

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

Urmet Janes

Region 8 Professional Activities (PA) operate on several levels:

- local PA events
- Region 8 PA Speaker program
- PASC coordination and guidance

The local activities are organized by several IEEE units. There is a PA Chair appointed in **more than half** of the sections - 30 in total. Due to the soft skills orientation of PA topics, many Student Branch and Young Professionals activities on career topics fall into our domain, but the committee is only involved if financing or PA speakers are requested. The Subcommittee goal for 2014 is to improve indirect support to local activities by showcasing successful local programs and provide inspiration to less active sections.

The speaker program has been the main pillar of PA for years. Workshops by Kurt Richter (e.g. "Body language in Business" and "Development of Leadership Skills") and Han van Loon ("STARS Thought Leadership") are always well received and often repeated at the same location. In 2014 the Subcommittee wishes to add speakers to the program to cover topics such as entrepreneurship and international careers.

The PA Subcommittee coordinates the programs, spreads awareness of PA needs and maintains an information store on the R8 website, as well as in a LinkedIn group. The Subcommittee has been discussing with IEEE-USA to identify programs developed in the US that can be utilized throughout Region 8 as well.

Highlights from the past

- PA Newsletter dispatched in May
- Survey of all R8 members (2000+ responses)
- Workshops by Kurt Richter in UK and Saudi Arabia
- Steady updates to pa.ieeer8.org, LinkedIn

Future activities

- Autumn PA newsletter
- Direct contact of section chairs on speakers and activities
- Conference call with PA officers
- Workshops planned in South Africa
- Publishing good practices from the US
- Publishing of case studies to inspire sections for local activities
- Update of R8 website and LinkedIn group as an information source for sections

Best practices

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Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Not all sections have a PA officer
- Bad visibility on local activities, vTools meeting reports of limited help
- Members are keen to have online courses
- There is great variety in member needs by location, age etc.