

V/C Member Activities

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Overview

- The Vice Chair for Member Activities (MA) is engaged in supporting the members' needs and enhancing the members growth. The Vice Chair for MA is coordinating activities of the following standing and ad-hoc subcommittees / coordinators: Membership Development (MD), Professional Activities (PA), Young Professionals (YP), Life Members (LM), Women in Engineering (WIE), History Activities and Region 8 News. The activities of all the subcommittees and coordinators are important for member career development and for opportunities for creating strong professional connections.
- With the beginning of the year we had appointment of volunteers for the positions of subcommittee chairs and coordinators. The appointed volunteers demonstrated continued interest and involvement in member activities. In order to enhance cooperation with Region 8 sections more volunteers were included in subcommittees as corresponding members. I would like to use this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Aleksandar Szabo, for his kind, encouraging and continual support during this period.
- The detailed reports from the Subcommittee Chairs and Coordinators are included in this Agenda Book and published on the Limassol Committee Meeting web page. I would like to invite you to read them carefully. In my report I will highlight the potentials for achieving the Region 8 priorities: getting closer to industry, students and young professionals and section vitality.

Membership Development Subcommittee (MDSC)

MD SC is working with all our Sections on recruiting, retaining and recovering members. MD SC Chair Adeel Sultan was already a member of the MDSC and continued with regular activities as MD Monthly Reports and Newsletters distribution. The Institute issue from March 2015 reports that Region 8 is one of three regions with increase in IEEE membership in 2014. It is important to mention that current IEEE Membership Recruitment and Recovery (MRR) Committee Chair is Antonio Luque, Past MDSC Chair, still involved in MDSC activities. We are now facing membership drop, expected for February. MD SC Chair is leading campaign with all MD Officers in sections in recovering members in arrears and they are already achieving improvements in retention statistics. We expect membership growth in the following months, but we all need to be seriously engaged in the recruitment activities.

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

PASC is engaged in developing non-technical skills programs and organizing workshops. During the reporting period in the last year PASC was continuing with the successful Speaker Program. The Past PASC Chair Urmet J'anes is still active in the subcommittee, and the PASC Chair for 2015 is Ana Katalini Mucalo and she brings extensive GOLD/PA experience. This is in line with plans to improve cooperation with YP and IR subcommittees. PASC is putting efforts in increasing PA visibility to make sections aware of the PA programs they offer and recruit more volunteers as PA local trainers.

Young Professionals Subcommittee (YPSC)

YPSC was very active during the reporting period. After the Amsterdam Region 8 Committee Meeting YPSC was engaged in preparing operational documents: YP Book, R8 Young Professionals Manual and SYP Manual. The books gather valuable experiences and information for future YP officers and volunteers, and the work was completed at the YPSC meeting in Zagreb in December, lead by Rafal Sliz as PASC Chair for 2014. Continuity of their successful work is provided with appointment of Flavia Dinca as YPSC Chair in 2015. This year focus is on reaching the YPs in industry, with initiatives as: launching the Company Branch Program and starting the R8 Young Professionals Industry Newsletter.

Life Members (LM) Coordinator

LM Coordinator for 2015 is Charles W. Turner who took over from Jacob Baal-Schem. In the past few years the number of LM AGs increased, and LM Coordinator plans to encourage more Sections to start an LM AG and to invite retired members to participate, and all other members to support their activities. The Israel Section LMAG is active in organizing the next HISTELCON 2015. The LM coordinator highlighted the importance to identify the activities that would engage the Life Members willing to serve as volunteers.

Women in Engineering (WIE) Coordinator

WIE Coordinator for 2015 is Simay Akar as successor to Joyce Mwangama. The WIE Coordinator responsibility includes maintaining contact with all Region 8 WIE AGs and encouraging WIE activities in the Region. A committee comprising the WIE Coordinator and WIE advisors decided that the winner of 2015 Clementina Saduwa award is Eman Alashwali from Saudi Arabia for her professional and personal achievements.

History Activities Coordinator

History Activities Coordinator for 2015 is Anthony C Davies. He is continuing with successful milestone activities. A milestone dedicated for the Heinrich Hertz has been unveiled at Karlsruhe, Germany, on 5th December 2014, and a milestone at Abbey Road Studios in London, UK to recognize the stereo sound recording and reproduction inventions is being planned for 1st April 2015. The HISTELCON 2015 Conference will be held in Israel August 16-21, and the IEEE History Committee plans to change HISTELCON to a worldwide conference rather than just a Region 8 event.

Region 8 News

Region 8 News editors: Roland Saam, Zhijia Huang and associate editor Bojan Nikoli are delivering Region 8 News digital and print editions regularly.

Best Practices

- Recognizing areas for cooperation between subcommittees, like PA events dedicated for Young Professionals, WIE sessions at YP and Students congresses, History Activities and LM Coordinators involvement in HISTELCON. The cooperation is especially important when bringing together Technical and Member Activities, like joint YP and IR Newsletter, PA and IR events, WIE engagement with Education Activities.
- Building sustainable networks of volunteers in the Region 8 dedicated for specific member activity areas as PA, MD, and History; or Affinity Groups as YP, LM, WIE. We have started with inventory of current officers in Sections engaged in these member activity areas, and we aim to enlarge that number and make strong networks.
- A concluding message to section chairs is to join us in our activities. For more information, questions, and ideas please feel free to contact me at dusanka.boskovic@ieee.org.