

Region Vitality

Matej Zajc

Goals

The goal of SVD SC is to have vital Sections serving their members. That means successful Section operation, timely reporting (officers, meetings, financials) to receive their rebates, retaining and recruiting members, training new volunteers and holding elections on time by taking care about the period of service following the rules in the MGA Operations Manual.

Regarding financial 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).

An important goal is a focus on Subsections having Region 8 as their parent in order to help them increase membership, run activities and perform reporting to receive the rebate and after years of successful operation to become Sections.

Continue activities in relation to completion of legal status of the remaining sections in Region 8.

Progress against goals since the last report

In 2020 the sub-committee was renamed to better reflect its scope. Previously named Region Vitality has become Sections Vitality and Development Sub Committee (SVD SC). The team members are Matej Zajc, chair, Andreas Koltes, member, Aleksandar Szabo, past-chair and Humphrey Muhindi, corresponding member. To better cover the scope of the committee the team was extended with a team of corresponding ex-officio members as well as with the chairs of 8 Sub-sections having Region 8 as their parent.

Points of Concern

Section vitality greatly depends on vitality of each OU in a section. Therefore, it is important that Section chairs with their teams continuously communicate with Sections' OUs and assist them in organizing activities, serving members and reporting.

At the end of year 2020 elections need to be organized in 30 sections. Chairs whose term ends at the end of this year are advised to look for new chairs and other committee members. All positions should be elected, preferably with more than one candidate for each position. As officers start date should be 1 January it is important to organize elections on time, well before the end date for current officers. It is advised that elections are organized in summer/autumn period to ensure an adequate transition period and opportunities for training of new volunteers.

Latest Region Vitality figures

Elections reporting: At the end of the year 2019 a total of 27 sections needed to elect or re-elect their leadership so together with the re-elected chairs 19 sections in Region 8 have newly elected chairs. It is important for sections to report elections results in vTools Officer Reporting. Congratulations to all re-elected and newly elected chairs!

Financial reporting: Great progress has been made in Sections financial reporting. Region 8 is now amongst top performing regions in IEEE in that respect. The number of sections qualifying for the 10% rebate bonus has increased. Andreas Koltes is doing great job by helping several Sections in finance reporting. As the reporting process is still active we will present more information at the Committee meeting.

Focus on Sub-sections: To help subsection in their efforts to start IEEE activities chairs from 8 Sub-sections are now corresponding members of the team for easier communication and sharing experiences and potential problems they might be facing.

Section's legal status: Currently, there are 29 Sections with their legal status completed. SVD SC will assist sections and MGA to complete section legal status of the remaining sections in Region 8.

Trends

We have managed to increase awareness and influence the culture of Sections regarding election process and reporting and we hope that these will be passed on to new officers. We therefore believe that results achieved in previous years with past chair Aleksandar Szabo can be maintained and also improved in the future.

Proposals for improvements

Here are some points what can be done to improve section vitality?

- Be familiar with the use of the IEEE OU Analytics and v-Tools and with the status for your Section.
- Form new chapters, student branch chapters, affinity groups and student branches based on available for your Section.
- Be familiar with the MGA Operations Manual (Section 9), the Geographic Unit Rebate Schedule, Requirements and Procedures (MGA Operations Manual - Section 9.0.E)
- Maintain Section website including all organizational units (chapters, affinity groups, student branches) always up to date.
- Continuously look for active members to become volunteers.
- Start with election activities early and encourage volunteers to run for positions in next elections.
- Organize elections on time, well before the serving end date of current officers. When doing so you will ensure an adequate transition period. Officers start date should be 1 January.
- Prepare a Program of activities for the calendar year. Start new initiatives.
- Have a chapter and affinity group coordinator in your Section and keep a vigilant eye on the activity of chapters and affinity groups during the year. Guide and help chapters and affinity groups and organize a yearly meeting/workshop with chapter and affinity group officers.

Other Issues to report