A Change to Our Membership Structure

by Jean Steiner, Roch Gaussoin, and Carolyn Olson

ASA, CSSA, and SSSA are collectively and individually evolving, changing, and building on our accomplishments to increase our reach and presence in our sciences. We view the strong partnership among our Societies as vital to meet the broad societal challenges we face, as illustrated in the cohesive Grand Challenge from the new Science Frontiers to “sustainably improve the human condition for a growing global population in a changing environment.” This one grand challenge unites us all.

To meet this grand challenge, we must periodically look inward at various components of our Societies, which we have recently done by evaluating our membership structure. Initial discussions on the membership structure began several years ago and came together at the Annual Meeting last November. At that time, the three boards of directors individually agreed to establish a joint task force of the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA executive committees to analyze this issue, gather data, review options and scenarios, and make recommendations for an updated dues structure. After an extensive assessment, a recommendation was put forth and approved separately by each board of directors to reduce the discounting for multiple memberships to better support the true cost of membership services and enhance the independent stature of each Society.

New Dues Structure

Each of the Societies’ board of directors approved the dues recommendation for active members as follows:

- A single Society membership remains $100 (equal to 2013 pricing),
- A two-Society membership is now $150, providing a $50 multiple membership discount, and
- Membership in all three Societies is now $200, providing a $100 multiple membership discount.

It has been three years since the last dues increase, and the boards firmly believe that this decision will strengthen our ability to remain a membership organization of the highest quality. This structure will allow the Societies to attain their goal of continuing to offer a wealth of valuable benefits (see below), building on membership value in the future, and keeping pace with the costs of program development, member services, and organization management.

Students are still able to join and renew one, two, or all three Societies for the same price. Graduate students will pay only $40 a year while undergraduates will pay $20. We will continue to support our Emeritus members with memberships at half the price of active members. We also firmly support our Developing Countries program that provides memberships at a reduced rate of 40% to those who are citizens of, reside in, and work in countries in the lower two economic tiers, as categorized by the World Bank.

This updated structure does not change membership renewal timeframes, and your rates will go into effect when your membership renewal is due. If you have questions or comments on this dues update, please contact any one of us. We look forward to many successful years with you.

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Member Benefits

- Publishing in our journals with no page charges ≤7 (discounts for members on papers >7 pages)
- Participating in our dynamic Annual Meeting at a reduced rate
- Keeping current with the CSA News magazine and the biweekly News-Flash e-newsletter
- Supporting the important work done by our Science Policy Office—on behalf of members and for our sciences— including advocacy, briefings, promoting research funding, and providing updates via the biweekly Science Policy Report email.
- Accessing Annual Meeting recordings at no charge
- Subscribing to the Digital Library (not available to non-members) and individual journals at member rates
- Benefitting from career resources such as the highly visited job board and resume posting
- Joining communities and divisions for scientific information and updates
- Connecting with peers via members-only directories
- Supporting K-12 and public outreach by all three Societies (including the International Year of Soils 2015, International Year of Pulses 2016, and the World Association of Agronomists)
- Supporting of undergraduate, graduate, and early career programs and awards
- Serving on committees for recognition and career development
- Supporting members in countries in the lower two economic tiers (defined by the World Bank) through our Developing Countries membership