

A.1 Membership System and Fees

The WVA Council has adopted the following membership fee system and annual fees:

National Members and Associate Country Members

The national member organisation and the associate country member organisation pay for the actual number of veterinarians in their organisation. The source of the total number of veterinarians is the declaration made by each member organisation at the time of application for membership and each time when there is a change in numbers. Such change of membership notification shall be made in writing by the national association and the associate country association at least 3 calendar months prior to start of the next calendar year, that is by 30 September.

The national member organisation and the associate country member organisation may be offered by Council a discount of 20% if the GNP is less than 3.500 US\$ per capita, 40% if the GNP is less than US\$ 1.500 per capita and 80% if the GNP is less than US\$ 500 per capita. The source of the GNP is the World Bank Atlas.

There will be a fixed minimum membership fee for a national member and an associate country member and a fixed maximum.

The membership fee rate is as follows with an increase of 5% every year to cover inflation, projected growth etc.:

US\$ 2,03 a veterinarian for 2006 and 2007

20% discount US\$ 1,63 for 2006 and 2007

40% discount US\$ 1,22 for 2006 and 2007

80% discount US\$ 0,41 for 2006 and 2007

Minimum membership fee US\$ 110 for 2006 and 2007

Maximum membership fee US\$ 25,565 for 2006 and 2007

Amendment to WVA Membership Fee System for National Members

The Constitution provides for national, associate country, associate and affiliated members to pay their membership fees which become due on 1st January of each year or, in the case of members joining during the year, from the date joining.

The membership fee system and the rate of membership fee is determined by the Presidents' Assembly based on the recommendation of the Council with special consideration being given to those countries defined by the United Nations as developing countries. The membership fees of such countries may be reduced if the Presidents' Assembly so decide.

If the membership fee of a national, associate country, associate or affiliated member for any year, except the current year, has not been paid (a member being in arrears) by the time of nomination for election at the Presidents' Assembly, the member shall not be allowed to vote

and the region will have the number of councillors corresponding to the number of votes for which the membership fee has been paid by the countries in the region. Exceptions may be permitted at the discretion of the Presidents' Assembly.

A national member or an associate country member which is in arrears with its membership fee can not be considered as a host for a World Veterinary Congress.

A national, associate country or associate member in arrears with its membership fee can not nominate candidates for office or Council and their representatives in the Presidents' Assembly can not be nominated for office or Council.

The current (2003) membership fee is US\$ 1.83 per member, with US\$ 24,000 as a maximum and US\$ 100,00 as a minimum. There are a number of countries with especially large numbers of veterinarians that find they can not afford to pay the current WVA membership fee. There are other large countries that consider themselves to be penalized by the high total membership fee they have to pay. The Executive Committee and Presidents' Assembly; and then the Council and the Executive Committee have recognized this difficulty and given some relief to affected countries. This has led to the current review of the membership fee to determine whether another system can be implemented.

The Council finds the current membership fee system in balance for the majority of members. The Council is very concerned about the significant loss of members – apparently for financial reasons. The Council is also concerned by the number of members in financial difficulties that have requested to either pay a part of their membership fees for a period of time or be granted a membership fee free membership for a period of time.

The criteria based upon UN figures could be:

Inflation rate more than 50% a year

GNP decreases more than 10% in one year

Devaluation against US\$ more than 30% in one year. (The discount equalizes the devaluation percentage, but cannot exceed 50%).

If one criteria is met, the reduction of membership fee can be no more than 50%, if two criteria are met, the reduction can be 75% and if all three criteria are met, membership fee free status can be given. Reduction can be given by the Council, all for a period of one year.

It is the responsibility of the national associations to forward a certified bank statement within 6 months of issuing the invoices.

The Rules will be applicable for membership fees from 1997 and onwards.

Associate Members

There will be a fixed amount of US\$ 110 for an associate member for 2006 and 2007.

Affiliated Members

The membership fee is US\$ 8,269

Observers

No membership fee.

Regional Veterinary Associations

The provisions of WVA Administrative Policy: A.1 Membership Fee System pertaining to Associate Members are applicable.

Individual Membership

Individual members will pay the same minimum membership fee as for national members.