

International Society of Plecopterologists Policy and Funds

There had long been a policy that membership in the International Society of Plecopterologists required payment of annual membership dues. Dues were meant to defray costs of mailing *Perla*, purchase of Lifetime Achievement Award plaques, and funding of student scholarships at the international meeting. Unfortunately, dues payments have rarely netted more than a few hundred USD/year in recent years, far below the amount needed to print and mail *Perla*. We depend mostly on the generous donations of a few members to maintain sufficient funds to meet our needs. This fact was brought to the attention of the Standing Committee. They have decided that we will end the dues policy given its ineffectiveness in generating funds. To cut costs, we will discontinue mailing of *Perla*. Instead, members may download *Perla* from Plecoptera Species File (<http://plecoptera.speciesfile.org/>). We plan to continue sending printed copies of *Perla* to select libraries. If your library would like to continue receiving a printed copy or CD/memory drive with a short explanatory booklet, please provide the Managing Editor with the mailing address of the library.

As Managing Editor of *Perla*, I can accept donations to the University of Illinois, with funds marked for "Plecopterologist Society". Perhaps some of your organizations would be willing to make donations specifically to support the meeting or to "purchase" sponsorships of the meeting with a half or full page advertisement in the meeting booklet. Individuals can make donations as well. The University of Illinois is the bank and provides a "gift" account that I can deposit and draw from. Purchases of supplies, mementos, scholarship checks, plaques, student award prizes, etc. for the meeting can be purchased tax free.

Also, we will explore the feasibility of obtaining USA 501c3 status as a nonprofit organization. This will help us accept funds from donors without incurring taxes. It will also allow us to issue letters of donation for USA taxpayers to document allowable deductions in taxes. For those outside the USA electronic capture of funds will present a simpler way to donate. I will share the mechanism for collecting funds with everyone by late summer when I make a request to build the *Perla* account from donations and sponsorships.

Currently, the Society has modest funds amounting to \$9,478. Additional funds nearing \$2,300, dedicated to printing and mailing of *Perla* will be combined to yield just under \$12,000. This amount should grow over the next year due to donations. We usually reserve a base amount of \$4,000 after an international meeting as seed funds for the next meeting. That means that we will have at least \$8,000 to spend on scholarships, achievement awards, student awards and other miscellaneous expenses in 2022.

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