

Professional Activities Subcommittee (PASC)

Ana Katalinić Mućalo

Goals

The main goal of IEEE Region 8 Professional Activities is to help advancing professional career of Region 8 members by supporting different non-technical activities that might contribute to that. The PASC supports a variety of actions ranging from organizing local events to distributing regional level information via appropriate channels (Events, Collabratec, etc.). This includes, our main program - the Speaker Program, which has been enhanced within the last year with the addition of new and young speakers from different spectrums of geography and skills. The primary goal for the subcommittee the end of 2016 (and beyond) is to engage each of our speakers into local or regional activities and help the program grow. In addition, the PASC will engage with other IEEE OUs to strengthen the program and further develop other activities.

Status and Past Contributions

The Region 8 Professional Activities provided 3 speakers for the 2016 Region 8 Student and Young Professionals Congress in Regensburg, Germany. Kurt Richter gave three workshops on Leadership and Body language. Jan Verveckken gave 2 workshops on Early Career Stress Prevention and Improvisation. Shashank Gaur provided a workshop on Leadership and also provided an overview of Professional Activities in Region 8. All workshops were attended by 40 students and young professionals in average and were well received by the audience. The speakers gave interactive sessions and enabled attendees to learn new skills.

As for other activities:

- Approximately half of Sections in the Region 8 have PA officers appointed
- The call for Speakers program motivated 5 additional speakers interested to join the program
- Many PA activities in Sections are not reported, especially when organized by SB, and quite often by Chapters. Such events are not recognized as Technical Meetings and are not linked to reporting requirements
- IEEE Collabratec European Career Network to be set by PASC has been discussed and scheduled for Spring 2016, but postponed for the end of 2016

Outlook

- The primary goal for 2017 should remain increasing the reach of speakers program. With the help of new speakers, the subcommittee can cover more geographical area and diverse topics of interest. This shall allow, not only to increase number of events, but also to serve more members across the region
- The MGA Global Career Resource program is planning new activities and the subcommittee should collaborate for the pilot of those activities.
- Create online content specific for the Region 8 PA program and enlist what are the most popular topics among our membership.

Points of Concern

- The speaker program requires more cooperation and planning with local organizers to ensure delivery of interesting events. Many members have access to online content for different topics, hence it is critical to deliver unique experience with the PA event.
- Convincing benefits to industry members are very difficult and a challenging task. A tailored benefits portfolio for each industry is required as the requirements vary. Large industries already have lot of in-house PA activities, so it is difficult to contribute for membership in those industries.
- Speakers need to be held accountable for the quality of their events. However, collecting feedback from each event is difficult.
- Improve status of the PA events within the meeting reporting requirements.
- Improve visibility and impact of PA activities.