurer's report. Macedonia seconded.

Motion approved unanimously.

Alexander Mikerov addressed special thanks to Jordan Kolev for the nice evening event and the meeting organization.

Jordan Kolev replied that he is all the time glad to meet with the committee members and that everything is fine. He recommended to the Bucharest organizers to have visa invitations letters to be sorted out as early as possible. Visa issue was the biggest problem in the preparation.

18) Other Business:

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy introduced the benefits of the new motion template. Region 8 Committee needs to know responsibilities, timeline and financial impact before voting for a project.

Ragnar Kåhre (Sweden Section) moved to accept the "Baltic Motion" coming from Sections in Estonia, Finland and Sweden:

'Endorse that a regional summit is held in Riga in June 2007 for establishing a cooperation between Baltic region sections as well as financially support the summit with USD 5000.'

He commented that Baltic Sections are not small but also not big. That's why they work together. The idea of joint chapter activity is supporting that. The goal is to create a Section in Latvia; that's why they meet in Riga. Baltic Countries plus Norway and Iceland work together due to historic relations.

Alexander Mikerov commented that he has experience with a meeting in St. Petersburg in October; he supports the motion but knows that US\$ 5k is not enough. He made a friendly amendment to increase budget to US\$ 10k.

Baldomir Zajc reported that Region 8 had lots of activities in Baltic and has been successful with the creation of two Sections (Lithuania and Estonia) already. There was an event in Riga; IEEE Members in Latvia promised to start IEEE activities and a Section. He thinks that things are going there well, even though there is no Section yet.

Marko Delimar pointed out that as the budget is agreed there is no place to bring in additional requests for funding. It's in all VCs responsibility to stay within the budget. But maybe all VCs can shift some items in the budget; so if every VC takes 1k US\$ than we can offer 3k US\$ for the motion.

Irina Naidionova (Lithuania Section) reported that together with Boris Levitas she visited Latvia quite often and Region 8 will be successful with the Section this year. 5k US\$ are enough for the motion.

Terje Gjengedal (Norway Section) confirmed that it is a good idea to share best practices in Riga and suggested to add Industry Relation activities to the agenda. George Paunovic agreed to do some joined actions with the Vice Chair colleagues. But all depends on the total list of accepted motions. At the moment he can not say if he can afford it.

Andreas Luxa (Germany Section) moves to postpone the decision until all motions are seen. **Motion carried.**

Elias Nassar (Lebanon Section) introduced the motion as first time activity:

'Following the past practice of Region 8 in supporting newly formed sections in holding technical activities for the purpose of promoting IEEE benefits and membership, we request that Region 8 contribute to the First Electrical and Electronics Engineers Week in Lebanon with US\$ 5,000. We believe that this investment by Region 8 would be more than compensated by the increase in membership and the establishment of a prestigious income generating yearly conference.'

The project is also supporting new Sections, for example Syria.

Alexander Mikerov asked for clarification on the meaning of Electronics Week.

Elias Nassar explained that Lebanon Section would like to launch a joined conference with industry exposition, student workshops on ISBIR, accreditation workshops, etc.

Brian Harrington commented that if you are concerned about this year's budget, there is an option to put it on 2008 budget.

Pilar Molina Gaudo suggested as this is a new initiative, have you asked IEEE Foundation for support?

Elias Nassar replied that they did not apply for that.

Anthony Davies commented that the motion process is on the right way. We need education! Region 8 is not the only source for getting money. We need to be educated on how to get money from different sources (RAB, Foundation, etc.).

Tunde Salihu asked for motion template, which is easy to understand.

Jean-Gabriel Remy answered that the template is available, we can make it better but we are on the right way.

Ragnar Kåhre requested that there should be a committee reviewing the motions before so that we have everything on the table.

Russia Siberia moved *'to approve \$ 2,600 for the IEEE R-8 Russia Siberia Section for covering partly travel and accommodation expenses of 13 Members for participating at EUROCON.'*

Peter Magyar (Germany Sections) added that only 200 out of 1200 US\$ are missing; request to support the young professors.

Başak Yüksel reminded the Committee that we also have the VCF.

Jean-Gabriel Remy suggested having the people to apply for VCF. The form is on the web. **Russia-Siberia cancels the motion.**

Ghaleb Al-Dandan (Saudi Arabia Section) moved:

'Region 8 committee recommends establishing a team to develop a plan to bring IEEE closer to the major energy industry (Oil, Gas and others) in Region 8. Countries within Region 8 such as Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kuwait, Norway and others are considered to be major contributors to the world energy supplies. Capitalizing in this rich industry will promote IEEE activities within Region 8. The team will provide the Region 8 committee with a Plan to meet the above motion objectives.'

George Paunovic mentioned that this motion is in his report. He supports that motion. Rami Al-Mushcab does not have a team; good idea to give him one. Motion came in on time, he discussed it with the team. It is a very good idea.

Rami Al-Mushcab explained that Norway and the Gulf countries will work together in a virtual team. Peter Magyar will be in the team as well. Working with Oil/Gas industry will bring more people to IEEE.

Tunde Salihu would like to know, who is behind that motion as Nigeria is heavily involved into oil industry as well. Former chair Isaac Adekayne is in oil industry and should be in the team.

Terje Gjendedah requested to add Norway and UK to the countries.

Kuwait Section seconded that. **Motion passed. Champion is Rami Al-Mushcab.**

Dirk van Hertem (Benelux Section) moved

'to change the IEEE Region8 Bylaws in order to drop the requirement for the officers of IEEE Region 8 or IEEE Region 8 OpCom to hold a Senior Member or Fellow grade. This motion is supported by past experiences within Region 8 and the fact that other Regions do not have this requirement.'

And commented that this is also a non-money motion.

He thinks that this will also show that IEEE is doing something for the younger people. IEEE will improve participation of the younger people and this is a good signal for them.

Martin Bastiaans added that this motion came to the SAC and they approved it unanimously.

Marko Delimar commented that the second sentence in Region 8 Bylaw R8-303.6 is violating IEEE Bylaws as there is no mention of GSM. We can change the bylaws and/or have a motion like that.

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy commented that the requirement for senior people comes from the fact, that IEEE can't give budget responsibility to young people. They might disappear from one day to another.

Anthony Davies added that we had in the past many VCs SAC which have not been Senior Members or Fellow. John Vig mentioned yesterday that SA in Region 8 are very good and no VC was running away with the money. It has never gone wrong in the past.

Martin Bastiaans confirmed that and asked the Region 8 Committee to trust its N&A Committee.

Sweden Section moved to suspend process of making bylaws.

South Africa commented that at least we can express our wish to have that changed.

Motion to have it as first item on the agenda for the next meeting passed.

<Coffee Break 10:05-10:35>

Jean-Gabriel Remy called **Rossitza Goleva** as local organizer in front of the Committee. He mentioned that she is the active person, who made this meeting a success and presented flowers and a cake as a gift. This comment was followed by applause by the Committee. Rossitza Goleva thanked the Committee and mentioned that this was a surprise. She always does her best to represent her country in the best way. The Region 8 Committee thanked her with another round of applause.

Jean-Gabriel Remy continued the discussion of the motions with the comment that there have been two motions with money – “Lebanon” and “Baltic” motions. As there is no money in the budget we either find Vice Chairs to support that with the existing budget or we have to postpone the motions to next year. Siberia will use the VCF procedure for the same purpose as requested in their motion. **Motion withdrawn.**

Two motions with a total of US\$ 10k have been left.

Marko Delimar suggested for the “Baltic” motion that in case the Vice Chairs agree to give US\$ 1k each, we need to find an extra \$ 2k.

Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the owners of the motion, if they are OK with US\$ 3k.

Ragnar Kåhre replied that the Sections agreed to pay for the travel, and event will be sponsored by R8.

Terje Gjengedahl will take responsibility to get US\$ 2k from industry. Motion changed for a total amount of money of US\$ 3k.

Motion passed unanimously.

With regards to the “Lebanon” Motion **Jean-Gabriel Remy** sees no way to fund that.

Marko Delimar commented that this is a **typical event to get sponsored by the IEEE Foundation**. He asked the owners of the motion to talk to Rolf Remshardt and withdraw the motion for this meeting.

Lebanon Section will try foundation, but asks VCs to show some contribution.

The motion was withdrawn.

18) VC Student Activities:

At 10:45am the Committee started to listen to the Vice Chair reports. **Jean-Gabriel Remy** mentioned that these need to be shortened due to time constraints.

Martin Bastiaans (see presentation) started his time with a correction to Jean-Gabriel Remy's presentation. Pablo Herrero was missing in his list of members of the Student Activities Committee.

He introduced the team and shared the goals with the Region 8 Committee.

He reported on a better retention rate for Student Members in Branches! Reactivating branches, starting new student branches in some Sections where organization is less than 25%, and making Student Members more aware of the existence of an active Section, are important issues. Region 8 SA needs Student Representatives in the Sections. It's important to find IEEE Members when they are students and to retain them after graduation; it's more difficult to find them when they have left the university.

Student Activities works together with GOLD; cooperation between students and GOLD should also be done at the Section Level.

There have been many awards – see list in the presentation for details. This year there was no **nomination for the Outstanding Counselor award**. Martin Bastiaans reminded Sections to nominate counselors for that award.

Thomas Watteyne reported on the website contest, introduced the timeline and mentioned that Region 8 is having 23 participants this year.

Martin Bastiaans reported on the Student Branch Congresses at the Section level, the ISBIR program (joined activities between Industry Relations and Student Branches) and some ongoing programs (these in red are currently in work).

Luca Lugaric reported on Electronic Communications and mentioned that this is the part, where the fun is. Main achievements are personalized e-mails and helping ISBIR with the website. In the near future we will start the multimedia contest, and the ethics competition will most probably be held at SBC08.

Pablo Herrero asked the Section Chairs again to appoint a Section Student Representative and to get into contact with SBs; SAC can't work with them, if there is no contact from the Section. He also mentioned partnerships with other organizations.

Martin Bastiaans finished the Student Activities presentation by reporting on specific problems like the large differences in Gross Domestic Product and Purchasing Power Parity per capita in Region 8.

Due to time constraints, the presentation of the Region 8 Student Representative Michael Gloegl could not be delivered.

As part of the SA presentation **Kevit Desai** (Kenya Section) **announced the 10th edition of the Student Exhibition**, 120 participants, now international (Sudan, etc.) See presentation for VIPs and pictures.

The report was followed by a question from the **Serbia and Montenegro Section**: They have seen very good student activities. Question was, if there is a possibility to support bringing all branches of a Section together.

Martin Bastiaans replied that he is very much in favor of such Section-level Student Branch Congresses. Unfortunately, there is not much money available, but SAC will pay up to 500 US\$, if the Section will pay at least the same amount.

Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the **Serbia and Montenegro Section to send a proposal to Martin Bastiaans**.

UK&RI Section asked on the Kenya event on how the event is promoted to the Sections. **Kevit Desai** asked **Section Chairs** to promote the event in the respective Section.

Nicolae Tapus from the Romania Section commented that their Students are the best in the world being the winner of the International programming contest and in St. Petersburg in the second place. These things have to be known by the students in Region 8. **Jean-Gabriel Remy** asked **Nicolae Tapus** to write a report on that for the next agenda book and put it on the web. **Martin Bastiaans** added to that the request to publish these achievements in the Region 8 News.

The IEEE Region 8 Committee approved the report of the Region 8 Student Activities Committee.

19) Membership Activities (see presentation):

Marko Delimar opened his time in front of the Committee with a joke that “the big IEEE” is now restructuring in the way R8 is shaped, referring to the existence of Region 8 Membership Activities Committee and plans to develop an IEEE Membership Activities Board.

He introduced his team members and commented that we do good in our member figures. There is a clear membership growth and we reduced the number of associates and grew the number of Senior Members and Fellows; also members and student members are showing growth.

The February terminator was hitting Region 8 hard this time. But there is still a positive trend in the ‘zigzag diagram’.

Section Chairs can find in the agenda book how many people they lost in their Section.

As a kind of metrics Marko Delimar reported on the e-mail gazette; a big number of hits, 50% on the global job sites, came from Region 8. Good activities can also be observed in Affinity Groups.

Rolf Remshardt reported on Membership Development: MD is the most important topic this morning. The Region 8 Director would like to increase membership and we should all work on that. He commented that in the membership zigzag-curve the red line is going up. Rolf Remshardt informed the Committee that 16k members are in arrears – that is too much. Good Sections – Congratulations here to Switzerland with only 13% in arrears – are fine. But the Sections at the bottom need to react; Region 8 cannot afford that situation. MD offers a pre-terminator report as a tool for that. E-Mail sent to all Section MD officers (cc Section Chair) to contact members in arrears to understand reason for not renewing. 30-40% of member in arrears renewed after the reminder. Rolf Remshardt also shared the reasons for not renewing.

Marko Delimar reported on MA presence at IEEE Conferences; they are present at 3 Region 8 Conferences, but there are ~200 IEEE conferences in R8. He introduced the MD Newsletter, the fact that the ‘Member Gets a Member’ program has been increased to 15\$ and asked the Section Chairs to appoint a MD Officer in every Section; there are still 20% of the Sections without such a position. Marko Delimar closed his remarks that Membership Development is everybody’s

business. All Sections should start doing something for MD and enjoy a growing family of IEEE members.

Charles Turner started his presentation on Professional Activities with the remark that it is always good to talk to all Section Chairs, because PA will be delivered on a Section Level. As Rolf Remshardt pointed out there is a big percentage of people who moved out because they don't need the services of IEEE any longer. PA includes many of these non-technical skills. The #2 hit on website is PA.

Charles Turner introduced his PA team. It's up to the Section Chair to contact Charles Turner to locate possible speakers for events. Special focus is on young members (GOLD and Students). As all are facing the problem of retention, Charles Turner suggested that we need to learn what these people want. There was an enormous response to the job site offer in Region 8. With regards to the workshop program Charles Turner concluded that we have built a solid PA program in Region 8. A motion was presented to fill the PA SubCommittee with more members, as at this time only Charles Turner was officially appointed.

Başak Yüksel reported on Region 8 News as Roland Saam (Editor R8 News) is in Japan for holidays and is sending his best regards to the Committee. She reported on what things needs to be done before you hold the R8 News in your hands. There are four issues every year; the next issue will be June/July with a deadline upcoming. 1.25 US\$ cost per members makes R8 News a good tool to communicate. A motion was presented to share half of mailing cost with IEEE HQ. Reason was given that the mailing costs are increasing

Alexander Mikerov asked for clarification as he receives R8News in same package as Spectrum, do we still have to pay for that? Başak Yüksel confirmed that fact. IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy will work on that and is happy that RAB VP is here. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Thomas Watteyne reported on his work as Electronic Communications Coordinator and introduced the new mailing lists.

Eva Gutschmiedl, Pilar Molina Gaudó and Gerald Anleitner reported briefly on GOLD sharing information on the definition of GOLD and asking Section Chairs to work on blue countries, i.e. Sections without GOLD group. On the other side also Sections should ask GOLD Groups for support.

Two motions have been presented (see presentation):

- R8 N&A to have a GOLD Member in the Committee (requires bylaw changes) by adding a third person to be a GOLD Member. Bigger IEEE Committee's have this requirement already. It is in line with IEEE policy.
- R8 Committee approves 2nd registration fee for Section Rep, if this is a GOLD Member.

As the second motion concerns financial matters for next year, it should be considered next year.

Maryam Al-Thani started her presentation on Women in Engineering with the statement that we all miss Clementina Saduwa. The vision and mission statement has been presented as approved by the worldwide WIE Committee. Region 8 is having the biggest WIE group. This comment was followed by applause by the Committee. **Marko Delimar** suggested that the committee takes a look at the

WIE slides on the web due to time constraints, asked everybody to apply for award and encouraged all Sections to form a WIE AGs or support the existing ones. Section should apply for promotional material, which is available for free.

Peter Hill reported on Life Member Activities starting his presentation with his personal background. He became LM in 2006 and got appointed to be coordinator some months later. Peter Hill presented the list of LM Groups in Sections and encouraged Sections to form these groups. Peter Hill addressed special thanks to the Sweden Section for organizing the event, even though it got cancelled due to lack of interest.

Jacob Baal-Shem reported on History Activities and started with the remark that he is the first history coordinator in Region 8 after being the first conference coordinator as well. The IEEE Foundation President is also chair of the HAC. Further activities will be distributed via e-mail and Region 8 News due to time constraints.

Marko Delimar announced that all other information is in the report and on the web. **The MA report got approved unanimously.**

IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the Region 8 Committee to postpone the MA motions to the next meeting as we didn't see them before. **This motion was approved unanimously.**

20) Technical Activities (see presentation):

George Paunovic started his presentation on TA with the remark that he can only report January, 1st – March, 31st as this is the time where he was responsible as VC TA. The report is on the web and in the agenda book.

George Paunovic continued with a reminder to the Committee on procedures! If you want to get a proposal through, please send them in advance, so that SubCommittees and OpCom can discuss it.

Gerard-André Capolino as Chapter Coordinator introduced the new SubCommittee with its matrix form and shared the aim of the SubCommittee with Region 8.

Franciso Sandoval gave as Conference Coordinator details on Africon 2007 by introducing the time line and announcing, that the Namibia State President is in the Conference Committee. Eurocon 2007 was approved in Belgrade; Bartlomiej Ufnalski is local contact. The committee replied with applause for the regional organizers for having high number of papers. Francisco Sandoval reported that 40 events have been added to the IEEE Region 8 Calendar. **The committee is currently searching for candidates for Eurocon 2009 and Melecon 2010.** Africon 2009 will be in Kenya.

Charles Turner referred for Educational Activities to the report in the agenda book. He will send the PowerPoint presentation to all the committee members later on as time during the meeting is short. Charles Turner introduced the members of his team and gave an overview on 2007 projects. A focus is on accreditation; the team will work on that to have a decision for fall meeting. Continuing education (Matej Zajc is the champion for that) is another important project for EA. As a summary he asked the Committee to have as much as possible support from the Sections.

Rami Al-Mushcab gave an update on Industry Relations. The goal for 2007, based on IR work from previous IRCs, will move lots of IR work to the Sections. IR team did a great job in the last year. Rami Al-Mushcab gave a brief overview of all planned 2007 IR actions: ISBIR program, Plan for IAG (Affinity Groups), MOU with large local industry, sending a draft MOU to Section Chairs, MOU with national sister societies, industry awards, face-to-face meetings with industry. ISBIR representative gave a short reminder on ISBIR program and thanked the Section Chairs for the feedback given during the meeting. Planned ISBIR sub-programs were included in the agenda book – Section Chairs are invited to, please, read them in order to give information to their Student Branches, that will get the ISBIR announcement and will need additional information .Website is www.isbir.org .

David Law updated the Committee on Standards Activities with the comment that there were two items of special interest for the Region 8 Committee:

- The collaboration with ITU and
- a workshop on carrier-class Ethernet.

In addition to that, he mentioned a conference organized by IEEE-SA in Region 8, where IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy has been invited to participate as speaker.

Another activity is on new patent policy.

George Paunovic concluded the TA presentation with the comment that the team is very well organized: they actually did all the work. The Vice Chair just needs to coordinate. TA is very important and all in TA will do their best.

The TA report was approved by the Region 8 Committee.

At 12:35pm **IEEE Region 8 Director Jean-Gabriel Remy** moved that the Region 8 Committee approves the extraordinary work done by all the committees and wishes that they continue their work! **This motion passed unanimously.**

Nicolae Tapus invited the Region 8 Committee to Bucharest for its 89th Committee Meeting. More information will be sent out later. **Jean-Gabriel Remy asked the committee members to contact Brian or Nicolae immediately in case they need a visa.** He also asked again all Section Chairs to inform the Section Members on the upcoming Elections and to make them vote.

Mohamed Younis (Egypt Section) mentioned that the IEEE Meeting is at a high religious holiday, no Muslim people can attend. **Jean-Gabriel Remy** apologized for that and said that the date was chosen one year ago and that we do also meetings on Sundays. So please try to come.

Jean-Gabriel Remy's final remark thanking the Committee and Sofia organizers was followed by applause from the Committee.

Motion to adjourn carried at 12:41pm.