

Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator

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Overview

The Voluntary Contribution Fund (VCF) provides support for technical activities of members with low income (below \$10,000 per year). The main focus of the fund is to support travel and subsistence costs of researchers presenting their research at conferences in Region 8, which they would not be able to do otherwise due to the lack of finance. In addition, the fund supports technical activities of student branches and young professionals in low income areas of Region 8. The main sources of the fund are additional voluntary contributions declared by IEEE members during the annual renewal of their membership.

Status

The VCF has seen a stable incoming donation stream of approximately \$11,500 per year in recent years. In addition, the donation account holds a financial reserve to compensate donation fluctuations.

Year	Planned Budget	Donations	Approved Funds	Issued Funds
2014	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,576		\$ 6,602
2015	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,374	\$ 14,017	\$ 10,507
2016	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,480	\$ 10,507	\$ 8,365
2017	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,500 (expected)	\$ 6,100 (July)	\$ 4,430 (July)

At the time of this writing, all pending activities stemming from 2016 have been completed. In total, 13 grants have been issued for the previous year. For the current year, there were a total of 14 applications for VCF grants so far, out of which 8 conference travel grants have been approved supporting grant holders from 5 different sections. 4 grants have been rejected due to non-eligibility of the applicants, 2 further grants are currently awaiting completion of the application process.

Outlook

On the income side, the stable donation situation is expected to continue based on the trend from previous years. Based on already approved grants and pending enquiries, the target volume of grants issued will likely be achieved. A systematic publicity and promotion concept for the VCF is currently being developed alongside an overhaul of the application criteria and process. This is planned to be ready for implementation by the end of 2017.