

## **Life Member Coordinator**

**Charles Turner**

### **Status**

There are now 12 Life Member Affinity Groups in the Region, with another 2 or 3 in prospect of formation this year. Many Sections do not realise that the process of formation is extremely simple. It involves finding a willing volunteer, not necessarily a Life Member, who is able to file a petition signed by at least 5 members of the Section. Of course, it would be expected that the Life Members in the Section would provide the main support for the new LMAG's activities.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the LMAG is to provide a focus for activities of interest to the older members in the Section, many of whom would be retired engineers from industry and academia. The most successful LMAGs have organised activities that have served the interests of these members and have ensured that they remain as members within IEEE. Otherwise, the SAMIEEE data shows that there is a dramatic loss of older members if they have no active involvement in IEEE.

### **Examples**

The history of technology is a good example of a topic that older members like to take part in. For example, in London, in January, the UK and Ireland Section LMAG organised an event that combined the unveiling of a Milestone plaque by the President, Karen Bartleson, with a one-day celebration of the World's first demonstration of live television in 1926. The event was attended by over 150 members and others from the television and media industries. In the Israel Section technical updating events have been very popular. Further examples of Life Member activities can be found on the Region 8 website.

### **Summary**

The older generation of IEEE members have much to offer from their long experience in industry and education. LMAGs provide an effective platform from which Sections can deliver a program events and social meetings to engage the interest of their older members. In Region 8 we encourage all Sections to consider establishing such a group to provide the necessary focus for these activities.