

## Women in Engineering Coordinator

Ana Cigarn Romero

### Goals

- 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 awards, and engaging WIE members;
- Reaching out to the members through regular webinars;
- Establishing WIE participation and visibility in R8 flagship events;
- Reaching out to R8 WIE members, via a survey, 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 effective 2019, 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 through the years and through becoming a subcommittee;
- Currently, R8 WIE members are distributed among 155 Affinity Groups: 41 Sections and 115 Student Branches;
- 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 in 2018, and the awards ceremony was held as part of the WIE ILS in Tunisia in August 2018. This year, the awards campaign was launch for the second year;
- The first WIE International Leadership Summit took place in R8 in 2017; 4 Summits followed in 2018. In 2019, two WIE ILSummits are taking place in R8: Porto (Portugal), and Ibadan (Nigeria).

### 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, to reach out and most importantly stay in touch;
- 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. This it expected to be enhanced through the 2 ex-officio R8 WIE members who are members of MGA WIE as well.

### 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