

Region 9; R9; Latin America - Region 9

R90902 Paraguay Section



IEEE

FIELD SERVICES

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Mr. Felix Kemper

Dear Ing. Kemper:

As you may know, Region 9 Director Luis Gandia and I have been in communication regarding the proposed IEEE Paraguay Section. He has also provided a copy of a recent message from Ing. Gustavo Gonzales La Puente. We are responding to it now.

The concerns regarding Pending Member (PM) status granted to some Paraguayan engineers applying for membership were raised at the Regional Activities Board meeting, with Membership Services Manager Roseann Schulz. She has explained the process, and the status of these engineers, as follows:

When a new member application comes in, the member qualifications (including school, degree program and so on) are checked against an extensive list, created and maintained by IEEE for this purpose. If the school (or program) provided on the new member application does not appear on the list, the member is given the PM status. Services are begun, the card is issued, and a letter explaining the status, and requesting additional information, is sent to each individual. One of the challenges of meeting member need in an organization which truly spans the globe is receiving and verifying the local school and program information (as well as all the potential names for a school). Any help which can be provided in this regard would be appreciated. An application is also considered incomplete if there is no endorser (reference).

Once the "missing" or unclear information is obtained, the new member goes from PM to M status, and a new card is issued. If information is not received within (90 days overseas), the member is put up as Associate.

As we work together to build the membership, with the goal of Section development in mind, there are a few approaches to consider - in sequence or parallel.

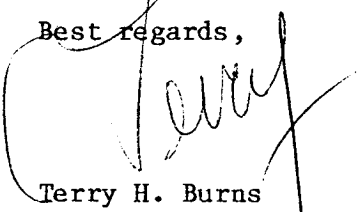
First, the IEEE bylaws support and recognize "contiguous Section affiliation." A copy of the current card is enclosed. For members who live in a bordering Section, but choose to be a part of another Section, this is an option. We see the contiguous affiliation used most often in city/suburb situations, where engineers work in the city, but live out of town. I understand that Foz de Iguacu, in South Brazil, presents this type of situation. Any members declaring contiguous Section affiliation would be eligible to sign the petition to form a Paraguay Section.

Another approach would be to revise the territorial boundaries of the bordering Section (s) to accommodate the needs of the local members. Modification of existing bylaws, as well as development of new bylaws for a proposed Section, would require the cooperation and approval of all bordering Sections. If the Brazilian border city of Foz de Iguacu, for example, served mainly engineers from Paraguay - consideration might be given to extend the Paraguay Section territory to include the city, and the South Brazil territory to exclude it. These matters are dealt with locally, among the volunteer leadership on behalf of the members. Assistance in bylaw interpretation and revision can come from the Region or from headquarters. Any administrative revision required is handled in Piscataway by the Section/Chapter Support staff.

A third approach would be the formation of a subsection. Details are attached, but you may feel that Paraguay has moved ahead of this stage. I include it for your consideration.

As we work to properly qualify those Paraguayan engineers now hoping to become members, and toward the development of the Section, I hope you will contact staff as needed. A list is attached. Cindy Poko handles unit formations, Gloria Gutwein (who is fluent in Spanish, having lived for some time in South America) can assist you in many ways, and I am at your service.

Best regards,



Terry H. Burns
Manager, Section/Chapter Support
Field Services Dept.

cc: Luis Gandia
Gustavo G. Lafuente
Cindy Poko
Gloria Gutwein
Roseann Schulz