

Vice-Chair Member Activities

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Goals

The goal of the Vice-Chair Member Activities (MA) is to coordinate the several subcommittees by providing them with the resources and landscape necessary to operate efficiently as a whole and serve our members the best we can.

For the specific goals of each subcommittee, please refer to their individual reports.

As a result of the past COVID year, MA will also focus on:

- Welfare / Burnout prevention of our volunteers;
- Increase member engagement in an online framework;
- Strategy/Plan for safe re-introduction of face-to-face activities;
- Retention and growth of our membership in the post-COVID era, especially across the young layers.

Status

Subcommittee members have been appointed in January and kicked off work right away.

They have started by establishing their KPIs, plans for 2021 and budget. This information can be found on their individual reports.

In order to stimulate exchange of information and experiences, monthly meetings are held with all the MA Chairs on the first Monday of each month. The subcommittee Chairs have also been engaged to establish a direct communication link with all Section Chairs and encourage them to appoint local representatives/ambassadors to conduct activities and interface with the Region 8 subcommittee Chairs (e.g. History Coordinator, establishment of SIGHT Section Groups, WiE Affinity Groups, YP representatives / Young Professionals Affinity Groups, Life Member Affinity Groups and more).

While part of the subcommittees under MA focus on a certain age-group (as Young Professionals or Life-Members), other subcommittees serve the members with a specific interest (as Humanitarian Activities or Women in Engineering) and others operate transversely to multiple membership segments (as Membership Development, History Activities or Region 8 News). In order for the transversal subcommittees to reach out to the complete A to Z of our membership, cooperation with the subcommittees that have the experience with and knowledge of a bounded segment is paramount. In order to facilitate

this, an extensive liaison network was introduced in 2021. These liaisons have been appointment not only within MA, but also cross-VC to the Technical Activities Subcommittees and to the Student Activities Committee.

To address the career development needs of our members at large, a new AdHoc Committee was appointment on Career Initiatives. The committee was created with the charter to develop a new way to provide a service to members (and perhaps potential members) consisting in non-technical tools to better understand the job market, help them advance in their careers, or promote themselves in the corporate environment, in the fields of interest of IEEE and in the area covered by R8. The plan, including concept idea, format, pilot program, measurable KPIs, budget, timeline and required human resources will be presented at the Spring Region 8 Committee Meeting for discussion and approval.

Highlights

Membership Development:

- Focus on membership retention on a first stage (goal already surpassed);
- Focus on membership growth on a second stage (approx. 50% of goal achieved);
- Preparation of Virtual Training Workshops with possibility of hybrid format;
- Development of online materials (guidelines, operations manuals, ...);
- Personalised contact with Section Chairs by Region division among the subcommittee members.

Young Professionals:

- Continuation of the IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative;
- Continuation of the IEEE Connecting Experts;
- Development of a new program focusing on Graduate Student Members;
- Coordination of Cross-Sectional SYPs in online or hybrid format;
- Young Professionals Affinity Groups engagement and vitality.

Women in Engineering:

- Reactivation of Social Media platforms;
- Monthly Social Media Campaigns (February “Black Month History” and March “International Women’s Day”);
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science;
- Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day;
- Next step: focus on WiE AGs engagement and vitality.

Humanitarian Activities:

- SIGHT Section Groups engagement and vitality;
- Launched Humanitarian Voices;
- Preparations for the Humanitarian Tech Hackathon, together with IEEE Region 8 Entrepreneurship Initiative, Action for Industry and SAC;
- Engaging in the initiative “Famine in Madagascar”, together with IEEE Africa Council, IEEE Smart Village and Rotary District 5170;
- Kicking off Connecting the Humanitarian, together with Young Professionals and Women in Engineering;
- Participation in the IHTC 2021;
- Introducing a new Award – proposal submitted.

Life Members:

- Introducing regular meetings with the Life Member Affinity Group Chairs;
- Update of the LM AGs roster and vitality status;
- Identified 7 high potential sections for the formation of LM AGs;
- Enabling/Encouraging cooperation of LM AGs with local Chapters, YPs and SBs;
- Organisation/Facilitation of LM AG virtual lecture meetings – 7 so far;
- “Health and Welfare Calls” to other LMs during COVID crisis.

Region 8 News:

- Revamping of Region 8 Newsletter – first issue to be released in March;
- Establishment of a Pull/Push process – new online form available for submission of stories;
- Organisational structure under discussion.

History Activities:

- Complete revamping of the History Activities and History pages on the Region 8 website;

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- Two Milestones dedications in 2021 since January 1st: “Rotating fields and early induction motors” (1885-1888, Torino, Italy) and “Gravitational-wave antenna” (1972-1989, Pisa, Italy);
 - 5 additional Milestones in Region 8 approved so far for 2021;
 - Working on adding QR codes with additional information at the vicinity of Milestones plaques to increase visibility and awareness;
 - Encouraging Section Chairs or their respective History Coordinators to add Pokéstops at the Milestones locations to increase visibility and awareness;
 - Continuous update of the Region 8 History Book.

Outlook

After a couple of months busy on finalizing the budget, KPIs and discussing new initiatives for 2021, the subcommittees are now starting to put their hands to work.

There is some uncertainty as to how and when face-to-face activities can start, so the focus is on laying down the preparatory work for hybrid solutions, but continuing with a default online framework.

As activities start to roll and normal operation takes place, cross-subcommittee programs will kick-off.

Points of Concern

- Engagement of and service to members in an online framework: we need to reinvent our approach as an institution;
- Volunteers’ welfare in these new working conditions and the risk we face of losing valuable people if we stay idle;
- Membership looked gloomy when the year started, but the current numbers are already better than what we’ve seen last year. We must continue the good work done so far.