SSSA Historical Background

With SSSA celebrating its 75\textsuperscript{th} anniversary, SSSA has been an independent organization in concept since that time – with its own 501c3 non-profit status conferred at the same time as the other societies receiving their independent c3 status. However, SSSA has been linked to ASA and CSSA through governance and, to some extent, programs and the decision-making processes.

In 2000, there was a restructuring of dues that decoupled the requirement of ASA membership from CSSA and SSSA. This meant that for the first time, members could simply join SSSA without also joining ASA – a big step forward in independence.

In 2004, a large step was taken when the ASA board was restructured (by consent of all three organizations), removing the CSSA and SSSA board members from the ASA board, taking effect in 2005.

In 2008, a separate non-profit 501c3 support organization - the Alliance of Crop, Soils, and Environmental Science Societies was established by SSSA, CSSA and ASA – and it is envisioned that additional relevant organizations may wish to join ACSESS. ACSESS provides services for nonprofit scientific and professional organizations, such as publishing, meeting management, membership database support, certification and other educational programs, science policy activities and executive support (all of the services used by SSSA).

What does this mean? SSSA now receives all services through ACSESS, rather than ASA. It is important to understand that SSSA, through its board of directors and guided by the SSSA strategic plan, sets the direction of the organization. The restructuring discussion is a direct result of the ongoing planning processes that the board has been engaged in over recent years, which led to the summit that was held last summer with early career members and students and which helped precipitate the formation of this task force.