
IEEE Benelux Section Report October 2012

1. Highlights from the past

- The chapters organized various international symposia.
- Several GOLD/PA activities took place.

2. Future activities

- In 2014 the Section Congress will be held in Amsterdam (August 22–25). In principle the Benelux Section is not involved in the organization of the congress itself, but we might organize an accompanying event;
- The chapters will organize various international symposia.
- IEEE Benelux GOLD/PA will organize a Workshop on Standards and an Industry Entrepreneurship Event in 2012 or 2013.
- A chapter chairs meeting will be organized in conjunction with the upcoming General Assembly of the Benelux Section (beginning of 2013), in order to strengthen the connections between the section and its chapters.
- On September 22, the Region 8 MD officers will meet in Leuven, Belgium. Benelux volunteers will be invited to attend as well.

3. Best practices

- The Senior Membership campaign is working well: several Members were elevated in 2012. At the time of the last ExCom meeting (May 2012) there were 36 more Senior Members compared to October 2011.
- Three Senior Members were elevated to Fellow in 2012.
- Past section chairman Martin Bastiaans served as Region 8 Director-Elect in 2012.
- The section is financially sound. 2012 will be closed with some deficit but this is avoided in the future by slightly adapting the chapter rebate rules.

4. Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Compared to April 2011 we lost quite a few members and students members. Although this drop is noticeable throughout the region and even IEEE-wide, it seems even more pronounced in the Benelux Section. Possible causes are the economic crisis, and the fact that 2010 was an exceptional year, with the Student Branch Congress in Leuven and Martin Bastiaans elected as Region 8 Director-Elect. To remedy this decline, a newsletter and reminder were sent in February, the chapter chairs were asked to take action, and additional action was undertaken by IEEE, Region 8 Membership Development and the Section (by e-mail to all people in arrears).
- The section and its chapters currently have no clear legal status in Belgium and the Netherlands, which basically implies that its officers are personally liable for possible deficits. This is currently under investigation by the Chairman and Treasurer, in close connection with HQ.
- The NPS Chapter is inactive. The Chapters and AG Coordinator is looking for volunteers to revitalize this chapter.
- The Student Branches of Twente and Antwerp are currently inactive.

5. Miscellaneous

- Wouter Olthuis was appointed as the new officer on Education, and Guido Volleberg was appointed as the new officer on Industrial Relations and Conferences. Both positions had been vacant for a while.
- A new Affinity Group (Women In Engineering) and three new chapters were approved:
 - Joint Chapter on Aerospace and Electronic Systems & Geoscience and Remote Sensing
 - Chapter on Instrumentation and Measurements
 - Chapter on Robotics and Automation