

Life Member Coordinator**Charles Turner****Past**

At the start of the year there were 11 Life Member Affinity Groups in the Region, of which only three could be described as fully active (with websites reporting activities, including meetings, and formal appointment of officers). MGA has informed the Region that two LMAGs (Hungary and Italy) have not reported their activities for two years, and are in danger of being shut down. The two Sections have been offered assistance to revive their LMAG. Some Sections (e.g. Benelux, Poland, or Sweden) with sufficient Life members to form a viable LMAG have been approached and urged to find volunteers who establish a new Group. We believe that there are good prospects for further progress in the near future, by adopting a new strategy (see later).

Present

Since the Region 8 Meeting in Limassol, the Life Member Technical Tour to Paris, Geneva, and Munich, has taken place. It was highly successful, thanks to the local organizers, Victor Fouad Hanna, Hugo Wyss, and Perter Russer. Most of the participants were from the USA, as was the case with previous tours. Looking to the future, the possibility of 'zonal' tours within Region 8, aimed principally at Life members in that zone might be explored. The Israel Section Life members organized HISTELCON 2015 in Tel Aviv in August, to continue the series of conferences on the history of technology. In April, the UK and Ireland Section LMAG held a ceremony in London to commemorate the invention of stereophonic sound reproduction at Abbey Road Studios in the 1930s, by the award of a Milestone plaque. The event attracted over 100 attendees, including the IEEE President Howard Michel.

Future

A significant change of emphasis in Life Member activities is being currently discussed in the UK & Ireland LMAG. It involves expanding their scope to include members, at or near retirement age, who have not yet qualified for Life member status. This might overcome the problem of small numbers that many Sections experience when organizing their Life member activities. By including a wider group of members it is expected that support for events and meetings would grow and more volunteers would come forward. MGA has provided data from SAMIEEE for all Region 8 Sections that also includes the member's age. This shows that beyond the age of 60 there is a very sharp fall in the number of members. The inference must be that many of our older members decide not to renew when they approach, or reach, retirement age. If they are not Life members they continue to pay annual dues. The conclusion from this study is that we must ensure that our older members can see a positive reason for renewing, by offering incentives, together with activities and services that justify the cost of belonging to IEEE. A report is being prepared for the IEEE Life Member Committee meeting in November.