

Life Member Coordinator

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Goals

A major objective is to expand Life member activities in the Region, by

- The creation of additional LMAGs. There are about 5 Sections that are well-placed to form an LMAG. The Section Chairs have been asked to take action to begin the process.
- The involvement of members over 60, or those with more than 30 years of membership, that are not yet qualified as Life members.

A second priority is to find out what kind of activities are of most interest to older members. For example, in other Regions Life members have taken part in mentoring schemes, helping with high school projects, and advising young professionals on career and employment issues. In Region 8 there are many opportunities for preparing Milestone awards, given the rich legacy of technical achievements over the past century in many of our Sections.

Status and Past Contributions

Although only a minority of our LMAGs have managed to maintain activities at a satisfactory level, the most active continue to organise highly successful events. Milestone projects have been especially fruitful: the preparation of a proposal engages a group of volunteers in historical research, and the dedication ceremony provides a good opportunity to invite IEEE President and other dignitaries to the Section. They also generate good publicity for IEEE.

Outlook

All Sections will be urged to give more attention to the needs and interests of their older members. A first step will be to use the SAMIEEE data for the Section to identify individuals likely to become volunteers in LMAG activities. More help will be given to LMAGs to organize activities designed to attract older members. New plans for technical updating events and history of technology presentations will be unveiled. Section Chairs will be contacted to urge them to provide greater support to their Life member groups.

Points of Concern

The status of Life members, and of LMAGs, within Sections needs to be improved. The continuing loss of older members will not be stemmed until Sections give more attention to the problem of member retention. The current lack of personal contact between the Chairs of the 11 LMAGs is a big disadvantage. We plan to hold Skype or WebEx meetings to try to improve communication between the groups.