

Life Member Activities in Region 8

**A report for the Region 8 Committee
Meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, October
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Life **M**ember **A**ffinity **G**roups in Region 8

- There are currently 11 LMAGs:
- Croatia (20), France (88), Germany (194), Greece (25), Hungary (15), Israel (125), Italy (134), Slovenia (14), Spain (60), Switzerland (179), and UK and Ireland (275)

- Several Sections have sufficient Life members to justify the creation of a viable LMAG:
- Austria (28), Benelux (137), Denmark (37), Egypt (42), Finland (33), Norway (37), and Sweden (92).

- In addition there are other Sections that are close to the threshold of forming a viable LMAG:
- Poland (19), South Africa (14), and Turkey (16).

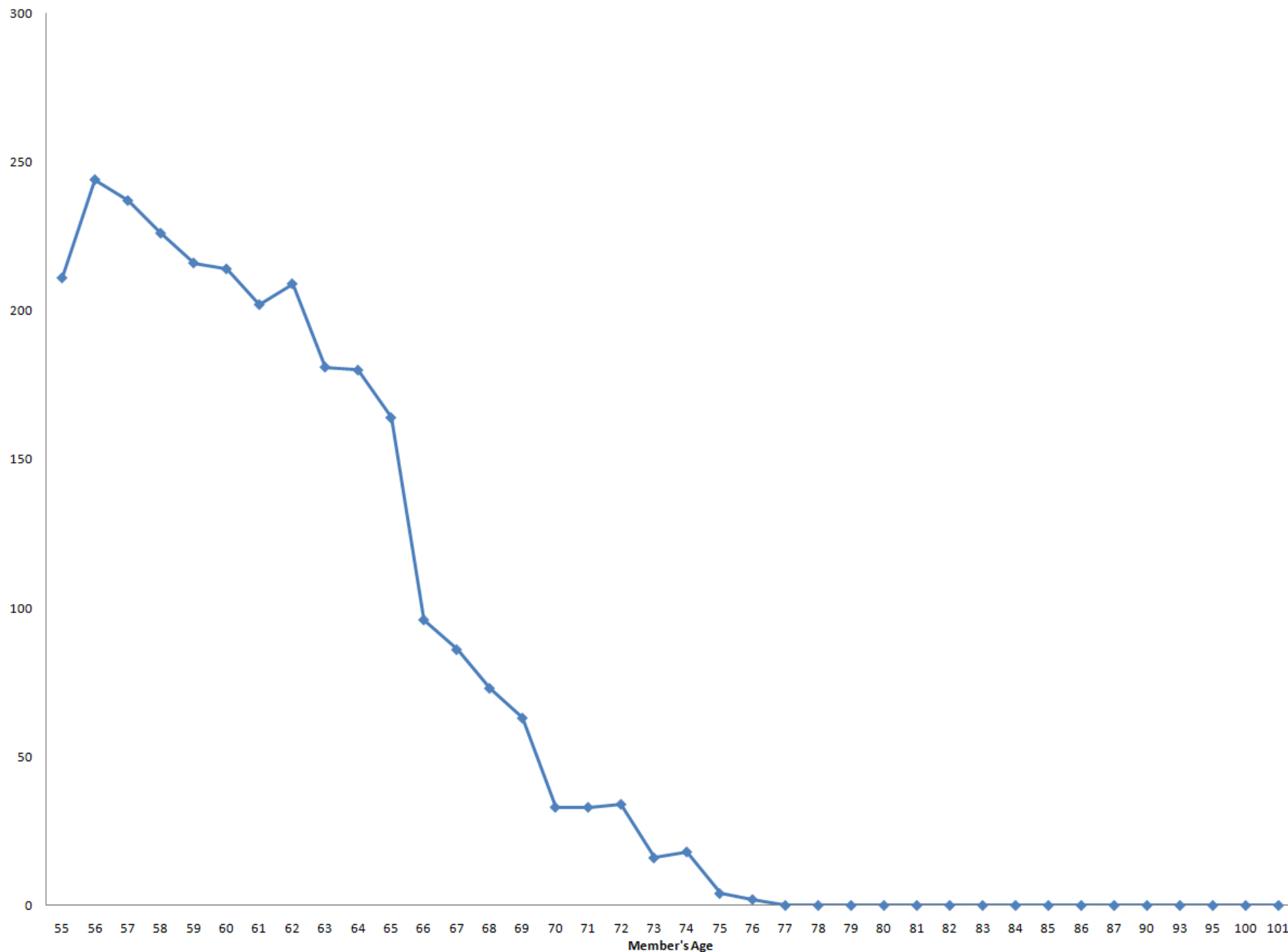
- But, remember:
 - You don't have to be a Life member to be able to take part in LMAG activities!!

Age profile data for Region 8

Data provided by MGA show that there is a dramatic fall in the number of members as retirement is reached

Number of members with more
than 25 years of membership

Age Profile Data for IEEE Region 8



Why do we lose so many members as they approach retirement?

Job function has changed

IEEE does not offer 'value for money' for older members

(only Life members have dues waived)

Section/Chapter does not organise activities of interest

How to retain older members?

- Sections should offer an attractive range of activities to engage members interest
e.g. the history of technology, mentoring and advising younger members and students
 - Organise technical updating events
- Sponsor social events to enable contact to continue between members
- Create a volunteer role for older members

Advantages to Sections of forming LMAGs

- 1) Rebates and grants are available to fund activities
- 2) LMAGs are the 'voice' and can coordinate activities for older members
- 3) They receive support from the IEEE Life Members Committee

What about members who have retired or are about to retire?

- The qualifying criteria for Life membership are difficult to achieve in the younger Sections in Region 8, namely :
 - Members must be 65 or older,
 - The sum of age and years of membership must be at least 100.
- Rate of conversion to LM status is too low

- The answer is to include retired (and near-retirement) members in Life member activities.
- In many Sections this would boost the number of active members and volunteers to the point where an LMAG becomes viable
- The age of members is readily obtained from MGA/SAMIEEE data

Conclusion

- **The older members in your Section represent a valuable volunteer resource**
- **Don't neglect them: invite them to participate in your LMAG activities**

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