

Report on IEEE Sections Congress 2011

Delegates from IEEE Sections worldwide met in San Francisco on 19-22 August 2011 to provide a grass roots list of recommendations to the IEEE Volunteer Leadership for action and implementation. 34 Recommendations were brought forth from the 10 Regions and 344 Sections for consideration and prioritization. There were actually 1133 attendees from 291 of the 344 Sections and 90 Countries were represented. 17% of the attendees were GOLD (Graduates of the Last Decade), our next generation of IEEE Volunteer Leaders.

The Primary Section Delegates voted on the IEEE Sections Congress 2011 Recommendations during the Closing Ceremony on Monday, 22 August. The following are the top 5 recommendations:

1. IEEE to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy to increase the number of next generation youth pursuing science and engineering careers.
2. As members maintain their IEEE membership over their years, IEEE must reward them for their loyalty. Rewards ought to be tangible and useful and can be done simply and inexpensively. Create Global Fidelity Programs including: (a) Continue membership Recognition 5-10-15-20 years of membership (b) Bonus for specific Benefits (e.g., reduced fee, IEEE merchandise, etc).
3. IEEE membership (including e-Membership) should include a Society membership as part of the basic membership fee.
4. Increased support to students in technical activities with grants to attend conferences and organization of technical competitions.
5. To encourage interest in pre-university students in engineering careers, IEEE to publish a subscription periodical (paper or electronic) targeted to high school students that highlights engineering activities of interest to those students. The periodical should also have articles promoting the benefits of an engineering career and what the students can do in college to get involved with IEEE.

The Aerospace & Electronics Systems Society (AESS) has a vested interest in Recommendations #1, #3, and #4. AESS has both Student and GOLD members of the governing body of the society. And, if recommendation is approved (I believe the IEEE volunteers are already working on this one), AESS will be providing an electronic membership for selection. AESS is currently performing #4 thru organizations of technical competitions (Student UAV projects).

Among the attendees were members of AESS: Ram Gupta, Bob Lyons, and Ron Ogan.



Paul Kostek, Past President of AESS, served as the fundraising chair of Sections Congress and is shown receiving recognition for his efforts. Paul is currently a contract engineer working for Boeing. Boeing was a Diamond Sponsor for the event and also sponsored the Partners' Lounge. Brooklyn Alexander, from Boeing Global Staffing, hosted the Partners Lounge and met many of the attendees. Many Boeing/IEEE members also attended including Tim Lee, Bob Robinson, and Jim Leonard, who is the Boeing/IEEE Company Focal.