Did you know that the last year the IEEE Strategic Research committee led a survey for all IEEE societies to assess member satisfaction, identify what are the benefits that members find most important, and understand membership demographics? The bad news is that only 467 members from Latin America responded to the survey, 20 respondents from ComSoc only.

The sample was of more than 92,000 IEEE members, the response rate was of 22%. There were two main groups selected for data comparison: 1. members of societies and 2. members of IEEE only without any society affiliation.

Let me tell you briefly about some interesting results for ComSoc:

- Both groups ComSoc and IEEE members only are highly likely to renew, intend to remain involved, and are optimistic about IEEE product offerings in the future.
- Both categories respondents see ComSoc and IEEE memberships as important to their profession.
- However, they are less likely to feel personally connected or to see either as an important part of who they are.
• Technical resource membership benefits score highest in satisfaction for all respondents.
• Median age of respondents from the ComSoc society group was 55 and for IEEE only group 46.

Now, I would like to share some valuable results about ComSoc in Latin America (See figure 1):

• The top 5 reasons for maintaining the ComSoc membership are:
  1. Remain current
  2. Obtain publications
  3. Professional networking
  4. Local chapter activities
  5. Reduced conference fees

• Those benefits with highest satisfaction ratings are:
  1. Conferences
  2. Printed journals/ magazines
  3. Online meetings/ webinars
  4. Printed books
  5. Online journals / magazines

• The value of the ComSoc membership by LA members is the least from all other region respondents (67%).
• The highest key performance indicators for ComSoc LA members are:
  1. Likelihood to recommend
  2. Important to professional growth
  3. ComSoc is their primary technical community

• However, the lowest indicators for ComSoc LA members are:
  1. Feeling ComSoc is an important part of who you are
  2. Value for price
  3. Feeling connected to the Society

• LA respondents from Academia see the key performance indicators above the average while LA respondents from the Industry see the performance indicators behind the average. The lowest indicator being, “The society has the resources I need.”. For both academia and industry groups in Latin America the indicator being: “Value for price” is behind the average. See figure 2.
What do you think about this? Does it match what you have experienced in our community?

We can increase the value of our community by working together. How can we do this? First, I would like to ask you is to participate in these types of research, they are defined precisely to find responses on how to improve, and for that your participation is a key element. The second thing is a task for us, the ComSoc volunteers, to continue looking for strategies to make the members feel important and connected to the Society. The last, but not least, is to improve the portfolio of products and services offered for the industry practitioners. ComSoc is about a community that believes communications and network professionals cannot advance the technology of the future without collaboration. But because we know that we connect communications professionals, we can connect the world. We can only do that with your feedback and involvement. I know you will all answer the call.

Figure 1. ComSoc LA survey’s results

Figure 2. Academia and Industry results for ComSoc LA

If you would like to share any comment on this, feel free to reach out to our Latin
American Board team at: comsoc.latam@comsoc.org. We would love to hear from you.

*Nury Ramirez.*

2020-2021 IEEE ComSoc Latin America Director.

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*It’s been a challenging time, but our ComSoc community is stronger than ever. How is this possible? Because of you, our members.*

5 Minutes and 3 Easy Steps to Make the Most of Your Membership

1. **Renew your membership** today (if you haven’t already) to ensure your uninterrupted access to the benefits that enhance your personal and professional life every day.

2. **Update your membership profile** to get the most relevant content you need, discover members who share your interests, learn how to elevate your membership level, explore leadership and volunteer opportunities, and find out about discounts. Simply log into your profile and update:

   - Mailing address
   - Professional and education information, employer type and certifications
   - Technical and membership interests
   - Types of communications you would like to receive
   - Election preferences
   - Age and gender

3. **Download the IEEE app and get the “comsoc experience”** to stay connected to news, magazines, people, and virtual events.
Exclusive to Communications Society members, select “Society experience” to enjoy curated content.

- News Feed: See what’s trending in the latest News from around IEEE
- Meetups: schedule ad hoc meetings
- Collaboration: collaborate with other IEEE members
- Connect: find members nearby with the IEEE global network at your fingertips
- Profile Management: set your profile preferences and view profiles of other members

The IEEE Mobile app is available at the App Store and on Google play.

Looking to see all that ComSoc offers? Check out our benefits page on the website.

STUDENT MEMBER? Use the FUTURE50 code to get 50% off your IEEE membership and then add on your ComSoc membership for just $1USD! Students who have already renewed or joined at full price can request a credit by contacting contactcenter@ieee.org.

We’re here to help! Please contact us or your local chapter and we’ll be happy to get you connected. Questions about your membership? Cindy Tiritilli, ComSoc’s new Membership Manager (c.tiritilli@comsoc.org) is happy to assist.

2021 is sure to bring new challenges but we are sure to overcome them together as a community

What's new at ComSoc LA?
ComSoc Panama “Capítulo Revelación” of 2020 of the IEEE Panama Section

ComSoc Panama has been awarded by the IEEE Panama section as the “Capítulo Revelación” of the year 2020 for their outstanding performance during last year. Despite the COVID19 pandemic they actively promoted the presentation and exchange of information among its members and the technical community in the country and the region during 2020. ComSoc Panama had a dynamic promotion using the social networks and their website. In addition, during 2020 ComSoC Panama proposed several initiatives that allowed them to win different grants. All this dynamic is reflected in its membership, which increased remarkable, including students, professionals, and new senior members. ComSoc Panama, led by his former chapter chair (2019-2020) Héctor Poveda, has achieved to consolidate a dynamic board of directors, balanced between the industry and the academia, with strong female presence. Nowadays, ComSoc Panama is a reference in Panama as a technical society in the communications field for academia, the industry, and the public sector. Congratulations to ComSoc Panama board of directors and all ComSoc Panama volunteers.
Rodrigo Calderón Rico was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. He received the B. E. degree with honors in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico, and continued the Master's studies at Universitaet Bremen, Germany, receiving M.Sc. in Communications and Information Technology. Then, he concluded the Ph.D. degree at Universidad de Guadalajara, in Computer and Electronics Science focusing on Cognitive Radio communications.

In 2008, he joined Intel Labs, then worked at Philips (Healthcare) in the United States, improving receiver capabilities for MRI systems. Nowadays he is an architect at Apple Inc. in Cupertino California working on Display and Sensing architectures.

He was a part-time lecturer at the Technology Center (CETI) in Guadalajara, teaching Communications and Signal Processing. His research interests are communications, signal processing, hardware architecture, and neuromorphic processing.

He has made contributions to intellectual property, and patents.
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Send us your suggestions and comments