

NOTES from the IEEE Region 10 Annual General Meeting

2-3 March 2019

Introduction

The Annual General Meeting of IEEE Region 10 was held in Melbourne on 2-3 March 2019. The meeting commenced on the morning of the Saturday with a roll call and finished on Sunday evening with a casual dinner. Formal meetings were held all day on Saturday and for the morning of Sunday. The afternoon of Sunday consisted of a team building event, followed by dinner. The Saturday evening consisted of a more formal dinner with some entertainment and award presentations.



Key Issues of Note

Geo-realignment

There is a move to realign the 10 regions making up the IEEE to achieve a better balance of membership across all regions. This has been driven by the phenomenal growth within Region 10 over the last 10 years, as compared to other regions which have experienced much slower growth. Several options are being considered, which involve splitting Region 10 in some manner and then connecting bits onto adjacent Regions. This process and the options involved will emerge for discussion by members over the next couple of years.

Student Retention

Across Region 10 there is a problem with the loss of student members as they graduate from universities. The numbers entering the Young Professionals ranks is much reduced relative to those involved as student members. New Zealand experiences this effect on a small scale as compared to other countries such as India and China where the impact involves thousands of members. All sections are being encouraged to find ways to change this situation.

It was noted by some sections and supported by New Zealand that much of the leakage involves competing institutions, especially in those countries where there is a national Engineering Institution. In New Zealand this body is Engineering New Zealand which tends to attract graduate members due to the linkages to engineering practice within the specific country. In New Zealand this impact is not as pronounced for Electrical Engineers as compared to say Civil Engineers where membership of ENZ

is almost essential. In other R10 countries, the same imperative applies to Electrical Engineers and most young engineers cannot afford to be members of multiple institutions.

The issue is so serious that in conversation with the R10 Executive, they would consider some form of joint membership between institutions for Young professionals in order to counter this trend. We have been requested to explore options for joint membership which builds on our close collaboration between IEEE, IET and ENZ.

Geographic and Technical Collaboration

Most IEEE members are affiliated with a geographic region represented by sections and at least one technical body, such as a chapter or affiliate group. In many countries, these groupings operate quite independently which is causing some coordination difficulties for events such as conferences being held in various centres. Often the geographic entity related to the centre doesn't know what is happening in its area when events are organised independently by chapters and affiliate groups.

Improved coordination between these groups has been requested. For the Central Section in New Zealand, this is managed by inviting chapter and affiliate group leaders to join our monthly committee meetings. This hopefully enables us to keep activities coordinated and also enables assistance to be provided as required. Publicity is also achieved by linkages via the section website. This type of cooperation is to be encouraged by all sections and enhanced in any manner possible.

Technical Co-sponsorship

The rules around Technical Co-sponsorship of conferences and workshops are being re-enforced. The implementation of the fee structure for handling papers submitted to IEE Xplore is part of this process. The problem being encountered is that too many papers being submitted for publication in IEEE Xplore through the co-sponsorship process are not of a satisfactory standard and in fact many are subject to various forms of plagiarism. Papers being submitted for publication to IEEE Xplore must be properly reviewed and checked for any form of plagiarism as part of the Technical Co-sponsorship process for the event. Hence there is a need for sections to ensure that proper paper review processes are in place and executed for any event where co-sponsorship applies. The expectations need to be included in the MoU signed by both parties prior to the provision of Technical Co-sponsorship and then the section needs to play an active part in ensuring that the MoU expectations are satisfied.

The expectations need to include the following:

- All papers submitted are reviewed by 3 independent reviewers with suitable qualifications,
- All papers selected for presentation at the event are passed as satisfactory by recognised plagiarism identification software,
- Papers selected for presentation must be presented by the author or authors' before any paper can be submitted for publication into IEEE Xplore
- No event can guarantee that any paper will be published in IEEE Xplore, only that if accepted and presented, then the paper will be submitted for publication.

IEEE Xplore Publication Delays

The issues around Technical Co-sponsorship have resulted in a backlog of papers for publication in IEEE Xplore. Due to poor process around the paper review process associated with Technical Co-sponsorship of some events, the IEEE Xplore publication group are having to put considerable effort into the checking of papers before publication. In fact, the editorial board has had to remove some published papers in recent times due to plagiarism creeping through. All of this checking has slowed the publication process and it is not likely to improve in the near term.

WIE Affiliate Groups

The IEEE NZ Central Section was noted as not having a Women in Engineering affiliate group. We need to consider ways to address this issue.

Region 10 Newsletter

The usual request was made for articles for publication in the Region 10 newsletter. It is intended that the newsletter be published more frequently in future.

Region 10 Outstanding Small Section Award

The NZ Central Section was fortunate to receive the Region 10 Outstanding Small Section Award for 2019. A photo of the award presentation is shown below. The award is being held by Murray Milner.

