

## REPORT

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TO: IEEE Member and Geographic Activities Board  
FROM: Howard Wolfman, Chair Life Members Committee  
CC: Karen Galuchie  
SUBJECT: 19 February 2022 Life Members Committee Report

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Following is the report of the Life Members Committee

### GENERAL INFORMATION

For those individuals not familiar with the activities and functions of the Life Members Committee (LMC), here is a brief overview:

**Life Members:** Approximately 38,000 members as of December 2021.

**Charters/Committees:** The LMC operates under two charters:

- MGA Operations Manual (Section 4.17)
- IEEE Foundation
  - Operations Manual (Section 6.0)
  - Policy & Procedures Manual (Section 2.4.C & D)

**Governance Structure:** The LMC is a joint committee of the IEEE and the IEEE Foundation. We have 9 voting members plus 10 non-voting region coordinators. For IEEE, we report to the MGA Board thru the MGA Member Engagement & Life Cycle Committee (MELCC). We also report to the IEEE Foundation (where our LMC is a Committee of the Foundation).

The chair of the LMC is a non-voting member of both the IEEE Board of Directors and the IEEE Foundation

**Financial:** The Life Members Committee activities and functions are financed thru donations to our Life Members Fund (LMF), primarily by its approximately 38,000 Life Members. We receive no funds from IEEE, MGA or the Foundation although we do receive staff support from them. We submit an annual budget to the Foundation, who provides banking and investment services to our LMC for which they receive management fees.

**Staff Support:** John Day is the LMC primary staff support. The MGA individual who was the secondary support person has retired and due to the challenge in finding and hiring replacement personnel, John is doing a yoeman's job in supporting the LMC.

There is there's considerable back-end and operational support that MGA provides to the Life Member program that is not visible to the LMC. Examples include:

- Printing, mailing, and replacing Life Member membership cards
- Administrative processes, roster updates, and communications related to Life Member Affinity Group formations and dissolutions
- Ongoing storage, hygiene, and security for Life Members data records - including executing on the annual process of LMs re-affirming their continuance with IEEE and updating records when LM's pass away
- Fielding and resolving inquiries of Life Members by the Contact Center

**Newsletter:** the mailing of our December newsletter containing a fund-raising envelope was significantly delayed to supply chain issues with the availability of paper; the receipt of the newsletter was also delayed due to slow processing by the US post office.

The 2022 plans for the newsletter include electronic distribution for the April and September issues and print distribution for the December issue (lesson learned – we will need to submit to the printer earlier than last year).

### **Goals and concerns for 2022 include**

Complete development of the LMC Website

Explore a simplified path for Life Member elevation to Life Senior Member

Continue to expand the number of Life Member Affinity Groups (LMAGs)

Implement our upgraded awards program

Develop a program for

- Virtual/hybrid meetings to serve those Life Members who are not in areas served by LMC Affinity Groups
- Comprehensive communications to inform LMs of these meetings and motivate them to participate

Create a Workspace on Collabratec; configure invitation and visibility settings

Review and if confirmed, expand the use of social media as part of the LM communications channels

Work with IEEE Societies/Councils who create Life Member Committees (two thus far - need to expect additional Societies/Councils to create Life Member Committees)

Fund raising (this is the financial engine that powers our activities)

- Participate in the IEEE Foundation's 50<sup>th</sup> year observance to facilitate donations to the Life Members Fund
- Promote greater participation in the existing Life Members Heritage Circle

Explore the feasibility of creating a mostly self-funded, face-to-face event targeted at Life Members for late 2022 or early 2023. The event could include some or all of the following

- Organized like a technical conference with content of interest to Life Members
- May be held in conjunction with a TAB meeting, an IEEE BOD meeting, (or at a destination resort or cruise where attendees self-fund their travel expense – the San Antonio LMAG sponsored a successful self-funded tour)
- Invite C-suite decision makers and thought leaders, industry experts, etc.
- Depending on venue, LMC could host tours and outings for attendees to corporations and points of interest