

Minutes of the 113th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting, Valencia Spain, 12-13 of October 2019

Saturday, 12 October 2019

100: Procedural - Call to Order

Region 8 Director Magdalena Salazar Palma calls the committee to order and opens the 113th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming all delegates. She then asks to the R8 Secretary, Ana Maria Madureira, if there is a quorum. The R8 secretary confirms the quorum.

101: Procedural - Roll Call and Introduction

Director Salazar Palma highlights the presence of a number of guests, namely, IEEE Past President, Jim Jefferies, Vice President MGA, Francis Grosz, IEEE Executive Director, Stephen Welby, Region 1 and Region 7 Directors, and MGA Managing Director. Director Salazar Palma also refers the absence of IEEE President, José Moura, the IEEE President elect, Toshio Fukuda, the Region Vitality Coordinator, Alexander Szabo and Section representatives from: Algeria, Benelux, Iceland, Iraq and Uganda.

All Section representatives introduce themselves by stating their name, the Section they represent and their respective position. All other attendees introduce themselves by stating their name and the function they have within IEEE.

102: Procedural - Welcome by Spain Section Chair

Jesús Fraile Ardanuy, Spain Section Chair, welcomes all to Valencia, Spain.

103: Procedural - Introductory Remarks

None.

104: Action - Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consists of the approval of the minutes of the 112th meeting in Valletta, Malta, as well as the approval of the OpCom member reports, the Sub Committee reports and the Section reports. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda is put forward by the Director Salazar Palma and seconded by Finland section chair. It is approved unanimously.

105: Action - Approval of the Agenda

The motion to approve the changes in the agenda is put forward by the Director Salazar Palma and seconded by Kenya section chair. It is approved unanimously.

106: Discussion - IEEE Region 8 Director's Address

Director Salazar Palma makes her address reporting the most relevant activities since last committee meeting and some membership statistics. R8 Director referred that Region 8 membership has decreased by 1.5%, however some sections met their recruitment and/or retention goals for the year.

Director Salazar Palma makes a summary of Region 8 Operational Units(OU) status, since last meeting, referring the new OU formed:1 section; one subsection; 46 chapters formed 13 Student Branches; 26 Student Branch Chapters; 1 YP AG; 3 WIE AG; 6 Student Branches WIE AG and 1 new LM AG.

Next, Director Salazar Palma presents the progress towards the goals Achievement, namely:

- Finances: Ad Hoc Finance Committee established;
- Membership, Students, YP and WIE: SA SC and MA SCs have done an outstanding job in improving their activities;
- LM AG Chairs held meeting yesterday, here in Valencia;
- Technical Activities improved through the work of TA SCs;
- Africa Council celebrated its fourth meeting yesterday, here in Valencia;
- Alignment of the Strategic Planning SC with IEEE goals on new membership model, possible restructure of Regions and diversity, inclusion and professional ethics;

- Sections reports show a high level of activities and engagement. Sections vitality is good in the overall.

She reports also some of the topics dealt with during the IEEE BoD and MGA meetings attended.

Finally, Director Salazar Palma presents and describes her calendar since last meeting and makes one last tribute to David Tobechejuwu Okereafor, IEEE Nigeria Section Webmaster (December 1990 – April 2019).

107: Discussion - IEEE Past President's Address

IEEE Past President, Jim Jefferies starts his address describing IEEE as a global network that provides unique opportunities and engaging technical experts from around the world.

Then, Jim Jefferies revises the role of IEEE as a technical professional association in society and presents the 2019 IEEE Strategic Agenda, adopted by the IEEE Board of Directors on 21 January 2019 as an evolving document.

The 2019 IEEE Ad Hoc Committees are identified, and the IEEE Strategic plan refresh is described to help guide IEEE priorities through 2025.

Jim Jefferies makes some considerations about:

- Diversity and Inclusion at IEEE as a global organization. Why diversity and inclusion is important for IEEE?
- IEEE's Role in promoting Professional Ethics;
- The value of IEEE Membership: Engage, Inspire and celebrate;
- Highlight the role of IEEE members in the creation of value;
- IEEE Volunteer Opportunities to impact the future success of the organization;

Finally, Jim Jefferies concludes his presentation and thanks to all volunteers for what they do day in and day out. Some questions arise from the audience, namely related with membership.

108: Discussion - IEEE Executive Director and COO Address

IEEE Executive Director and COO, Stephen Welby, starts his address making an overview of IEEE membership: Membership Distribution by grade Membership Distribution regions; R8 membership distribution and Top 10 countries in number of members. Region 8 has UK, Germany and Italy in IEEE Top 10.

Then, Stephen Welby, revisited the platform IEEE Learning Network (ILN) - the eLearning Library for continuing education, highlighting its advantages and identifying the traffic and usage of ILN by Region. Stephen Welby considers that Open Access (OA) is a critical topic - Open Access Policies are increasingly expected. Driven by Horizon 2020, Europe has been the most assertive in demanding OA compliance.

Stephen Welby, makes considerations about some IEEE programs and initiatives, namely:

- IEEE Publications Strategy and Goals;
- IEEE Supports Open Science & Reproducible Research;
- IEEE's Evolving Open Access Program;
- IEEE Open Access Project Dashboard;
- IEEE Volunteer Expense Reimbursement System (CONCUR - communication material and training available);
- IEEE day – celebrating 10 years – presenting some impact information.

After that, Stephen Welby, presents:

- the 2019 IEEE Annual Election Results. Katty Land was elected for 2020 President-elect;
- IEEE sections Congress 2020, to be held in Ottawa, Canada, 21-23 August 2020, as the opportunity of leading our global technical community. Costas Stasopoulos is the Region 8 Coordinator;
- 200th milestone celebrated – history center Highlights.

Considering the increase of aggressive campaign of phishing targeting to IEEE volunteers and attacks on our systems, the topic Cyber security is treated by Stephen Welby. Some Cyber Security threats and actions to protect ourselves and IEEE are stated, considering the different sources (phishing email, payment requests and phone scams).

Finally, concludes his presentation revising his key focus areas strengthening and growing IEEE for the future. Some questions arise from the audience, namely related with membership, decreasing of members and impact of the Open Access.

109: Discussion - IEEE Region 1: Identifying Member Journeys and Interface Points for Engagement

IEEE Region 1 Director, Babak Dastgheib-Beheshti, starts his address “Identifying Member Journeys and Interface Points for Engagement” thanking the invitation to attend R8 meeting.

Babak Dastgheib-Beheshti, characterizes Region 1 describing the geography and its composition (sections). Then, he referred some organized events related industry, WIE, regional students and YP events. Presents some statistics, making an overview of the members by section and an overview of the membership evolution based on the Geographic IEEE Membership Summary.

He makes a reflection about “Understanding Our Journey” for Region 1 to establish a Regional Level multi-year Strategy that embodies the IEEE Corporate goals as well as R1 realities. Describes the journeys (Student, Academic, Industrial, and Interrupted Journeys) by grade and challenges associated to the followed path (academic and industry). What IEEE can/must to do? Babak Dastgheib-Beheshti tries to systematize journeys according their needs and transitions. Identifies the services that R1 must give to the different transitions.

110: Discussion - IEEE Region 7 Director’s Address

Maike Luiken, IEEE Region 7 Director, focus her address on the topic SC 2017 – Recommendation # 3 Implementation Plan and the invitation to SC2020, Ottawa, Canada.

Maike Luiken revises the Recommendation # 3 - Strengthen and Recognize Industry, Academia, Government Collaboration and Partnerships and identifies the proposed implementation steps:

- Recommendation to have industry representatives on Section (Executive) Committees;
- Create a Section Award for Industry/Academia/Volunteer Collaboration;
- Formation of industry groups (interest groups) at the section level;
- Develop a nimble/flexible “Future Technologies or Special Topics” Group/Interest Group at the local level within the Section and Chapter Structure potentially reporting up to MGA and TAB;
- Organize multidisciplinary Industry/Academia/Volunteer/Government events focused on 'hot' issues;
- Develop a public communication platform to develop projects and share results;
- Create a “dating” platform to communicate Industry issues searching for solutions and possible “applications” of research results to the solution providers;
- Addition of a “Technology Readiness” Indicator for Commercialization to Xplore.

Finally, Maike invite all and stimulate the participation on section congress in Ottawa, Canada, in August 2020.

Social Coffee Break

111: Workshop - IEEE Inspiring Leaders Event

The activity “IEEE Inspiring Leaders”, seeks to bring IEEE leaders closer to student and Young Professional IEEE members, in order to motivate and inspire them. For this purpose, distinguished IEEE members participate in an open interview-discussion, in which 5 participants talk about different aspects of their both professional life and, their experience in IEEE:

- Ana Cigarán, R8 WIE Chair;
- Mona Ghassemian, UK&Ireland Section Vice-President;
- George Michael, R8 Electronic Coordinator;
- Maike Luiken, R7 Director;
- Péter Nágy, IEEE Conferences Committee member.

In this manner, the event attempts to gain an insight into who are the leaders of IEEE.

Social Lunch

201: Discussion - IEEE VP, MGAB, IEEE Managing Director, MGA: Strategies & Directions

Francis Grosz, IEEE MGA Vice-President, starts his presentation by describing new membership models and opportunities Ad Hoc and presenting the objective and phased approach the Platform Subcommittee. Then, he makes some considerations about the New Businesses Subcommittee and describes its goals (marketing plan for the app). Francis Grosz presents the IEEE Ad Hoc Subcommittee on membership price and value and describes its mission and objectives. Finally, Francis Grosz presents his Vision and Focus for 2019 and the MGA Strategic Direction 2020. Describes several initiatives under this topic.

Some questions arise from the audience, namely related with Vtools evolving to support chapters and to app feedback and testing.

202: Discussion - Strategic Planning Committee

Antonio Luque, R8 Director elect, presents himself and Martin Bastiaans as the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) representatives. He makes a revision of the SPC Committee vision and mission. Then, he revises the geography of the world according to IEEE. The IEEE organization, members distribution by region and regional representation in IEEE governance is analyzed. Region alignment arises from the feeling that more geographical diversity is needed at the Board of Directors to increase representation of R8 and R10 membership at the Board. However, a constraint exists - to keep the number of Region Directors in 10. Different proposals are described referring that the split of R8 could be proposed by MGA, since

Some questions arise from the audience, namely about the split process and if the members can participate voting this option. Antonio says that the decision does not depend on the members. Martin argues that we are not talking how to split. No plan until now. Stephen Welby and Francis Grosz argue that give more representatives to R8 and R10 implies a legal procedure to update the constitution and the agreement of the other regions. This could be difficult to obtain.

Director Magdalena Salazar Palma clarifies that R8 OpCom recommend thinking about and the need to socialize the topic. Antonio concludes referring that we have time and he will wait for suggestions and feedback.

203: Discussion - Student Activities

Region 8 Student Activities (SA) Vice Chair, Maciej Borówka, presents the members of the SA Sub Committee highlighting the regional diversity and the quality of the developed work by his team.

Then, he describes the defined points of the R8 SA agenda:

- Reviewed the goals of R8 SAC;
- Student paper contest (SPC) - the IEEE R8 Student Paper Contest is described namely defining What, Why and Who can apply to SPC. Some statistics are presented about 2018 submissions and the short list of five finalist papers to EUROCON 2019;
- Awards and contests 2020 - the process of submission for the Awards Submission 2020 and the Awards Campaign 2020 is described. Committee members are stimulated to promote submissions.
- Student Branches&Chapters - Some statistics are presented to highlight the growth of Student Branches, Student Branch Affinity Groups, and Student Branch Chapters. Maciej referred the section student representative training program to support students at the bureaucratic tasks like reporting. Makes some considerations about the funding associated. Maciej Borówka makes a special request to sections chairs: stimulate the Students Branches reporting in order to be eligible for rebate; the solution could be solved through the section student representatives training program: encourages all section to appoint a SSR to deal with SB support; OU analytics provides some information to use to support this process.

- Electronic Communications - identifies the objectives for social media channels (Instagram – reach 5K followers; Facebook – reach 11K likes; Webpage – reach 5K followers; LinkedIn will come soon).
- Projects and initiatives - gives some hints and describes new ideas considering Projects and Initiatives.
- Cross-Sectional Congresses & R8 SYP Congress – Presents some information about: R8 Cross-Sectional Student and Young Professional Congress Manual, the call for proposals for Africa Student & Young Professional Congress; the 2019 Cross-Sectional Congresses places and dates; the organization of the Perspective Women in Tech summit; SYP Congress 2020 will be on July in Gothenburg – Sweden.

Some questions arise from the audience, namely about the SB reporting, some comments about significant changes and ambiguity on the report, short time and under the academic end moments. Efforts will be developed in order to reduce these issues.

Social Coffee Break

204: Discussion - Member Activities

Region 8 Member Activities (MA) Vice Chair, Adeel Sultan, starts his report by revising Key Focus & Objectives, the scope of some interest groups from YP to LM (WIE, HuA and HA), and some achievements, since last meeting, are referred. Adeel Sultan presents the team, thanks to all the collaboration and requests Sub Committees Chairs to present their report.

Young Professionals (YP)

Young Professionals sub-committee chair, Vinko Lesic, starts his reporting by describing the work developed by R8 YP based on learn, lead, repeat philosophy. After that, he presents the YP team and defines the sections allocated to each member of the team and their contacts.

Vinko Lesic describes R8 AGs activities; YP funded events in 2019 and YP programs (STEP, Meet Up and Local activity) financed in 2019; and various events and activities related with the R8YP co-organized events – XS SYPs and the R8YP co-organized events – YP Programs. Highlight some information related with New programs in 2019, namely the R8 Entrepreneurship Initiative; the IEEE Foundation and the R8 Connecting Experts based on Distinguished Lecturers to companies. Some information about achievements to date in numbers since last meeting and YP Membership in 2019 distribution is presented. Vinko describes some activities and events developed under the 3C, Communication, Cooperation & Collaboration strategy with local AGs & Sections, within and beyond Region 8. He concluded his reporting summarizing the achievements to date identifying the newly added goals, the delayed and changed.

Membership Development (MD)

Membership Development (MD) sub-committee chair, Ievgen Pichkalov presents the MD Sub Committee members, revises the MD SC main goals and identifies some activities developed under the sub-goals: IEEE R8 Volunteers Training workshop during 2019;

- New goals teleconference for all Sections MDO;
- Monthly MD Webinars;
- Monthly R8 MDSC Report; and Cooperation with all Section and subcommittees.

Then, Ievgen Pichkalov presents some statistics highlighting the evolution of MD until August 2019, and congratulates the 11 Sections that met both recruitment and retention goals for 2019.

Ievgen Pichkalov concludes his reporting stimulating the participation of all sections MDO.

Women in Engineering (WIE)

WIE Sub-Committee Chair, Ana Cigaron, starts by presenting WIE SC members. Then, she describes some activities and achievements during the period March-October 2019 related with the main drivers for WIE in R8: Vitality; Awareness & Presence; Engagement; Active participation; Direct and continuous contact with members and Cooperation & Synergies. After that she presents a WIE statistics report, the

activities/initiatives planned, some proposals for improvements and identified the participation of IEEE WIE R8 in events 2019 and the forecast for 2020.

Ana Cigaron, concludes her reporting by stating some points of concern, mainly related with the lack of funding to support WIE activities and to support training and events participation.

Publications and Communications (PnC)

Publications and Communications Sub-Committee chair, Christopher James, starts by presenting PnC SC members and revises the goals, the plan & communication plan. The benefits of SC to effectively and accurately communicate content and information for the benefit of Region 8 members (and beyond) are revised.

Christopher James concludes his reporting with the identification of obtained achievements from January 2019- to date.

Humanitarian Activities Sub-Committee (HuASC)

Maria Paun updated Humanitarian Activities SC 2019 on behalf of John Funso-Adebayo, chair of R8 Humanitarian Activities Sub-Committee.

Maria Paun starts by presenting the team and extended committee. Then, Maria presents a call for new volunteers. After, Maria Paun revises the mission and **HuASC** Short Term/ Long-Term goals and presents the achievements of since the last meeting. She describes some events attended with the specific humanitarian workshops held and identifies some Internal Administration tasks completed/planned and reports SIGHT groups active status and funding. Maria Paun presents the participation HuASC in WESYP, HuASC 2019 Plan (meetings, events), the Social Media planned actions and statistics and concludes with other matters from outreach team.

Life Members Affinity Group (LMAG)

Victor Fouad, Life Members Affinity Group coordinator, presents R8 LMAG activities developed since R8 Malta committee meeting (March 2019) mainly describing the administrative status of R8 LMAGs at August 2019, highlighting the approval of the formation of the IEEE Egypt Section the 14th LMAG in R8. Then, he describes the efforts and initiatives done to increase the number of LMAGs in R8.

Victor Fouad reports the organization and results of the 3rd Meeting for Life Members Affinity Groups (LMAGs) of Region 8 held at Valencia, Spain, on October 11th 2019 in under the theme “Potentialities of Region 8 LMAGs activities in support of Sections' Operating Units”.

Victor Fouad concludes his reporting with a summary of LMAGs Activities January – September 19 and thanks to all that collaborate in the organization of the 3rd meeting for LMAGs.

205: Discussion - Nominations and Appointments: Report and Election Instructions

N&A member, Vera Markovic, describes the procedure of nominations submission and gives an overview of the N&A process for the Region 8 elections for 2019 tasks:

- Slate of candidates for the positions of R8 Vice-Chairs (one-year commitment). For this were received 7 nominations in total for Vice-Chair positions.
- Slate of candidates for the position of the R8 Director-Elect (six-year commitment). For this were received 6 nominations for candidates for Director-Elect.

The IEEE R8 N&A Sub Committee meet in Budapest, Hungary, 31st August. For the slate of candidates for the positions of R8 Vice-Chairs, R8 N&A decides to nominate the current Vice-Chairs based on the advantage of mandate continuity.

So, there are the following candidates for Vice Chair positions:

- 2020 Vice Chair, Member Activities: Adeel Sultan (UAE)
- 2020 Vice Chair, Student Activities: Maciej Borówka (Poland)

- 2020 Vice Chair, Technical Activities: Sohaib Sheikh (UK & I)

The election process itself is described as follows:

- There will be presentations of 5 minutes from the candidates running for the 3 positions.
- We will have one candidate for each position.
- Discussions about the candidates and voting will be done in executive session.

For the slate of candidates for the position of the R8 Director-Elect (six-year commitment) R8 N&A nominates two candidates:

- Igor Kuzle
- Vincenzo Piuri

206: Discussion - Presentations of VC's Candidates

Vera Markovic calls all candidates for the first VC's positions to make their presentations. Presentations can be found on the meeting website. After the presentations, the audience formulate questions to the candidates.

207: Executive Session - Discussion on Election candidates and Voting

All discussions and voting were held in a closed executive session.

208: Discussion: Presentation of election results

Vera Markovic presents the results of the elections and the confirmation of the candidates:

- 2020 Vice Chair, Member Activities - Adeel Sultan (UAE);
- 2020 Vice Chair, Student Activities - Maciej Borówka (Poland);
- 2020 Vice Chair, Technical Activities - Sohaib Sheikh (UK & I).

209: Procedural - Closing of day one

Director Magdalena Salazar Palma closes the first day of the meeting and gives some information regarding the city tour and the gala dinner.

210: Social Group photo

Sunday, 13 October 2019

300: Procedural - Call to Order

Director Magdalena Salazar Palma welcomes everybody back to the second part of the meeting and then asks the R8 Secretary, Ana Maria Madureira, if there is a quorum. The R8 secretary confirms the quorum.

301: Discussion - Technical Activities

Region 8 Technical Activities Vice Chair, Sohaib Sheikh, starts his report by emphasizing the work developed by the SC team and making the context of the SC on technical activities and presenting what has been accomplished in 2019 in the several TA Sub Committees.

Then, he revises what has been accomplished under the defined TA focus:

- On benefits for R8 members;
- Efficient and coordinated management;
- Revitalization of inactive programs/sub committees;
- Increased Collaboration between Sub Committees, with Boards and Sections.

Sohaib presents new/improved programs or services, as opportunities for sections, related with: Standards speaker and workshops program; PEASC programs – Speaker program and Alpha Engineers; R8 Entrepreneurship Week and the increased financial co-sponsorship of Conferences.

Then, all SC chairs present their report.

Chapters Coordination Sub Committee

Albert Lysko, Chair of Chapters Coordination Sub Committee (ChCSC) starts by presenting the SC members. Then, Albert Lysko revises the SC goals and its progress (KPIs) and the plan for the rest of 2019 and 2020, continuing addressing SC goals through existing activities and seeking for more possibilities for improvements. He presents some developed activities and refers the updated info on SC web pages. He reminds Section chairs that the Chapter leadership elections may need to be held.

Albert Lysko concludes his presentation reporting the status on R8 Chapters considering the 46 new chapters and SBC's / 295 new joint chapters and the reported events by OU.

Conference Coordinator Sub Committee

Ljupco Karadzinov, Chair of Conference Coordination Sub Committee (CoCSC) starts by presenting the SC members. Ljupco also revises the Conference Coordination SC goals KPIs/Targets and the progress against defined goals referring the financially co-sponsored conferences and presents the call for future IEEE R8 flagship conferences 2022(call for host section had been sent). Other relevant information related with MGA TCS fee increase(proposal) is presented.

Ljupco Karadzinov, concludes his reporting identifying some point of concerns related: with need to improve the R8 flagship conferences outlook, especially the MELECON; the low number of financial co-sponsorship by R8 Sections and Chapters; Low quality of some IEEE R8 FCS and TCS sponsored events; and several cases of requests for TCS with for-profit co-sponsors with conflict of interest.

Professional and Educational Activities Sub Committee

Stamatis Dragoumanos, Chair of the Professional and Educational Activities Sub Committee (PEASC) starts by presenting the SC members. Stamatis then revises PEASC the progress on goals related with; the merge of Educational Activities and Professional Activities; the Re-Branding of new Committee; the Acceleration Contest 2019; the presentations in SYPs and Flagship conferences; the organization of webinars with Section Educational Activities Officers; the increase engagement in continuing education; the promotion of University level Programs and the organization of a Pre-Universities contest that includes TISP week.

Stamatis Dragoumanos concludes his reporting presenting some plans for the rest of the year and going to next year.

Action for industry Afl Committee members

Marios Antonious, Chair of Action for industry Sub Committee(Afl) starts his reporting by presenting Afl team members and highlighting the main developments on this SC. Then, Marios revises the Afl goals for 2019 KPIs and their progress, namely: expand Afl in more Sections; expand to new companies; secure new internships; the Mentoring initiative and the organization and participation in industry and entrepreneurship events.

Marios Antonious concludes his reporting by describing Afl Plans for 2019 and 2020 and the interest to collaborate with WIE and YP.

Standards Coordination

David Law, Chair of Standards Coordination Sub Committee starts by presenting the SC members. David Law also revises the SC goals and presents their progress mainly related with Standards speakers for events and conferences; Whole standards tracks at events and conferences; Section and student branch events; and Standards events.

David Law concludes his reporting by describing SC plans related with continue to progress current opportunities and to look for new opportunities. He stimulates sections to contact him if they are interested on Standard events.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with TCS fees and relationship between societies and sections. Some clarification is necessary on this topic

302: Info - Upcoming Flagship Conferences

Ljupco Karazdinov, Conference Coordination Sub Committee Chair, presents the upcoming Region 8 Flagship Conferences:

- EUROCON 2021 to IEEE Ukraine Section, Lviv, Ukraine, 6– 8 Jul 2021.
- AFRICON 2021 to IEEE Tanzania Subsection, Arusha, Tanzania, 13–15 Sep 2021.

Ivegen presents IEEE Eurocon 2021 to be held in Lviv, Ukraine, 6– 8 July 2021. Africon 2021 will be organized by Tanzania subsection, Arusha, Tanzania, in 13–15 September 2021. A video of Dr. Luzango Mfupe presenting Africon 2021 is played, since he did not come to R8 meeting.

Ljupco Karazdinov makes the report IEEE R8 flagship conferences 2019 and presents the progresses for those occurring in 2020.

Proposals for improvements for flagship conferences and suggests the read of the IEEE Principles and Polices for additional questions.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with TCS/FCS and flagship conferences organization.

303: Discussion - IEEE Collabratec – Region 8 Performance

John Day, Director, IEEE Member Products & Programs, makes a brief introduction about the topic “Uniting our Global Technical Community” and introduces IEEE Collabratec and the Premium level services for IEEE members. Then, John Day presents some statistics about the usage by IEEE members/non-members. IEEE members use Collabratec more than other registrants. Non-members have been growing. Analyses sections ranked by highest number and % of IEEE Members on Collabratec and member retention rates of those with account.

After that, John Day presents 2018 usability research findings and usage data (Site navigation upgrade/usability) and refers some 2019 implementation of Collabratec improvements. He refers the need to expand on recognition for participation, the launch of ambassador program and the upgrade of all marketing.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with the app with Collabratec, training, multi-lingue versions and support for L FAG.

304: Discussion - IEEE R8 Director-Elect Candidates Presentations

Costas Stasopoulos moderate the presentation of the candidates to R8 Director-Elect. He calls the two candidates for IEEE R8 Director-Elect to make their presentations. Presentations can be found on the meeting website. After the presentations, the audience formulated questions to the candidates

305: Discussion - IEEE R8 Director-Elect Candidates Q&A

After the presentations, the audience formulated questions to the candidates.

306: Executive Session - Discussion and voting

All discussions and voting were held in a closed executive session.

307: Discussion - Presentation of the voting results

Costas Stasopoulos presents the results of the elections and the confirmation of the candidates for the position of R8 Director-elect (2020-2022):

- Igor Kuzle
- Vincenzo Piuri

308: Discussion - Africa Council Update

Habib Kammoun, IEEE Africa Council secretary, starts his presentation by reviewing the distribution of members around Africa continent. There is no IEEE representation in 37 countries from the 54 (12 IEEE sections and 5 subsections). Then, Habib reviews the IEEE in Africa Strategy and the IEEE Africa Council constitution, membership distribution, the committee team and presents some organized meetings/conferences and virtual events. After that, refers some ongoing humanitarian projects (HAC), the activities developed under IEEE day in Africa countries.

Habib Kammoun concludes his reporting by presenting 2020 goals and future IEEE conferences in Africa, requesting R8 members support.

Social Coffee Break

309: Discussion - Treasurer and Finance Committee Report

Adam Jastrzebski, Region 8 Treasury, starts by defining the function and role of Region 8 Treasurer and the role of the Finance Sub-Committee. Then, Adam defines the main components of treasurer operations referring the current status on challenges and achievements. After that, Adam makes a report about Region 8 Bank Accounts status, the projection until the end of the year and presents the execution of Region 8 budget with a summary of the financial position. Some savings opportunities are identified mainly related with wasting on pre-booked hotel rooms for committee meetings which have not been used.

Adam Jastrzebski concludes his reporting by presenting the IEEE Internal Audit Results.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with the savings and some suggestions are done referring the possibility of having virtual meetings. Adam Jastrzebski argued that R8 do not have the technology to support the meeting. Director Magdalena Salazar Palma referred that face to face meetings are important and we make a good service talking with sections and Sub Committees.

311: Discussion - 2020 Budget Proposal

Adam Jastrzebski, Region 8 Treasury, starts by describing the current status of 2020 budget describing the figures to support the expenses for the full committee meeting in Ottawa, for IEEE Sections Congress. Adam Jastrzebski refers the need to reduce the budget (considering the negative balance) and the possibility of use the LTF reserves.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with the use of reserves. Some argumentation about the use of reserves only for investments and not for the operational activities.

312: Discussion - Concur Reimbursement System Presentation

Adam Jastrzebski, Region 8 Treasury, gives a brief training about Concur – the IEEE Volunteer Expense Reimbursement System.

Some discussion has occurred namely related with currency, and security issues. Steve Welby clarifies all of ensuring that the transactions are encrypted.

Adam Jastrzebski, refers that for those with difficulties in submitting their expenses using Concur, that they can submit it using the traditional way by excel sheet. But encouraging all to try to use the Concur system.

313: Discussion - IEEE Foundation and Life Members

Charles Turner, IEEE LM Committee Chair, starts his presentation under the topic “IEEE Foundation and Life Members” by describing IEEE Foundation purpose to realize the full potential of IEEE mission in transforming lives through the power of technology and education.

Charles describes the role of IEEE’s as a Philanthropic Partner, the IEEE Foundation Core Services and the programmatic focus area (illuminate the possibilities of technology; educate the next generation; engage a wider audience; and energize innovation). Then, Charles presents The IEEE Foundation Campaign and the IEEE programs that depend on donations to operate include the Priority Initiatives. After that, Charles Turner highlights the Impact of the IEEE Life Members Funds to the IEEE Foundation Grants and the importance of individual donations.

Charles Turner concludes his presentation by stimulating section chairs to increase support for their LMAG, (or begin the process of forming one) and to encourage member groups to apply for grants available from the Foundation (next deadline July 2020).

314: Discussion - IEEE Sections Congress

Costas Stasopoulos, Section Congress (SC) Coordinator, starts his reporting about Section Congress 2020, making an overview of IEEE Sections Congress (the theme and Venue/ Hotel status). He stimulates sections representatives to identify as soon as possible their representatives to SC.

Then, Costas Stasopoulos defines the SC goals and objectives highlighting the importance of increase member engagement and section vitality and identifies who should participate at the SC as primary delegates (one delegate from each Section). Costas describes the section congress procedures and identifies the SC congress hotels, the venue. Costas, describes the Hotel Reservation Process and identifies the expenses that will be covered by SC.

Costas identifies the Sections Congress Committee (the steering committee and the advisory committee) and the Region SC Coordinators (R8 – Costas Stasopoulos). Makes an update of the SC 2020 planning. He refers the regions IEEE Meeting in Conjunction with Sections Congress 2020. R8 will have the 115th committee meeting on 20-21 August. The need to arrange a hotel for the extra nights is stated. Novotel could be an option.

Costas Stasopoulos describes the current recommendation process. According to SC2017 Recommendation Process, 30 recommendations are expected, 3 per each region. The top 3 actions will be included on MGA Priority Project list. As key dates, Costas identifies as mainly importance, February or March 2020, since Region 8 should submit the list of Primary Delegates, Student, YP and WIE Coordinators.

Maike Luiken, Region 7 Director refers that public transportation in Canada is very good and offer help to identify solutions for hotel accommodation and R8 committee arrangements.

315 - Motions Presentation, Discussion, and Voting

Antonio Luque, R8 Director-Elect, conducts the presentation, discussion, and voting of the following motion to approve a new member - the Liberia Subsection - in the IEEE Africa Council. The motion is voted and approved unanimously. Motion passes.

316: Discussion - New Business

Director Salazar Palma give some insights about the topic of realignment of Region 8. Antonio stimulates the participation of all to participate in this process.

Some questions arise from the audience, namely about the increase the number of R8 representatives, the split process and the timeline.

Jim Jefferies argues that this discussion started about the balance on the dimensions. But should be guide to "How we can serve members better?" The timeline should have the focus in serving members.

Costas Stasopoulos suggests a workshop about the topic of realignment on the next meeting with 3 or 4 proposals. The need to think about the possible solutions. The workshop should be prepared in order to be effective.

Oman section chair suggests moving the most important topics for the first day of the meeting, like motions and other topics of discussion.

317: Discussion - Call for Proposals for Incoming R8 Committee Meetings

Director Salazar Palma makes some considerations about Incoming the R8 committee meetings for 2020:

- 20-22 March in Warsaw, Poland;
- 20-21 August 2020 in Ottawa, Canada (before IEEE Sections Congress 2020).

Director Salazar Palma describes the 3 options for 2020 incoming R8 Committee Meetings, which decision depends from the budget for three options:

- Full committee in Warsaw (March) and Ottawa (August)
- Full committee in Warsaw (March) and reduced committee in Ottawa (August)
- Reduced committee in Warsaw (March) and full committee in Ottawa (August)

The full committee meeting in Ottawa is a very good possibility of volunteers to learn. Director Salazar Palma requests the committee opinion about this issue and clarifies that the decision depends on the budget.

318: Discussion - Invitation to Next Region 8 Committee Meeting

Mariusz Malinowski, Poland Section chair, invites all to the 114th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting which will take place on 20-22 March 2020, in Warsaw, Poland. More information will be published on the meeting website.

319: Discussion - Closing Remarks

None

320: Procedural - Adjournment

Director Salazar Palma thanks everybody for their collaboration during the meeting. She asks for a motion to adjourn. The motion is put forward by R8 Director and seconded by South Africa section chair. The meeting is adjourned.

Social Lunch

End of Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Ana Maria Madureira
IEEE R8 Secretary