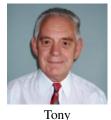## History Activities Coordinator   Martin J. Bastiaans

The History Activities Coordinator is assisted by Tony Davies, Past History Activities Coordinator (2013–2020), Antonio Savini, current IEEE History Committee Chair (2022–2023), and the current IEEE History Committee members Evgen Pichkalyov (2022–2023), Sergei Prokhorov (2022–2023), and Stefano Selleri (2023-2024). The team can be contacted via history@ieeer8.org.

| Martin | Tony | Antonio | Evgen | Sergei | Stefano |

Please check our webpages **Region 8 History Activities** and **History of IEEE Region 8** on a regular basis.

A. Focal points for 2023

Note: Items in red require actions by Sections.

- **IEEE Milestones**, see http://ieeemilestones.ethw.org/IEEE_Milestones_Program

  The IEEE Milestones program honors significant technical achievements in all areas associated with IEEE. It is a program of the IEEE History Committee, administered through the IEEE History Center. Milestones recognize the technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity found in unique products, services, seminal papers and patents. Milestones are proposed by any IEEE member, and are sponsored by an IEEE Organizational Unit, such as an IEEE Section, Society, Chapter or Student Branch. After recommendation by the IEEE History Committee and approval by the IEEE Board of Directors, a bronze plaque commemorating the achievement is placed at an appropriate site with an accompanying dedication ceremony.

  - Sections are advised to propose Milestones for significant achievements that took place in their Section. If necessary, a list of achievements suitable for Milestones is available, but we need volunteers – maybe a group of Life Members? – to work out a proposal.
  - An additional sign placed in the vicinity of the official Milestone plaque, with a QR code leading to a link with a description of the Milestone, may draw more attention to the Milestone and provides to the general public an easy way to more specific information about it.
  - The Region 8 Director has appointed **Claire Lajoie-Mazenc** as an AdHoc member of the Region 8 Committee. Claire will chair an Ad Hoc committee to increase awareness of IEEE Milestones and will report to the Region 8 Committee through the History Activities Coordinator. The AdHoc committee **IEEE Milestones Awareness**, consisting of Claire Lajoie-Mazenc (France), Stanimir Valtchev (Portugal), Levente Kovacs (Hungary), and Neecharl Ramprosand (Mauritius), should remind Section officers to stimulate nomination of Milestones in their Section, remind the importance of publicizing the Milestones that have been already awarded in the Region and their respective Sections, …, and should therefore define a plan for increasing the awareness and the messages that should be distributed to achieve this goal.

- **Documenting the history of Region 8 Sections** at the Engineering and Technology History Wiki, see https://ethw.org/

  The Engineering and Technology History Wiki (ETHW) is a wiki-based platform that allows IEEE members and Organizational Units to collaboratively preserve and share their history (including, for instance, the history of individual IEEE Sections). ETHW hosts the Milestones, Oral Histories, and Archives programs, and also allows IEEE members to contribute to Wikipedia-style topic articles or to preserve their own first-hand histories.

  - Sections are strongly advised to document their history at the ETHW website. The Region 8 history book *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* may form a source of information and of inspiration for what to preserve. For your convenience, the table of contents of the book has been included at the end of this report.
  - Sections are also advised to look for scientists and engineers who achieved important scientific or technical results that – although not qualified for a Milestone – may deserve a broader attention; such people could be interviewed and the interview can then be made public as an 'Oral History'.
  - Sections are advised to appoint a History Coordinator. Please inform me about the person in your Section who acts as the History Coordinator; I can then get into contact with these coordinators directly.

- **Region 8 history book**, available at https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf

  The book *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* presents a history of IEEE Region 8 spanning its origins from the IRE Region in Europe, through the IRE/AIEE merger forming the IEEE and subsequently to the present day Region 8 consisting of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Included are personal reflections of past directors, committee meetings and conferences, student activities, award recipients from Region 8, and Region 8 history papers presented at HISTELCON

2012. A number of archival documents are attached as appendices, including ephemera and minutes from early Region 8 Committee meetings.

The table of contents of the book has been added at the end of this report for easy reference.

- ○ This book is a living document and is updated whenever new material becomes available. Feel free to send any comments and suggestions for additions to m.j.bastiaans@ieee.org.
- ○ The book may form a source of information and of inspiration for what to preserve in a Section's history document.
- **Miscellaneous**

    - ○ **HISTELCON 2023**, *Science and Technology or Technology and Science?*, **Florence**, **Italy**, **7–9 September 2023** (in hybrid form). Contributions from Region 8 are solicited for this Region 8 flagship conference. Paper submission deadline: **15 April 2023**
    - ○ *History of IEEE since 1984* is a wiki webpage that is currently in progress. Contributions from Regions 7–10 are very welcome, otherwise the book may be USA-dominated.

B. Recent Milestone dedications in Region 8

- **Budapest**, **Hungary**, *Budapest Metroline No. 1*, 1896   #229 (59)
    Dedicated **20 October 2022** – IEEE Hungary Section
    In 1896, Budapest Metro Line No. 1 was inaugurated, the first underground railway designed specifically to use electric power, rather than adapted from steam-powered systems. It offered several innovative elements, including bidirectional motor carriages, the "goose neck chassis," and electric lighting in the stations and carriages. This line's design influenced later subway construction in Boston, Paris, Berlin, and other metropolitan areas worldwide.
- **Hayes**, **England**, *First computerized tomography (CT) X-ray scanner*, 1971   #231 (60)
    Dedication **26 October 2022** – IEEE UK and Ireland Section
    On 1 October 1971, a team at the EMI Research Laboratories located on this site produced an image of a patient's brain, using the world's first clinical X-ray computerized tomography scanner, based on the patented inventions of Godfrey Hounsfield. The practical realization of high-resolution X-ray images of internal structures of the human body marked the beginning of a new era in clinical medicine.

The total number of dedicated **Milestones** in Region 8 is currently 59, with 61 plaques located in 18 Sections: Benelux (4), Croatia (1), Czechoslovakia (1), Denmark (1), France (4), Germany (6), Israel (2), Italy (9), Norway (1), Poland (2), Russia (Northwest) (2), Serbia and Montenegro (1), South Africa (1), Spain (2), Sweden (1), Switzerland (2), UK and Ireland (20), and Ukraine (1). Note that France and UK and Ireland have one Milestone (#44) in common, with different citations on the plaques, and that one of the Milestones in Poland (#205) has a duplicate plaque in Germany.

In addition to the actual Milestones, there are 2 **Special Citations**: one in Serbia and Montenegro (#1) and one in Germany (#3). Special Citations recognize events or institutions which – although not technical achievements as defined by the Milestone Program – have contributed to the profession. Examples might be: museums or archives with substantial holdings pertaining to the history of electrical engineering and computing, the holding of a seminal conference, or the formation of a technical society.

C. Recently approved Milestones in Region 8

- **Grenoble**, **France**, *MPEG Multimedia Integrated Circuits*, 1984-1993; approved **30-09-2022**
    Dedication ceremony to be decided
- **Paris**, **France**, *The birth of electrodynamics*, 1820-1827; approved **20-11-2022**
    Dedication ceremony planned for **3 April 2023** in **Paris** and **4 April 2023** in **Lyon**
- **Skopje**, **North Macedonia**, *First robotic control from human brain signals*, 1988; approved **20-02-2023**
    Dedication ceremony to be decided

A list of all **IEEE Milestones and Special Citations in Region 8** with links to ETHW and to their locations on Google maps, including the ones that are currently under investigation by the IEEE History Committee, is available here (.xlsx).

D. Events

- **HISTELCON 2023**, *Science and Technology or Technology and Science?*, will take place in **Florence**, **Italy**, **7–9 September 2023**.

    HISTELCON is a Region 8 flagship conference held every two years on the history of electrical engineering, electronics, computing, their applications, and their impact on humanity's social development. HISTELCON 2023 is already the eighth HISTELCON conference, with predecessors in Paris (2008), Madrid (2010), Pavia (2012), Tel-Aviv (2015), Kobe (2017, together with Region 10), Glasgow (2019), and Moscow (2021).

    HISTELCON 2023 will be a hybrid event, held both live and online. The conference official language is English; all presentations will be oral. The conference will be hosted in the magnificent Florence city center on 7–9 September 2023 supported by the IEEE Italy Section.

The conference leading topic is *Science and Technology or Technology and Science?*, however, different topics are welcome, including but not limited to: Technology museums, Computers and microprocessors, Device and system vulnerability, Foundational research and Big Science, Measurement systems and units, Big corporations.
More information is available at https://2023.ieee-histelcon.org/.

- The **proceedings of HISTELCON 1 through 7**, available in IEEE Xplore, are now freely accessible for everyone without any payment:
  1) Paris, France, 11–12 September 2008
  2) Madrid, Spain, 3–5 November 2010
  3) Pavia, Italy, 5–7 September 2012
  4) Tel Aviv, Israel, 16–21 August 2015, held jointly with the 42nd annual meeting of ICOHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology: History of High-Technologies and Their Socio-Cultural Contexts
  5) Kobe, Japan, 7–8 August 2017, together with IEEE Region 10
  6) Glasgow, United Kingdom, 18–19 September 2019
  7) Moscow, Russia, 10–12 November 2021

E. Activities of the History Activities Coordinator

- Updated the **History Activities** webpage and the **History** webpage on the Region 8 website.
- Updated the **Region 8 history book** (.pdf).
- Updated the **Membership statistics at year end** (.xlsx); see also Section 2.6 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **Geographic Unit statistics at year end** (.xlsx); see also Section 2.5 in the Region 8 history book with several additional remarks.
- Updated the **list of Sections and Subsections in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Section 2.4 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Committee meetings** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 5 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Conferences** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 6 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of Region 8 Student Paper Contest finals** (.xlsx); see also Section 7.5 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of awards presented to members who reside in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Chapter 8 in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of IEEE Milestones in Region 8** (.xlsx); see also Section 9.2. in the Region 8 history book.
- Updated the **list of IEEE Directors residing in Region 8** (.xlsx).
- Updated the **list of Oral Histories related to Region 8** (.xlsx) with links to ETHW: see *Hendrik Van Brussel, an oral history conducted in 2011 by Peter Asaro, Indiana University, Bloomington Indiana*, for Indiana University and the IEEE. The interviewee is residing in the IEEE Benelux Section.

- 15/16-10-2022: Attended the October meeting of the IEEE Region 8 Committee in Cairo, Egypt.
- 27-10-2022: Attended the IEEE Region 8 Life Member Affinity Group meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, and gave a presentation entitled IEEE R8 History Activities Committee / IEEE Milestones (.pdf).
- 02-01-2023: Sent the Region 8 History Activities Final Report 2021-2022 (.pdf) to the people who have shown interest in the Region's history activities.
- 30-01-2023: Attended the January teleconference of the Region 8 Member Activities team.

F. Interesting weblinks

- *A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8* – https://ethw.org/w/images/a/a6/R8_history.pdf (.pdf)
- Engineering and Technology History Wiki – https://ethw.org/
- List of IEEE Milestones – https://ethw.org/Milestones:List_of_IEEE_Milestones
- List of achievements suitable for Milestones – https://ieeemilestones.org/List_of_Achievements_Suitable_for_Milestones
- List of all Oral Histories – https://ethw.org/Oral-History:List_of_all_Oral_Histories
- List of First Hand Histories – https://ethw.org/First-Hand:List_of_First_Hand_Histories
- More links can be found on the IEEE Region 8 History Activities and History webpages.

Table of contents of the Region 8 history book 'A short history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8'

- Preliminary steps towards and the early history of a new Region
  - Information taken from the Benelux Section archives
  - IRE Region in Europe – Bruce B. Barrow
  - A Region's 'Birth Certificate'
  - The start of Region 8 and its Sections – Robert C. Winton
  - IRE/AIEE Merger – Bruce B. Barrow
- The later history of IEEE Region 8
  - The creation of IEEE Region 10 and the extension of Region 8
  - The Eastward spread of Sections in Region 8 – Tony Davies
  - Yugoslavia Section from 1971 to 1992 – Baldomir Zajc
  - The present IEEE Region 8 Sections
  - Geographic Unit statistics at year end
  - Membership statistics at year end
- IEEE Region 8 Operating Committees and Appointed Members
  - Operating Committees
  - Appointed Representatives
  - Appointed Coordinators and Subcommittee Chairs
  - Past Directors gallery
- Personal reflections of Past Directors
  - Jean D. Lebel (Director 1965–1966)
  - Rolf Remshardt (Treasurer 1983–1998, Director 1999–2000)
  - Anthony C. Davies (Director 2003–2004
  - Baldomir Zajc (Director 2005–2006)
- IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
- IEEE Region 8 conferences
  - EUROCON 71 – Reminiscences by Fritz Eggimann
  - Conference activities in Region 8 – The first 30 years – Jacob Baal Schem
  - Conference activities in Region 8 – After the first 30 years – Baldomir Zajc
- Student activities
  - The early years of IEEE Region 8 Student Activities – until 1984
  - Student Activities Committee meetings – until 1984
  - Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
  - Cross-Sectional Student Branch (and GOLD / Young Professional) Congresses
  - Student Paper Contest Finals
- IEEE Award recipients from Region 8
  - Medal of Honor
  - IEEE Major Medals
  - IEEE Recognitions
  - IEEE Service Awards
  - IEEE Corporate Recognitions
  - IEEE Prize Paper Awards
  - IEEE Technical Field Awards
  - Presidents' Change the World Competition
  - Member and Geographic Activities Board Awards
  - Educational Activities Board Awards
  - Joint Awards Established with National Societies
  - Region 8 Awards
  - Outstanding Life Members Affinity Groups / IEEE Life Members Affinity Group Achievement Award
- Miscellaneous lists
  - Region 8 News
  - IEEE Milestones in Region 8
  - Miscellaneous
- History papers presented at HISTELCON 2012
  - Researching the roots of IEEE Region 8 – Martin J. Bastiaans
  - Setting up the basis for Region 8 – Jean D. Lebel
  - Conferences, technical societies and development – A history of synergy – Jacob Baal–Schem
  - . . . Go East, Region 8, Go East . . . – Anthony C. Davies
- Appendices
  - Minutes of the meeting of the IRE Inter-Sectional Committee
  - Birth certificate
  - IEEE Regions after the merger
  - Invitations/agendas for the IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
  - Minutes of the two IRE Region 9 Committee meetings
  - Invitations/agendas for the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings
  - Minutes of the early IEEE Region 8 Committee meetings