Director
Costas Stasopoulos

The Past

Director's calendar since March 2016

- Region 8 meeting - Monaco, Monte Carlo, 18-20 March
- IEEE Young Professionals meeting - Reykjavik, Iceland 1-3 April
- MELECON Conference 2016 - Limassol, Cyprus, 18-19 April
- IEEE Board of Directors meeting - New Brunswick, USA 15-20 June
- Region 8 OpCom meeting - Ayia Napa, Cyprus, 8-10 July
- Region 8 Nominations and Appointment Committee meeting - Stockholm, 22-24 July
- Region 8 SYP - Regensburg, Germany 17-21 August
- IEEE Board of Directors meeting - Singapore, 27-29 August
- MGA OpCom meeting - New Jersey, USA,16-18 September

Recent Activities

1) An Africa Area was established. Gloria Chukwudebe was appointed as the first Chair of this Area.
2) Within the Action for Industry scope and as a part of the Internship Initiative to support Industry, many Internships in various countries were offered to Students and Young Professionals.
3) Within the Action for Industry scope, a Mentoring program was initiated.
4) MELECON 2016 and ENERGYCON 2016 were held with great success in Limassol, Cyprus and Leuven, Belgium respectively.
5) A Region 8 Student Paper Contest was held during the MELECON 2016 conference.
6) A Region 8 Mind the Gap contest was introduced where ideas were sought to reduce the gap between older and young generations.

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 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.

4) Membership Development
   There was a concern with the falling membership in our Region and in general in IEEE. Special effort will be made to reverse this trend with workshops, webinars with personal and email campaigns.

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

Increase presence and activities in Africa

Create awareness of the low income IEEE dues in the concerned areas

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

IEEE Day, Region wide, 4 October 2016

R8 OpCom meeting, October 2016

Membership Development Workshop - Tunis, Tunisia, 18-19 November 2016

IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting (108th), Stockholm, Sweden, 24-26 March 2017

R8 OpCom meeting, TBD

Sections Congress, Sydney, Australia, 10-13 August 2017

Upcoming Region 8 conferences

EUROCON 2017, Ohrid, FYROM, 6-8 July 2017

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

21 November 2016, Ukraine, 25th anniversary

Recent and Upcoming dedications of IEEE Milestones

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.

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

Dadda's Multiplier, 1965, Milano Italy

Citation:

Luigi Dadda published the first description of the optimized scheme, subsequently called a Dadda Tree, for a digital circuit to compute the multiplication of unsigned fixed-point numbers in binary arithmetic. This circuit allowed the arithmetic units of microprocessor-based computers to execute complex arithmetic operations with a performance/cost ratio unequaled at that time. His research and teaching pioneered computer engineering in Italy.

Date TBD

First Exploration and Proof of Liquid Crystals, 1889 Karlsruhe, Germany

Citation:

The first liquid crystal materials were characterized in 1889 by Otto Lehmann in this building. Lehmann recognized the existence of a new state of matter, "flssige Kristalle" or liquid crystals, which flows like a liquid but has the optical property of double refraction characteristic of crystals. Lehmann's work on these compounds opened the door to further liquid crystal research and eventually displays and other applications.

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 2016:

<u>IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa</u> Vincent Kaabunga (chair), Isaac Kweku Boakye, Izael da Silva, Gordon Day, Nelson Ijumba, Joseph Mutale, Towela Nyirenda-Jere, Dorothy Okello, Costas Stasopoulos
<u>IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe</u> 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