

## Region Vitality

**Aleksandar Szabo**

### Introduction

Vitality means initiative, energy and enthusiasm in organizing activities taking care about the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual. Vital Sections better serve their members. Timely reporting is necessary to show vitality of the Section and its organizational units and to receive the rebate.

### Goals

The basic goal is to better serve our members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (officers, meetings, financials) to receive the rebate, recruiting new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service according to the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual.

### Status and Past Contributions

During 2015 and 2016 the section vitality has been significantly improved. Especially the situation with elections and reporting in 2016 has been much better than in the previous year.

Region Officers start their terms on 1 January. That is one of the main reasons that we are asking Sections and its organizational units for having start terms of Officers on 1 January as well. Officers in most sections already start on 1 January. For the Region it is important to have an updated list of Section Officers at the beginning of the calendar year.

Now it is time to held elections in many of our Sections. These Sections have been reminded to hold elections on time (well before the end of 2016), taking care about the period of service according to the rules.

Reporting. In 2017 Sections are required to submit their annual financial reports by the last day of February, and their annual officer and meeting reports by 15 March, to be eligible for the dues rebates. All Sections whose reporting (financial, meeting and officer) is submitted by the third Friday in February, will receive a 10% bonus of the total rebate not including activity bonuses. Sections will be reminded to report on time by MGA and by me.

The basic success indicators of Section Vitality in the Region are the number of Sections and its organizational units reporting on time and receiving the rebate as well as the number of Sections with officers serving inside the period of service according to the rules.

### Outlook

What should be done to improve vitality?

Visit [www.ieeer8.org/category/section-vitality/](http://www.ieeer8.org/category/section-vitality/) to become familiar with tools/documents Section self assessment - Use the Section Vitality Checklist

- Be familiar with the use of the Section Vitality Dashboard, SAMIEEE and v-Tools
- Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9)
- Be familiar with the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E)
- Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current officers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. As an example, in Region 8 we have elections in September or October for officers starting on 1 January.
- A Section may define in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term (MGA Operations Manual, 9.4.F).
- Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled by majority vote of the Section Committee or Section Executive Committee
- All section officers should do their job with pleasure. Be informed and efficient
- Contact members and obtain member feedback. Fulfill membership needs.
- Increase membership and increase member engagement
- Recruit and train new volunteers and potential successors
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives.
- Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, affinity groups, student branches
- Have a chapter and affinity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and affinity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and affinity groups and organize a yearly meeting with chapter and affinity group officers
- Form new chapters, affinity groups and student branches
- Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches). Conduct events with students
- Get closer to industry (involve practicing engineers)
- Involve Young Professionals
- Organize Educational activities (preuniversity, lifelong)
- Organize Professional activities (leadership, management)
- Have an active Student Activities Officer and a Student Representative in your Section. During the year they should keep a vigilant eye on the activity of student branches together with their chancellors and take care about activity/vitality of all SBs in the Section, involve students into section and chapter activities, help students
- Awards (member recognition, member grade elevation, volunteer recognition, Section yearly awards)
- Section website always up to date
- Organize an annual social event

### **Points of Concern**

All Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches should take care about doing their basic job following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual.

Officers should train themselves, possibly before running for a position.

Organizing Section Operation workshops should be taken into consideration.

All our Coordinators/Subcommittees should continue to help and encourage activities in Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches.

Additional efforts should be taken to increase activity of organizational units outside Sections in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual (9.0.E.8). Region 8, as their parent, should take more care about progress in activity, reporting and elections in these units.