

## Goals

1. The Region 8 (R8) Director is the Chair of the R8 Committee, which consists of the Operating Committee or OpCom (which besides the Director includes the Past Director, Director Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the three Vice Chairs for Student Activities, Member Activities, and Technical Activities), the Section Chairs, and the various Sub Committees (SC) under the purview of the Directors, Treasurer, Secretary, or the Vice Chairs (VC). Special mention should be made of the Africa Council. As Committee Chair the job of the Director is to support the Committee operations, which include overseeing the Committee operations, support the Section Chairs, and strongly support the VCs, the various Sub Committees and Africa Council in their strategy and goals.

The Director's goals are aligned with the goals of the VCs, SCs, and Africa Council.

Concrete goals include:

- Devise a financial plan which will support increased activities of the SCs.
  - Membership, including Students:
    - Consolidated the growth trend (see below),
    - Increase the retention through programs like Senior Member elevation campaign, Students and Young Professionals retention strategies, and so on,
    - Continue R8 focus on Students and YP,
    - Support Women in Engineering (WIE) SC,
    - Focus on Humanitarian Activities.
  - Technical Activities:
    - Continue to focus on becoming closer to industry with the scope of better serving practitioner members, and increasing the number of members from industry,
    - Revitalize R8 chapters,
    - Reinforce relations with IEEE Societies and Technical Councils.
  - Consolidate R8 flagship conferences and increase the portfolio of financially and technically cosponsored conferences.
  - Increase R8 visibility.
  - Increase R8 member and OU recognitions through IEEE level, MGAB (Member and Geographic Activities Board) and R8 awards.
2. R8 Director serves as member of IEEE MGAB and as member of the IEEE Board of Directors (BoD). Besides attending the various meetings of the MGAB and BoD, this part of the job includes supporting their strategy and operations. Thus, the Director's goals are aligned with those of the MGAB and BoD. The Director is member of MGAB Strategic Planning Sub Committee and IEEE *Ad Hoc* Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Professional Ethics.
    - Concrete goals include:
      - Devising and supporting MGAB Strategic Plan, in particular for the future structure of Regions
      - Support IEEE BoD strategy on a new membership model,
      - Support IEEE BoD activities on diversity, inclusion and ethics.

## Status:

1. R8 Statistics and Achievements

### a) Membership statistics:

As of January 2019 and comparing with January 2018, there is an increase of 1,128 members, i.e., a 1.5% growth, with a total of 78,616 members. By grade:

- 10 Honorary members (+1); 0.01% of total R8 members.
- 1,276 Fellows (+37); 1.6% of total R8 members.
- 8,695 Senior members (+531); 11.1% of total R8 members.
- 42,557 Members (-327); 54.1% of total R8 members.
- 1,530 Associates (+92); 16.8% of total R8 members; 1.9% of total R8 members.
- 11,304 Graduate Student members (+367); 14.4% of total R8 members.
- 13,244 Student members (+427): 16.8% of total R8 members.

At the IEEE level, there has been a global positive growth of +0.9%, but this has been achieved thanks to the increase in members on just three Regions: Region 7 (with a 6.1% spectacular growth), Region 8, and Region 10 (+3.4%). All other Regions (1-6 and 9) are still having a decline between -0.4% and -2.8%.

b) R8 OUs statistics:

- 58 Sections; during the 112<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting the elevation of Mauritius Subsection to Section will be moved and hopefully approved by the Committee;
- 10 Subsections; during the 112<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting the formation of Liberia Subsection will be moved and hopefully approved; four African countries (Angola, Namibia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe) and one Eastern European country (Georgia) are potential candidates for new Subsections (with total number of members between 25 and 50);
- 405 Chapters; since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, four new Chapters have been formed;
- 147 Joint Chapters; since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, three new Joint Chapters have been formed;
- 675 Student Branches; since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, four new Student Branches have been formed;
- 378 Student Branch Chapters; since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, seven new Student Branch Chapters have been formed (one of them in Africa);
- 220 Affinity Groups (AG), among them:
  - 52 YP AGs; two more are under petition process; it is worth noting that more than 24,000 R8 members are YPs;
  - 155 WIE AGs (41 at Section level and 114 in Student Branches); since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, four new WIE AGs (1 at Section level, 3 in Student Branches) have been formed (one of them in Africa: Uganda Section WIE AG);
  - 13 Life Member (LF) AGs; a petition for one new LF AG is under process.

c) R8 achievements:

- More than 340 YP activities organized across R8 during the past two years,
- Seven WIE International Leadership Summit (ILS) held in R8 since 2017: 1 in 2017, 4 in 2018; 2 will be held in 2019: in Porto (Portugal), and Ibadan (Nigeria)
- Six R8 flagship conferences, usually organized in the span of two years (incoming in 2019: Eurocon, Africon, Histelcon, and Educon; in 2020: Melecon and Energycon)
- 817 Conferences took or are going to take place in R8 in 2018-2019:
  - 22 cosponsored by R8
  - 278 cosponsored by Sections
  - 204 cosponsored by Chapters/AG
  - 466 cosponsored by Societies/Councils
- A number of History Milestones have been granted by IEEE in R8 during the recent past. In 2018, a Milestone was dedicated to “First Studies on Ring Armature for Direct-Current Dynamos, 1860-1863, Italy”.
- Awards received by R8 teams or individuals during 2018:
  - Five IEEE Medals (out of 22):
    - Founders Medal to Sir Robin Keith Saxby, ARM, London, UK
    - Maxwell Medal to David Flynn, University of Southampton, Cambridge, UK
    - Edison Medal to Ursula Keller, NCCR MUST (Swiss National Centre of Competence for Research in Molecular Ultrafast Science and Technology), ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
    - Picard Medal to Richard Klemm (non-member), Fraunhofer Institute for High Frequency Physics and Radar Techniques, Muenchen, Germany
    - Simon Ramo Medal to Harold Lawson, Lawson Konsult AB, Stockholm, Sweden
  - Two IEEE Technical Field Awards (out of 32):
    - James L. Flanagan Speech and Audio Processing award to Hermann Ney, RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Aachen, Germany
    - Frank Rosenblatt award to Erkki Oja, Aalto University, Espoo, Finland
  - One IEEE EAB (Educational Activities Board) award (out of 10) to Tariq S. Durrani, London, UK
  - From IEEE MGAB, 4 awards (out of 19):

- Two Achievement awards: Alaa Khamis (Egypt), Eva Esther Shalin (Ghana)
      - Larry K. Wilson Transnational award: Josip Balen (Croatia)
      - Outstanding Small Section Award: Cyprus Section
    - From IEEE YP:
      - IEEE YP AG Hall of Fame Award to Poland Section YP AG (for 6 years in a row a R8 YP AG has achieved this award),
    - From IEEE WIE:
      - Honorable mention, WIE Inspiring Student Member of the Year award to Mayssa Mannai, Tunisia Section WIE AG
2. Director's calendar from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:
- IEEE BoD retreat, Cascais, Portugal, January 19-21, 2019
  - R8 OpCom meeting, WebeEx, January 23, 2019
  - IEEE Meeting Series, including MGAB, IEEE Assembly and IEEE BoD meetings, Tampa, FL, USA, February 13-18, 2019
  - R8 OpCom meeting, WebEx, February 28, 2019
  - 112<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting, Valletta, Malta, March 15-17, 2019
3. Status of actions taken to achieve the goals:
- Finances: An *Ad Hoc* Finance Committee has been established.
  - R8 membership, Students and YP:
 

From the membership statistics, it may be concluded that the strategy followed in R8 with respect to membership is paying back. However the growth trend needs to be consolidated and improved. In order to achieve that, VC for Member Activities (MA) and the various Sub Committees under him, and the Student Activities (SA) Sub Committee, are already working in their strategies and goals.

    - Membership Development (MD) workshops are been planned
    - During the past four years R8 has been focusing on engaging and retaining Students and YPs. All the good practices are to be maintained and reinforced:
      - Regional Student YP (SYP) Congresses on even years,
      - Cross Sectional SYP Congress on odd years (8 in 2018: Gulf Council Cooperation SYP, Middle East SYP, Africa SYP, Eastern Africa SYP, Central European SYP, Hellenic SYP, Western European SYP, Nordic SYP)
      - Follow up of active Student Branches (SB), revitalize dormant SBs
      - Follow up of active Affinity Groups (AG): YP, WIE and LF (Life Members)
    - Training campaign of new volunteers for Humanitarian Activities already started
  - Technical Activities:
    - Action for Industry program is being maintained and reinforced with plans for engaging more companies, internships, and so on
    - Chapter Coordination Sub Committee has been revitalized. Corresponding members are all Division Directors and Society/Technical Council Presidents of R8.
    - Plans to improve flagship conferences and to increase the number of financial and technical cosponsored conferences are been analyzed.
  - Africa Council is going to celebrate its third meeting during the 112<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting.
  - R8 visibility: An *Ad Hoc* Publications and Communications SC has been established to coordinate existing publications (R8 News, R8 Today, Social Media, Webpage) and to analyze the opportunities of a R8 Technical Magazine.
  - Campaign to nominate R8 members to the various awards will be started soon.
  - Alingment of the Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals on new membership model, possible restructure of Regions and diversity, inclusion and professional ethics.
  - All SCs started their work well before the 112<sup>th</sup> R8 Committee meeting.
  - Sections reports show a high level of activities and engagement. Sections vitality is good in the overall.

Outlook

Local activities at the Section and Subsection level are the basis of IEEE. The operation of all R8 Sub Committees is vital to increase the benefits offered to R8 members and make IEEE their professional home. R8 OpCom will be overseeing and trying to help the operations of Sub Committees, Sections, Subsections, and Africa Council.

#### Points of Concern

The finance situation of the Region is a point of concern. While reserves for 2017 were nearly 1,000 K USD, there was a loss result (negative surplus). The Finance Committee needs to look into ways of reducing expenses and increasing the income, in order to reach a healthy cash flow.

#### Other issues to report

None.