

IEEE Member Activities Report October 2012

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Vice Chair 2012

As R8 VC for Member Activities, I am responsible for planning, leadership, and guidance for activities relating to IEEE Region 8 members, including the areas of membership development, admission and advancement, affinity group programs (GOLD – Graduates of the Last Decade, WIE – Women in Engineering and Life Members), communication, history and professional (non-technical) activities. The R8 subcommittees looking after the affairs of each of the above areas were quite busy since our last meeting in Berlin. Perhaps, the main focus was intensive preparation for the R8 Student Branch Congress which took place in Madrid, Spain during the period of 25-29 July 2012. This time the number of attendees broke the record with 400+ coming not only from R8 but also from as far away as Central America and the US. This gives a clear indication of the prestige and reputation this congress has built through the years.

The SBC is a major event in R8 which brings together various GOLD and student members from across the region to meet, interact, discuss, learn and have a good time. It is really one major place to fulfil member interconnect and interact advantages offered by the IEEE. This year, the R8 GOLD team was heavily involved in the preparation and general organization of the sessions specifically the ones to do with GOLD. I attended several of these sessions and was delighted with the level of attendance and satisfaction. Also, for the first time in SBC, the R8 Professional Activities team was directly involved in the event as they also organized and supported several sessions that dealt with soft skills, management and leadership training and product design perspectives. I ended up replacing one of the trainers as she could not attend at the last minute for personal reasons. This allowed me to gauge again the level of interest and appreciation attendees have for such skills. I can confidently say that specifically under the current economic climate, such topics are very sought after and I highly encourage section chairs and geo unit leaders to take advantage of the activities and services provided by the R8 PA team.

The various subcommittee coordinators were asked to submit their expanded individual reports about their activities. You can find these reports on the Tallinn meeting web page. Additionally, a shorter version of these will be distributed during the R8 committee meeting for convenience.

Some brief comments about the subcommittees:

Membership Development (MD)

R8 MD is responsible for coordinating the information flow and all MD activities between IEEE and the sections, in order to facilitate membership development initiatives and events in R8 sections.

In late September the MD team held a special workshop for section and geo units MD officers. The session took place during the weekend of 22-23 in Leuven, Belgium. It consisted of full day sessions of training and interaction between the attendees and the MD team. A special session was held to explain and demonstrate the new SAMIEEE database tool that is used to easily retrieve member info and details which helps in section and geo unit management, event planning and general MD evaluation. I hope that we will be able to continue with such sessions despite the expense because it is felt that it highly motivates and



helps MD officers and thus will have a positive impact on sections. I highly encourage sections and geo units to support their MD officers and facilitate the attendance of such workshops in the future.

Total IEEE membership as of end of August 2012 stands at 393,226 with an increase of 1.9% from last year for the same period. Region 8 membership stands at 71,282 with an increase of 1.8% over last year for the same period. R8 has a retention percentage of 72.8% for this year.

Professional Activities (PA)

Professional activities include all activities which are of interest to an IEEE member regarding her/his career and can enhance her/his non-technical professional skills. This includes, but is not limited to soft skills trainings, psychological and sociological issues within the business world as well as economics-related topics. In these times of economic uncertainties, it is strongly felt that it pays to add value to our members through engaging them within the sphere of PA.

R8 PA activities took center stage during the SBC 2012 in Madrid. Three parallel sessions with upward of 100+ participants from several sectors attended these sessions. The feedback was excellent and the PA subcommittee received several requests for holding similar events at section level. Already several are planned in the near future. I encourage section officers to make contact with the PA coordinator during the Tallinn meeting to discuss the possibility of holding such sessions in their sections.

Graduates of Last Decade (GOLD)

Graduates of Last Decade (GOLD) is the group of IEEE members that have completed their first academic degree within the last 10 years. The GOLD program has been established to provide the framework and tools for the sections' use in retaining recent graduates.

The Region 8 GOLD committee's task is to create awareness of and to promote GOLD programs in the Region for the identification and development of IEEE volunteer leaders and members. The committee acts as an active promoter, resource, and liaison for sections and branches to generate and support GOLD activities

The R8 GOLD team has been very active also during the SBC in Madrid as a large number of GOLDies attended. Several sessions were organized covering different subjects of interest given by world class invited speakers. I took part in several of these sessions and can report that they were very successful. It engaged the participants and there were many interesting discussions and Q&As. Currently, the R8 team also is taking a leading role for the IEEE Day 2012 in October. A quick look at the IEEE Day celebrations map shows a high level of participation from across the globe.

I highly encourage the sections to fully support their GOLD officer as obviously GOLD activities are essential for section growth and member engagement.

Women in Engineering (WIE)

The mission of IEEE WIE is to facilitate the recruitment and retention of women in technical disciplines globally. The R8 WIE coordinator engages section WIE affinity groups and coordinators and offers advice and support for local WIE activities. In addition, she administers the yearly Clementina Saduwa Award and represents the region in the IEEE WIE committee. Note that the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to promoting women engineers and scientists.

R8 News

R8 news is still the only regional newsletter that is offered printed to all members in the whole of the IEEE with coverage of the different activities taking place in the region.

- Continued release four times a year bundled with the IEEE Spectrum
- Back issues are available in electronic format at the [R8 News website](#).

Other Activities by VC MA

I represented the IEEE R8 leadership in the Egyptian Engineering Day 2012 which took place in Cairo at the beginning of September. It was a great event, very well organized by the Egypt IEEE GOLD AG with the support of the Egypt section. It had the support of the Prime Minister of Egypt. The event was attended by at least 9000 people and was widely covered by local media. The event included presentation by world class speakers and included many training sessions. It also included the display of graduation projects undertaken by students from all universities in Egypt. I delivered an invited presentation about Wireless Sensor networks and represented the IEEE R8 during the opening and closing ceremonies and distributed prizes to the winners of different competitions. A very well manned and organized IEEE MD booth was there and was very well received.

I also represented the IEEE R8 leadership for the Interact with Tomorrows World 12 conference which took place in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt during the middle of September. The event also was a great success. It was very well organized by the IEEE Alexandria Student branch. I delivered an invited presentation about the IEEE and a technical presentation about Embedded Systems.

I am also a member of the IEEE Individual Benefits and Services Committee and represent R8 in that committee.

For more info, comments, questions, and ideas please contact Ali El-Mousa at a.elmousa@ieee.org