

## Region Vitality

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### Goals

The basic goal is to have vital Sections serving better their members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (ofcers, meetings, nancials) to receive the rebate, retaining and recruiting members, training new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service following the rules presented in the MGA Operations Manual. Regarding nancial reporting, the goal is to maintain 100% submission rate before the reporting deadline and to encourage GEO units to qualify for the 10% rebate bonus by early reporting (third Friday in February). Another goal, initiated by Adam Jastrzebski, is promoting the adoption of open-source nancial accounting software operating in different languages and with multiple currencies, tailored to local nancial requirements and enabling simplified section nancial reporting by linking it with the IEEE corporate NetSuite nance system. An important goal is to increase the activity of Subsections having Region 8 as their parent.

### Status

Since 2015 the section vitality has been significantly improved. Especially the situation with elections and reporting has been much better from year to year. The Sections ofcers' sense of duty has been significantly increased. Great progress has been made in Sections nancial reporting. It was achieved by systematic collaborative work with section treasurers and the IEEE Finance team. The number of sections qualifying for the 10% rebate bonus increased as well. Region 8 is now amongst top performing regions in IEEE in that respect. Adam Jastrzebski has done a great job by helping many Sections in finance reporting. He is now the Region 8 Treasurer and his successor in the Region 8 Vitality Subcommittee is Andreas Koltas. Since Region Ofcers start their terms on 1 January we are asking Sections and its organizational units for having start terms of their Ofcers on 1 January as well. Ofcers in most sections already start on 1 January. For the Region it is important to have an updated list of Section Ofcers before the beginning of the calendar year. Elections should be organized in many of our Sections during 2019 for ofcers starting their term on 1 January 2020. The election process should start early enough and finish well before the end of the calendar year to enable a long enough transition period and to report the new ofcers before 1 January.

### Outlook

What should be done to improve vitality?

- Section self assessment ? Use the Section Vitality Checklist. Complete the MGA Geographic Units Organization Support Committee Section Vitality Self-Assessment Report;
- Be familiar with the use of the IEEE OU Analytics and v-Tools;
- Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9), the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E);
- Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current ofcers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. Ofcers start date should be 1 January;
- A Section may done in its local operating procedures document if the Vice Chair shall automatically become the Chair at the conclusion of their term (Operations Manual, 9.4.F). Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be lled by a majority vote of the Section ExCom;
- Be informed and efcient. Section ofcers should do their jobs on time;
- Increase membership and member engagement. Recruit and train volunteers and look for successors. Contact members and obtain member feedback. Fulll membership needs;
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives;
- Organize meetings (professional, technical, nontechnical, administrative, social) by section, chapters, afnity groups, student branches;
- Have a chapter and afnity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and afnity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and afnity groups and organize a yearly meeting/workshop with chapter and afnity group ofcers;
- Form new chapters, afnity groups and student branches;
- Encourage cooperation and joint events of section units (chapters, afnity groups, student branches). Conduct events with students;
- Get closer to industry (involve practicing engineers). Involve Young Professionals;
- Organize Educational (preuniversity, lifelong) and Professional (leadership, management).

#### Activities

- Have an active Student Activities Ofcer and a Student Representative in your Section. During the year they should keep a vigilant eye on the activity of student branches together with their chancellors and take care about activity/vitality of all SBs in the Section, involve students into section and chapter activities, help students;
- Have a Section Life Member Coordinator taking care about activity of Life Members and elder members. Encourage cooperation of young and older members;
- Awards (member/volunteer recognition, member grade elevation, Section yearly awards);
- Organize a Section annual social event;
- Maintain Section website including all organizational units (chapters, afnity groups, student branches) always up to date;
- Take care about, encourage and increase activity/vitality of Subsections having R8 as their parent to achieve conditions for upgrading them to Sections;
- We have managed to change the culture and the attitudes of Sections regarding reporting and we hope that these will be passed on to new ofcers. We therefore believe that our very good results can be improved or at least maintained;
- The nancial software initiative will depend on nding volunteers with right competences to develop and adapt the software to section requirements.

### **Points of Concern**

All Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches should take care about doing their basic job following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual. Officers should train themselves, possibly before running for a position. All our Regional Coordinators/Subcommittees should continue to help and encourage activities in Sections, Chapters, Affinity Groups and Student Branches. Additional efforts should be taken to increase activity of organizational units outside Sections in accordance with the MGA Operations Manual (9.0.E.8). Region 8, as their parent, should take more care about progress in activities in these units. We have huge diversity and a lot of dynamics in our Region. Therefore, it is difficult to guarantee that there will be no problems in the future in some sections. Organizing Section Operation/Vitality workshops (possibly together with MD workshops) on the Regional level should be taken into consideration.

### **Other Issues to report**