

Director

Costas Stasopoulos

The Past

Director's 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
- R8 Meeting Limassol, Cyprus, 27-29 March 2015
- MGA Global Opportunities Ad Hoc Committee, Tokyo, Japan, 13-16 May 2015
- IEEE AdHoc Committee on European Engagement, London, UK, 24 May, 2015
- IEEE Board Series and MGA Board Meeting, New Brunswick, USA, 16-22 June 2015
- POCO Conference, Glasgow, UK, 17-18 July 2015
- R8 OpCom meeting, Glasgow, UK, 18-19 July 2015
- HISTELCON 2015 Conference, Tel Aviv, Israel, 20-21 August 2015
- R8 Nominations and Appointment Committee, Tel Aviv, Israel, 22 August 2015
- IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe, Vienna, Austria, 28-29 August 2015
- EUROCON 2015 Conference, Salamanca, Spain, 8-9 September 2015

Outlook

- 1) Getting closer to Industry
As more than 50% our 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 recognized 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
- MGA fee for conferences
- Membership Development - Declining members

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, TBD
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting (106th), Monte-Carlo, Monaco, 18-20 March, 2015
- R8 OpCom meeting, TBD
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting (107th), TBD

Upcoming Region 8 conferences

- ENERGYCON 2016, Leuven, Belgium 4-8 April, 2015
- MELECON 2016, Limassol, Cyprus 18-20 April, 2016

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

- 15 August 2015, Romania, 25th Anniversary
- 15 August 2015, Russia, 25th Anniversary
- 20 March 2015, Sweden, 50th Anniversary
- 8 September 2015, Egypt, 60th Anniversary

Upcoming dedications of IEEE Milestones

- Enrico Fermi's Major Contribution to Semiconductor Statistics, 1924-1926 Citation: Nobel laureate Enrico Fermi developed the quantum statistics that would be named after him while teaching at the School of Engineering of the University of Florence. The Fermi-Dirac statistics were a fundamental contribution to semiconductor physics and to the development of electronics.
- 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

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 ieeetv 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