

**ACTION**

**R8-02**

TO: IEEE Region 8 Committee 21-22 August 2014  
FROM: Brian Harrington, Region 8 Treasurer  
SUBJECT: Revision to collection of IEEE Region 8 donations

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- IEEE Region 8 values its capability to give some reasonable financial support to Students and to Young Professionals to enable them to travel to recognised International Conferences and to enhance their research interests by the presentation of papers on their work.
- IEEE Region 8 has in the past given some valued financial support to enable new and developing Geographic Units within Region 8 to undertake activity designed to encourage increased member and technical development within their geographic area of operation.  
Such projects may compete for financial support and be debated by the Region 8 Committee.

The student activity is funded from the Region 8 Donations account and is known as VCF (the Voluntary Contributions Fund). The financing of this fund depends on a voluntary once-a-year donation from the Region 8 membership at dues renewal time.

Region 8 support to Geographic Units, which is at the discretion of the Region 8 Director and at the direction of the Region 8 Committee, was funded by a SSVR (Section Support via Region) allocation from MGA.

The income to VCF has been substantially damaged by a past Business Management implementation by IEEE that had an untested and poor user interface. In spite of a consequential redesign and the efforts of Region 8 the income has not fully recovered.

SSVR support by MGA has been withdrawn.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

Resolved that a default value of USD 1.00 shall be inserted into the "Region 8 Fund" field of the IEEE dues renewal form.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is an inherent implication of USD 1.00 for each Region 8 member at dues renewal time. However, this field should be variable allowing for an entry of zero if the proposal is declined or for a figure of greater value to be entered.

**PROS and CONS**

Pros:

- The capability of Region 8 to award grants to students under the VCF scheme is much enhanced.
- IEEE Region 8 has improved ability to award financial support to approved Geographic Unit projects that is currently out of scope of the Region 8 Budget.
- This method of voluntary funds collection is simple and uses processes and IT systems that are already in place. Other approaches that have been considered are seen to be impractical or uneconomic and to require new processes and / or changes to existing IT processes.
- Such donations are given voluntary by members for particular and approved purposes and are therefore "protected". Cons:
  - A small maintenance to the annual IEEE membership dues renewal document would be required to insert the default value of \$1:00. The statement on the renewal document of the purpose of the fund should be reviewed.
  - There is a risk that a change in procedure might have an adverse affect on the amount of the income received.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Effective Year 2016 IEEE membership dues renewal cycle.