

## V/C Member Activities

Antonio Luque

### Goals

The VC Member Activities coordinates the following activities:

- Membership Development
- Professional Activities
- Region 8 News
- Electronic Communications
- Affinity Group Activities (Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering)
- Humanitarian Activities

Being them diverse in nature and in membership target, a good cooperation among them is the primary goal of the VC MA.

Member Activities aim to provide members with non-technical initiatives, groups, and services intended to engage them. The mission of IEEE is to advance technology for humanity, but this cannot be accomplished without a strong, committed and involved membership.

One of the long-term goals of MA must be to increase the level of volunteering among all members, so that new activities and programs can be initiated and maintained.

### Status

Below, some highlights from the different subcommittees under MA are summarized. Please refer to the specific reports for full status descriptions and goals for the year.

- Membership Development. Membership is still decreasing, although with some positive issues (see Points of concern below). There is a new MD workshop planned for the first half of 2017.
- Young Professionals. The team coordinates the diverse YP AGs in each Section. Operation manuals for different activities have been created. Region supports several cross-section SYP congresses.
- Professional Activities. One of the goals is to increase the number of PA officers. Also, the plan is to organize PA events in R8 flagship conferences.
- r8news. All issues of r8news have been created and distributed on time. There are plans to also produce epub and/or mobi formats.
- Life Members. New affinity groups have been created. It is natural to collaborate with History Activities, for example for the proposal and inauguration of milestones in the Region.
- History Activities. A new milestone was unveiled in Milan. HISTELCON 2017 will take place in August in Japan. The Global History Network has been transitioned to ETHW. It is difficult to find volunteers for championing milestone proposals.
- Humanitarian Activities. The number of SIGHT groups in the Region has grown from 3 to 7. The goal is to increase awareness of the program and possibilities of funding.

A mailing list ([r8mac@ieeer8.org](mailto:r8mac@ieeer8.org)) for all SC coordinators has been created early this year. A conference call with all SC chairs and coordinators took place on January 19th 2017.

### Outlook

The primary goal will be to strengthen the cooperation among SCs under MA, and of course with other committees and volunteers in the Region. Having an updated communication channel for all of them, and with the membership will be fundamental.

Some specific aims have been listed above:

- Organize an MD workshop to train MD officers in the Region.
- Support Section YP AGs, and help them in their funding requirements.
- Organize PA events in R8 flagship conferences.
- Distribute r8news in e-reader-friendly format.
- Increase the number of LM groups and their activities.
- Promote milestones in the Region.
- Increase the number of SIGHT groups and their funding.

### Points of Concern

Membership in the Region continues decreasing, with significant losses in HG and GS members. Still, this is a global trend (except for R10), and R8 is the Region with the smaller decrease among all shrinking Regions. Recruitment of new members is stable, except for GSM, where we are facing difficulties in recruiting members. On the bright side, our retention rates are better than one year ago in all member categories, including first-year members (maybe product of having a smaller base).

Humanitarian Activities has been an AdHoc committee for a few years now, and we should look for a definitive place for it to solidly establish humanitarian and development activities within the Region.

WIE supports a great level of activity in some areas of the Region, and has the capability to grow significantly in others. A team is definitely needed to grow sustainably, and a proper structure should be provided to this team.

Having one more member in PASC would help to better organize the activities.