



**Office or Committee Name:** Sustaining Membership

**Officer or Chairperson Name:** Jenna Meeks

**Date of Preparation (include year):** March 1, 2026

**Activities during the year:**

*August-September:* Previous Chair, Ben Westrich, contacted Jenna to share documents regarding committee responsibilities. Jenna conferred with Eric and Ben on an updated letter to be sent to current and recent Sustaining Members. Initial dues email was sent on September 25, 2025.

*October-November:*

Jenna looked through proceedings to create a list of previous Sustaining Members as well as dues received since 2010. Meeting proceedings from 2012-2017 did not list Sustaining Members so that list is complete from 2018 to present. Meetings prior to 2010 were not considered, but could be in the future. A summary table and graph are included below.

There were a few follow-up emails from Sustaining Members to Jenna. As Eric processes all of the payments, more time and effort are put on him rather than the committee after the dues letter is sent.

*December-February:* Limited activity by committee of one.

*General comments:* Jenna discussed this committee with a few WSWS members for perspective and opinions. Highlights/decisions as a result of those conversations:

- Streamline the language throughout emails and request letter to be “dues” instead of “fees.” The inconsistency is difficult for some members within their organization and dues more accurately reflects the relationship and benefit.
- Remove receiving the conference proceedings as a benefit to being a Sustaining Member. Since the proceedings are widely available to the public on the website, this is not a benefit directed at Sustaining Members.
- Encourage the sponsorship contact and the Sustaining Member committee chair to coordinate their contact timing and methods with organizations. As each allow distinct opportunities for contributors, providing a clear pathway may encourage multiple and timely payments.

**Recommendations for Board Action:**

1. Create a user-friendly “pay now” button hyperlink for Sustaining Members able to pay with a credit card. Currently, they must fill out a form and request an invoice from the

WSWS Business Manager which is unnecessarily cumbersome. This would also allow confirmation of payment (amount not required) be sent to the committee chair to keep a real-time list of payments and follow-up on outstanding dues.

2. Reconsider decision to not include conference registration as a benefit to being a Sustaining Member. The list of benefits is mundane, especially for an organization that might not have enough “product” to highlight during the “What’s New in Industry” presentation. If it’s not financially possible to compensate a full registration, suggest starting with a 25% or 50% reduction to test interest.
3. Request that the Board consider Jenna’s first and current term as Co-Chair and the upcoming year (26/27) be considered Chair. This will provide consistency to the committee and more thorough onboarding of a Co-Chair.

**Budget Needs:**

None. Assuming the “pay now” option requires no additional fees.

**Name of Person Preparing This Report:** Jenna Meeks

Year	Sustaining Members (#)
2018	18
2019	14
2020	11
2021	11
2022	14
2023	11
2024	16
2025	17

