

## **Voluntary Contribution Fund Coordinator**

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### **Goals**

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. The main sources of the fund are additional voluntary contributions declared by IEEE members during the annual renewal of their membership.

In order to fulfil the mission of the fund, the key goals for 2018 have been:

- Stabilize the income stream of the fund to at least \$10,000 per year by raising awareness for the fund amongst the membership.
- Continue to increase awareness of the fund amongst potential applicants in order to issue at least 15 grants per year making full use of the target budget of \$10,000.
- Continue to increase VCF publicity and promotion compared to previous years.

### **Status**

Over the course of the previous 12 months, the income situation of the VCF has been stabilized with the income from donations in that time frame totaling \$14,043. This is an increase of roughly 20% over previous years. This means, that the fund is in the fortunate situation to be able to continue operating at the target budget level of \$10,000 while stabilizing its reserves. This in turn will permit compensating future fluctuations of the income stream.

At the time of this writing, all pending activities stemming from 2017 have been completed and roughly 70% of the target budget for 2018 has been allocated to grant holders. During the previous 12 months, a total of 19 payments have been made to grant holders totaling \$9,121. That means that the fund continues to meet its budget target over a 12 month period with relatively minor fluctuation.

The VCF continues to see more diverse applications from a larger number for different countries, particularly from the African continent. In the previous 12 months, grant applications from 5 different countries in Africa have been approved, which is the highest number achieved over the course of the past 10 years. This was achieved by continuing to raise awareness of the fund with Section Chairs and conference organizers in Region 8.

The goals of the VCF set for 2018 have been achieved so far and this is likely to continue until the end of the year. The fund is in a healthy state of operation.

### **Outlook**

On the income side, the donation situation is expected to continue to be reasonably stable at a slightly increased level compared to previous years. Assuming reasonable management of the income stream in the future, the donation income will permit the VCF to continue operating at its target budget of \$10,000 and might permit a slight increase of the target budget in the future.

Based on already approved grants and pending enquiries, the target volume of grants issued will likely be achieved again in 2018. The measures implemented to increase diversity across application source countries already show effect and are expected to continue supporting increased application diversity in the future.

### **Points of Concern**

The positive operating situation of the VCF will require continued active management in the future in order to sustain it. Care must be taken to sustain both the income stream and the level of applications for the fund to continue meeting its performance targets.

### **Other Issues to report**