

Women in Engineering Coordinator

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Goals & Outlook

R8 WIE Committee's goals for 2017 include but are not limited to:

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups
 - Reach out to Sections without a WIE AG, encourage them to form one and provide the needed assistance
 - Work on increasing WIE membership for Sections having less than 6 members
 - Identify and revitalize dormant Section AGs (first stage) and SB AGs (second stage)
- Having a stronger Social Media presence
 - Increase the awareness about WIE activities across Region 8
 - Encourage Section and SB AGs to share their experiences and events with us and each other
- Reaching out to all R8 WIE members (and past members if their contact info is available), via a survey, to
 - Establish communication channels (especially that a new Committee email address was created)
 - Encourage them to like our Facebook page for regular updates
 - Find out what female members expect and value most
 - Find out what male members expect and value most
 - Based on the survey results, develop a strategy in collaboration with other R8 committees
- Reaching out to the Section / SB AG officers, to
 - Establish communication channels and be closer to them
 - Learn about their events and share them on our channels
 - Find out what events work best, and replicate them in other sections
 - Suggest new events to them Involve them in the Mentorship Program
- Establishing new WIE AG and individual awards
 - Region 8 Women in Engineering Affinity Group of the Year Award
 - Region 8 Women in Engineering Student Branch Affinity Group of the Year Award
 - Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Volunteer Award
 - Region 8 Outstanding Women in Engineering Student Volunteer Award
- Collaborating with other organizations that support women in STEM
 - Stanford WiDS
 - WomEng
 - Girls Got IT, and others
 - Successful collaboration in a Section may encourage similar collaboration in other Sections
- Getting involved with industry to widen the opportunities for women in STEM in general and for WIE members in particular
 - Intel programs in the Middle-East and Africa
 - Look for other female-oriented programs carried by STEM companies
 - Coffee Talks and / or panels with Industry Representatives as guests
- Engaging with the following proposed programs:
 - Coffee Talks (continuing program)
<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/women-in-engineering/programs/coffee-talks>
 - SMART Program (new program)
<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/women-in-engineering/programs/smart-program>
 - Mentorship Program (new program)
<http://www.ieeer8.org/category/member-activities/women-in-engineering/programs/mentorship-program>
 - Encourage the STAR program across Region 8
- Collaborating with WIE representatives within Societies such as IAS and PES
- Having a stronger presence in currently held events, such as:
 - Regional / Cross-Sectional / Sectional SYP Congresses
 - IEEE Day
 - International Women's Day
 - October awareness campaigns, and others
- Ultimately increase the WIE membership in R8 due to the success of the programs and initiatives mentioned above.

Status

Currently, there are 3516 WIE members in Region 8, distributed among 117 Affinity Groups (32 Sections, 85 Student Branches). Dissolved Section AGs are:

- Poland (a new chair was elected; we are currently working on its re-establishment)
- Kuwait (efforts will be made to re-establish the AG)
- Iraq (only 2 WIE members in Iraq Section)

New Section AGs in the process of formation:

- Morocco

- Malta

Potential Section in which to start a WIE AG:

- Austria

A new email address was created for the committee: r8wie@ieee.org. The website is updated and can now be easily reached via <http://wie.ieeer8.org>.

Using a poster shared by e-Notice, WIE Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/R8WIE>), R8 news, and the WIE newsletter, the committee started and continues to raise awareness about Clementina Saduwa, the outstanding woman behind the Award, so that IEEE and non-IEEE members in Region 8 and beyond get to know why this award is very special. 20 nominations were received by February 15.

Points of Concern

- There are currently no WIE AG / volunteer awards
 - It is preferable to establish new WIE awards to encourage AG vitality and motivate members to volunteer
- WIE AGs do not have sources for funding within Region 8. The only funding is an amount of 300 USD that should be requested from MGA 3 months prior to the event
 - Sections should be encouraged to financially support their WIE AG events
 - It is preferable to have regional support in case the Section is not able to
- There is no support for WIE AG representatives to attend events such as the SYP or other conferences
 - As a start, active Section WIE AGs could send a funded representative (who is also a Student member or a Young Professional) to the SYP, which will provide significant motivation
- Means of involving WIE officers in various trainings
- The committee is receiving invitations for events (Germany, Portugal, etc.) and we hope to be able to send a representative in order to strengthen the ties between the WIE committee and R8 members.