Director   Costas Stasopoulos

The Past

Directors calendar since 1 January 2015

- IEEE Board Retreat and Meeting and MGA Board Retreat - San Juan, Puerto Rico
- IEEE Board Series and MGA Board Meeting - New Orleans, USA
- IEEE Board of Directors Industry Outreach Germany, March 1-March 7 Together with IEEE President and 3 other Directors we visited Germany in the process of the IEEE Board of Directors Industry Outreach. We had a full day round table meeting and discussion with leading industrialists in Munich as shown below: Mr. Hans Beckhoff, Beckhoff Automation, Dr. Franz Laermer, Bosch GmbH, Ms. Christin Eisenschmid, Intel, Dr. Rodolfo Schoeneburg, Daimler AG, Mr. Maximilian Riegel, Nokia, Mr. Arnulf Rupp, OSRAM, Dr. Ulrich Rohde, Rohde Schwarz, Prof. Dr. Helmut Klausing, VDE, Dr. Klaus Vedder, Giesecke Devrient We had half day visits and talks with high level managers in the following companies-institutions: FESTO in Stuttgart NOKIA in Munich SIEMENS in Munich VDE in Frankfurt. We also had meetings with local volunteers and members of the German ExCom.

   The aim of the visit was to understand the needs of the Industry through a series of talks and presentations. Listening to them and answering to their questions was part of the process. The whole visit will be followed up and valuable conclusions will be drawn.

Outlook

1) Getting closer to Industry As more than 50our members work in the Industry (as opposed to Academia), we need to focus on the needs of the contemporary and future engineers and related professionals and define new IEEE products and services that support them and stimulate their interest. This action will aim to activate IEEE relevance to industry in Region 8. In order to achieve this we will need change within IEEE, we will need to rejuvenate IEEE involvement with Industry, enhance engagement with Sections throughout the R8 and appoint active Industry Ambassadors. We have set up a strong Action for Industry committee. The task is challenging but the potential is great. Commitment, open mindedness, collaborative spirit and the support from the whole community are vital for its success. Chapters and Affinity groups can contribute to this and new ways of collaboration must be explored.

2) Students and Young Professionals Students and Young professionals are in the heart of Region 8. Having recognised that the quality of their experience within the association can determine and even shape the future of IEEE, we need to inspire them and find new ways to appeal to them. The first step is already accomplished; we have set up very strong and potent teams in our Students and Young Professionals Committees. The next objective is to make sure that these committees are truly dedicated and have all possible tools, resources and support available to them, so as to effectively direct their efforts towards increased activities with special emphasis on added value to membership. It is of great importance that we plan various Regional Congresses, that will aim to stimulate and inspire the student community and also provide them with plenty of opportunities for interchange of ideas and friendships. Region 8 has had several extremely successful experiences in the area of Student Regional Congresses and we are very proud that we have actually started to be used as a Model by various USA Regions planning similar actions. But success is not a title or a privilege and it is surely not given. Every event needs to be carefully planned with the following key objectives: to find new ways to motivate our members, create new competitions and find ways for a smooth transition from students to Young Professionals. Chapters, Affinity groups and Sections will play a vital role here.

3) Section Vitality Section vitality is the corner stone of all activities. We need to have alive and active Sections in order to have and maintain the Chapters, Affinity groups and Student Branches. This has been long recognised of course, but a more dedicated and focused initiative started as of last year and I would like to see this to continue strongly into 2015 as well. The aim here is to drive efforts, ideas and resources into the empowerment and rejuvenation of Sections in order to help them and motivate them to become more active and more diverse. Again, in order to be successful in something as big as this, a large number of volunteers will need to be stirred and motivated for action. We have started with a top down approach and looking for effective and inspiring leadership to take it from there. Executive committees should be a mixture of young and old, academic and Industry people from various areas of the Section. All the appointed positions should be filled with capable people. The Chapter, Affinity group and Branch chairs should be invited to the Executive committee meetings. Sometimes it is hard to find the right or any volunteers but if we create that right mix of professionalism, technical knowledge and social atmosphere we can achieve it.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Establishing an IEEE Office in R8
- New Conferences in R8

Miscellaneous

- Help Subsections that reside directly under the Region to become a full Section
- Explore the possibility for new Geographic Units in those parts of our Region where no Sections exist
- Assist with the legal registration of Sections where required

Upcoming major events in Region 8

- R8 OpCom meeting, Glasgow, UK, 18-19 July 2015
- R8 Committee meeting, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 10-11 October 2015 (105th meeting), TBA
- R8 Nominations and Appointments Subcommittee meeting, TBD
- IEEE Day, 6 October 2015

Upcoming Region 8 conferences

- HISTELCON 2015, Tel-Aviv, Israel, 16-21 August 2015
- EUROCON 2015, Salamanca, Spain, 8-11 September 2015
- AFRICON 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 14-17 September 2015

Recent and upcoming Section anniversaries (25, 40, 50, 60)

- 18 August 2014, Turkey, 25th Anniversary
- 5 October 2014, Israel, 60th Anniversary
- 20 February 2015, Kuwait, 25th Anniversary, celebrated in the GCC Conference
- 20 March 2015, Sweden, 50th Anniversary, to be celebrated in the R8 meeting in Limassol
- 15 August 2015, Romania, 25th Anniversary
- 15 August 2015, Russia, 25th Anniversary
- 8 September 2015, Egypt, 60th Anniversary

Upcoming dedications of IEEE Milestones

April 1, 2015, Blumlein Historic Milestone, UK and Ireland, London, UK
Abbey Road Studios Invention of Stereo Sound Reproduction, 1931
Plaque citation:
Alan Dower Blumlein filed a patent for a two-channel audio system called stereo on 14 December 1931. It included a "shuffling" circuit to preserve directional sound, an orthogonal Blumlein Pair of velocity microphones, the recording of two orthogonal channels in a single groove, stereo disc-cutting head, and hybrid transformer to mix directional signals. Blumlein brought his equipment to Abbey Road Studios in 1934 and recorded the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Zenit Parabolic Reflector L-band Pulsed Radar, 1938, Ukraine Section, Kharkiv, Ukraine
Citation:
The 1938 Zenit radar test at the Laboratory of Electromagnetic Oscillations of the Ukrainian Institute of Physics and Technology was a major advance in the development of radar. Designed by Abram Slutskin, Alexander Usikov and Semion Braude, microwave scientists and magnetron pioneers, Zenit established the practicality of combining the pulsed method and a shorter wave band for determining precisely all three coordinates of airborne targets.
Date and venue TBD

News from Member and Geographic Activities (MGA)

Electronic Membership dues increase The 2015 eMembership dues was increased to USD 75.00.

Student Membership dues increase - MGA tried to increase the 2016 student dues but the motion failed at the BoD where it needed 2/3 majority. IEEE Region 8 was against this icrease.

Region 8 members in MGA leadership positions in 2015:
Martin Bastiaans: MGA Vice Chair Geographic Unit Operations, MGA Geographic Unit
Operations Support Committee Chair, MGA Operations Committee Member
Pablo Herrero: MGA Student Activities Committee Chair
Urmet Janes: MGA ieee.tv Advisory Committee Chair
Antonio Luque Estepa: MGA Membership Recruitment and Recovery Committee Chair MGA Strategy Process

Two IEEE Ad Hoc Committees reporting to the Board of Directors that focus on Region 8 specific issues have been established for 2015:

_ IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa Vincent Kaabunga (chair), Joseph Mutale, Towela Nyirenda-Jere, Gertjan van Stam, John Funso, Costas Stasopoulos

_ IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe Marko Delimar (Chair), Martin Bastiaans, Costas Stasopoulos, Marina Ruggieri, Gianluca Setti, David Law, Dirk Van Hertem, Axel Richter, Christopher James, Gordon Day