



## Membership as Stewardship

One of the most common comments we hear is:

*"I'm not sure I got enough value out of my membership this year."*

It's a fair question. We all evaluate our subscriptions, memberships, and professional affiliations from time to time. But VFS membership is a little different.

Your dues, whether individual or corporate, support far more than the benefits you personally use. They help sustain the global vertical flight ecosystem that connects industry, government, academia, operators, students, and researchers. Membership is not simply a transaction; it is a stewardship of the profession.

When you renew your membership, you're helping VFS organize the world's leading technical conferences, publish and preserve thousands of research papers, maintain the industry's historical record, support student design competitions, administer scholarships, engage chapters around the world, recognize technical achievement, and create opportunities for the next generation of engineers, pilots, operators, and innovators.

You are also supporting the people and infrastructure required to make all of this happen. Behind every conference session, technical paper, scholarship award, magazine issue, webinar,

student competition, and member service is a team of professionals working year-round to serve the community.

The chart illustrates how VFS invests its resources. Nearly half of our expenses support the staff and contractors who operate the Society and deliver programs. The remainder is invested directly into conferences, events, publishing, member services, scholarships, printing, technology, and operational infrastructure.

The largest single program investment remains our conferences and events, including Forum and the Transformative Vertical Flight meeting. These events bring together thousands of professionals annually, facilitate collaboration across sectors, and generate the technical exchanges that advance our field.

Publishing remains another core mission. VFS manages thousands of technical papers and presentations, works with authors and reviewers, registers DOIs, preserves historical content, and maintains one of the world's most comprehensive vertical flight libraries. Publications such as Vertiflite continue to educate, inform, and connect our community.

Equally important are the investments made in students and workforce development. Through scholarships, design competitions, chapter activities, educational outreach, and mentoring opportunities, VFS helps ensure a strong pipeline of future talent for our industry.

The next time you renew your membership, I encourage you to think beyond the individual benefits. Your membership helps ensure that the vertical flight community continues to thrive through changing markets, shifting priorities, and periods of uncertainty.

Whether you're an engineer, pilot, student, researcher, operator, government professional, or industry leader, your membership helps sustain the community that sustains us all.

