

Women in Engineering Subcommittee

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Goals

R8 WIE Committee's goals for 2018 include but are not limited to:

- Increasing the vitality of Section and Student Branch Affinity Groups, by getting closer to the active AGs, identifying and revitalizing dormant AGs, and creating AGs in the remaining sections with the help of Section Chairs
- Increasing awareness about R8 WIE programs and engaging WIE members
- Establishing WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events
- Reaching out to R8 WIE members, via a survey and / or webinar, to establish communication channels and find out about their expectations
- Ultimately increasing the WIE membership in R8 and continue the growth trend achieved in 2017

Status

- R8 WIE became a standing subcommittee, which will help it in achieving its goals to the benefit of R8 members. We would like to thank the R8 Committee for its support during the Athens meeting
- Currently, R8 WIE members are distributed among 155 Affinity Groups: 41 Sections and 114 Student Branches, which numbers are continuously increasing
- Three new Section Affinity Groups were formed (Qatar, Norway, Slovenia), with Hungary under consideration
- In line with the aforementioned goals, R8 WIE has successfully achieved stronger communication channels, was represented in various SYPs and other IEEE events across Region 8, and increased awareness about its programs and activities
- A pilot for new awards recognizing R8 WIE volunteers was successfully carried, and the award ceremony was held as part of the WIE ILS in Tunisia

Outlook

After becoming a standing subcommittee, plans are being drawn for the future, based on success stories as well as on lessons learnt

- Focusing on communicating with R8 WIE members in Region 8 is one of the most important goals, ways of reaching out and staying in touch are being considered
- Recognizing our members and their achievements is important, through awards and by sharing their events and success stories on our channels
- Stronger collaboration with MGA WIE as well as a with societies is necessary

Points of Concern

- Due to the large number of WIE Section and Student AGs, effective ways of establishing connection and most importantly keeping the exchange going regularly is a challenge for the limited number of WIE Subcommittee members
- 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

Other Issues to report