LMC REPORT TO REGION 1, 11 AUGUST 2018

On Saturday, June 23, 2018, the members of the Geographic Activities Board endorsed the efforts of the Life Members Committee to revitalize the Life Members Activity Groups. I am confident that the Board’s endorsement of the Task Force recommendations marks an important step towards fully engaging then Sections in our plan to develop Life member activities.

(On behalf of Charles Turner, Chair, Life Members Committee)

Louis A. Luceri, Region 1 LMAG Coordinator

**Report to the IEEE Foundation Board from the IEEE Life Member Committee**

The Life Member Committee met at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick on Friday April 20 2018, following the meeting of the Life Member Regional Coordinators the previous day.

The principal items for discussion were the updated Strategic Plan and the recommendations from the special Task Force set up under Joe Cruz (former Chair of LMC). In both cases, the underlying motivation driving the new initiatives proposed was the recognition that Life Member activities are not realizing the full potential that LMC believes to be both necessary and essential if IEEE is to meet its goals of fully serving older members. LMC also believes that the formal distinction between Life members and ‘older members’ is not helpful when the quality of membership experience is being addressed.

The key finding identified from this review is the current unsatisfactory status of Life Member Affinity groups (LMAGs). At present there are only 87 LMAGs, so that over 250 Sections are without any formal way of organising LM activities. Many of these Sections have significant numbers of Life members, in some cases over 100 LMs. Of the over 33,000 LMs across the 10 Regions of IEEE, it is clear that most are not experiencing a rewarding membership experience.

The LMC Task Force has therefore recommended that improving the status of LMAGs, at all levels of IEEE, be given a high priority, particularly by Sections. In those Sections without an LMAG there are three recommended actions:

1. In Sections where there are large numbers of LMs a new campaign to form LMAGs should be mounted: only 6 signatures (including one LM) are needed on the petition form;
2. In Sections with relatively small numbers of LMs, older members not yet qualified to achieve LM status should be formally invited to join with the LMs to form a new LMAG;
3. All Sections should appoint a LM Coordinator, with responsibility for ensuring that the needs of all older members (i.e. LMs, retired, and long-serving members) in the Section are adequately catered for. The Coordinator should be invited to serve on the Section EXCOM.

These actions place a specific responsibility on Section Chairs and their EXCOMS. For example, the Section website should routinely include news of LM activities and contacts, to enable older members to keep in touch. Improved communication with LMs not able easily to attend meetings and events should be investigated, including the use of WebEx and similar technology.

The roll-out of the new set of initiatives has begun with a pilot scheme in Region 8 under the direction of Victor Fouad Hanna, the Region 8 LM Coordinator.

Charles Turner (Chair of IEEE Life Member Committee) June 2018