

Women in Engineering Coordinator

Younna El Bitar

Goals & Actions

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

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups
 - Currently reaching out to Sections without a WIE AG, encouraging them to form one and provide the needed assistance
 - 4 new AGs were formed, more in the process
 - 1 AG was officially revived
 - Identify and revitalize dormant Section AGs
 - Vitality check is ongoing
 - Next step
 - Work on increasing WIE membership for Sections having less than 6 members
 - Identify and revitalize dormant SB AGs
- Having a stronger Social Media presence
 - Increase the awareness about WIE activities across Region 8
 - Share the news on social media
 - Newly formed AGs are being encouraged to share their events with us
 - Next step
 - Contact existing AGs and ask them to share their events
 - Encourage Section and SB AGs to share their experiences with each other, and serve as candidates for the mentorship program
 - 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
 - Currently working with Section AGs, the next step will involve SB AGs
 - Establishing new WIE AG and individual awards: pilot ongoing
 - 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
 - Getting involved with industry to widen the opportunities for women in STEM in general and for WIE members in particular
 - Currently communicating with Google, Intel, and IBM about their programs in the Middle-East and Africa
 - Currently communicating with the AFI team
 - In conjunction with the vitality check: encouraging AGs to organize Coffee Talks and / or panels with Industry Representatives as guests
 - Next step: look for other female-oriented programs carried by STEM companies
 - Collaborating with WIE representatives within Societies such as IAS and PES
 - This was raised during the face-to-face WIE meeting in April 2017; MGA WIE are developing a strategy to follow and Region 8 will be one of the first regions to implement it
 - Having a stronger presence in currently held events, such as:
 - ILS – Krakow (September 2017)
 - AFRICON (September 2017)
 - Regional / Cross-Sectional / Sectional SYP Congresses
 - * Participated in GCCSYP and MESYP
 - IEEE Day
 - International Women's Day
 - October awareness campaigns, and others
 - 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 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
- 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
- Ultimately increase the WIE membership in R8 due to the success of the programs and initiatives mentioned above

Status

Currently, there are 3004 WIE members in Region 8, distributed among 130 Affinity Groups: 37 Sections and 93 Student Branches. Newly formed Section AGs are:

- Poland (officially re-instated)
- Morocco
- Latvia
- Malta
- Austria
- Lithuania (started the formation process)

Points of Concern

- There are currently no WIE AG / volunteer awards
 - A pilot is currently being prepared
- 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, especially with the lack of funding
- The committee is receiving invitations for events and is not able to send representatives due to the lack of funding. We hope to be able to be more involved within the Region in order to strengthen the ties between the WIE committee and R8 members