

## Director

**Costas Stasopoulos**

### The Past

Director's calendar since 1 January 2016

- IEEE Board Retreat and Meeting - St. Thomas USA Virgin Islands 6-11 January
- IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe, Vienna, Austria, 6 February 2016
- IEEE Region 10 meeting Bangkok, Thailand 4-6 March

### 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 recognized 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 2016 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

- Making the already approved IEEE Office in R8 in Vienna to function properly and be able among other things to help our members in various aspects
- Membership Development - Declining members
- Establish an Area for the Africa Sections
- Increase presence and activities in Africa

### Geographic unit statistics - 31 December 2015 (31 December 2014)

- 57 (56) Sections
- 7 (10) Subsections
- 565 (523) Society Chapters
- 79 (76) Affinity Groups (YP: 43; WIE: 25; LM: 11)
- 508 (477) Student Branches
- 183 (159) Student Branch Chapters
- 74 (62) Student Branch Affinity Groups

### 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, 9-10 July 2016
- IEEE Students and Young Professionals Congress, Germany,
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting (107th), Porto, Portugal, 23-25 September 2016
- R8 OpCom meeting, TBD

### Upcoming Region 8 conferences

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
- 21 November 2016, Ukraine, 25th anniversary

### Recent and 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

- **Germany's First Broadcast Transmission from the Radio Station Königs Wusterhausen, 1920**

Citation:

In early 1920, in this building, technicians of the Königs Wusterhausen radio station together with employees from the Telegraphentechnisches Reichsamt, began experiments broadcasting voice and music using an arc transmitter. By late 1920, tests had become successful enough to transmit an instrumental concert on 22 December – the so-called Christmas concert. This transmission is regarded as the birth of statutorily regulated broadcasting in Germany.

Date TBD

### Region 8 members in IEEE leadership positions in 2016

- Maciej Ogorzalek, IEEE Board of Directors, Director & Delegate, Division I
- Costas Stasopoulos, IEEE Board of Directors, Director & Delegate, Region 8
- Rui Costa, Jorge Soares IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Disruptive Innovations
- Adrian Pais, Saurabh Sinha IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Public Imperatives
- Antonio Ferreira, Vince Piuri, IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning
- Saurabh Sinha, Tariq Durrani, Sohaib Sheikh, 2016 Educational Activities Board
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma, IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board
- Martin Bastiaans, IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board, Vice Chair - Geographic Unit Operations, Awards Board Presentation & Publicity Committee, IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe, IEEE Governance Committee, IEEE History Committee, MGA Geographic Unit Operations Support Committee, Chair
- Marina Ruggeri, IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on IEEE in 2030, Technical Activities Board
- Maciej Ogorzalek, IEEE New Initiatives Committee
- Marko Delimar, Costas Stasopoulos, IEEE Global Public Policy Committee
- 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
- Margaretha A Eriksson, MGA Awards and Recognition Committee
- Aleksandar Szabo, IEEE Life Members Committee Chair
- 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), Isaac Kweku Boakye, Izael da Silva, Gordon Day, Nelson Ijumba, Joseph Mutale, Towela Nyirenda-Jere, Dorothy Okello, 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, Maciej Ogorzalek, Stefan Saurmann.