

## 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 2019 are:

- Maintain the stabilized income stream of the fund of 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.
- Stabilize VCF publicity and promotion increased in previous years.

### Status

Over the course of 2018, the income situation of the VCF has been stabilized with the income from donations in that year totaling \$13,937. This is an increase of roughly 20% over the situation before 2017. 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 maintaining and even strengthening 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 2018 have been completed. During 2018, a total of 11 payments have been made to grant holders totaling \$6,109. A delayed reimbursement has been completed in January 2019 amounting to \$500. Unfortunately, 3 grants approved totaling \$2,300 were not claimed by their holders as the holders decided to cancel their respective planned conference activities. Therefore, the fund used only 2/3 of its target budget in 2018 with the remaining funds going to its reserves.

The VCF continues to see more diverse applications from a larger number for different countries, particularly from the African continent. This was achieved by continuing to raise awareness of the fund with Section Chairs and conference organizers in Region 8.

With the exception of 3 approved grants not being claimed, the goals of the VCF set for 2018 have been achieved. 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. Given the reduced spending in 2018, an increased number of grants might be awarded in 2019 depending on the application situation.

The measures implemented to increase diversity across application source countries 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