

COMMITTEE REPORT

REVIEW OF CURRENT WNGGA DUES STRUCTURE

BASIS OF REVIEW

The committee was set up to review the dues structure following the terms of reference given in the letter of 21 September 1999 from Col. Alfred J. Reese, President, WNGGA.

This report only covers the following items:

- Annual Membership
- Life Membership

Information on the dues structures of some groups and organizations was collected to get samples of how others treated this subject. Based on these and our own thoughts the following recommendations are made with appropriate comments.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

We recommend that the Annual Membership Dues be raised from the present \$7.00 to **\$10.00** commencing in 2000 but after the AGM in Ottawa. This is to be strictly on an **INDIVIDUAL** basis with no variations at all.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

This is complicated by the fact that there are some 200 couples who are classified together as life members, i.e. one fee covered both, see further comments on this below.

From the information gathered the general rule is that life membership costs between 10 to 20 times the annual membership cost. We recommend taking the middle range of 15 times which would put Life membership at **\$150.00** commencing in 2000 but after the AGM in Ottawa.

In addition we recommend that a special rate of **\$100.00** be available all those who are 65yrs and older at the time of application.

PRESENT LIFE MEMBERS

Individuals

Col. Reese raised the question of the low cost of life membership to those who have been life members for many years. We believe that an appeal for funds from members in this category would be worth undertaking and suggest **\$1.00/yr** for each year of membership.

Couples

Dr. Ellis Jones has done some research on this and his review of the past 35 years shows the then current WNGGA Constitution and Bylaws only refer to "individual" life membership, except for organizations. The question is how shall we treat "couples"? Dr. Jones has offered three possible options, mainly as follows:-

- a. Establish a "Family" life membership category with a fee perhaps **50%** higher than the "individual" life membership with a limit of 2 persons per "Family" life membership.
- b. Contact all couples who have life membership and indicate that an error was made and that life membership is for only one person but offering the choice of sending a cheque to cover the difference between the current life and individual memberships, **\$23.00**, or designating to whom the life membership is to apply.
- c. "Grandfather" all current couples who have this "Family" membership and apply the new rates to new "Family" memberships.

With regard to a. there are over 200 of these "couples having life membership which suggests that this is attractive to some and may be attractive to more. Also many organizations have a "family" type life membership which further suggests its usefulness, see Conclusions below.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTING

Some other organizations use accrual types of systems whereby the life membership funds are deposited in an interest-bearing account and the funds are drawn down on an individual annual membership basis per year. We think this is worth considering but because of the extra accounting involved the Treasurer must give an opinion on this.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Increase the present annual membership to \$10.00
2. Increase the present individual life membership to \$150.00 and \$100.00 those over 65 and appeal to present life members for additional donations of up to \$1.00 per year of life membership.
3. The Board of Trustees to decide how to handle couples who presently have life membership.
 - a. We recommend that a "Family" life membership be established with a fee of 50% over the relevant individual membership with a maximum of two persons per membership.
 - b. If the Board decides for a "Family" life membership then Dr. Ellis's option b. should be followed for the present "couples" and they could be asked for further donations as for individuals.
 - c. If the Board decides against a "Family" life membership then we recommend Dr. Ellis's option b. "Grandfathering", Dr. Ellis's option c., is not recommended in this particular case as it would create an accepted type of life membership not covered by the Constitution & Bylaws and would be an anomaly.
4. Life membership accounting to be decided.
5. Apply the above following the AGM in Ottawa this September.
6. If any of these recommendations are followed the effect on the present Constitution & Bylaws should be considered with any changes to be brought before the AGM in September.

Submitted for the Board of Trustees consideration

T.E.Field,
Dr. Berwyn Emrys Jones,
Danny E.Proud

2000-04-26

A. Petersburg Beach, FL

00-03-13

Dear Elton,

I have been writing to the other members of the committee on dues structures and reviewing your Memo of 99-04-02, Subject Executive Director Report for 1998-99, regarding membership number & your letter to ^{me} _{of} 99-11-02.

In your report you give figures of:-
life 2054

Annual 287

Total 2,341

In your letter you say that over 240 couples are members under a single life Membership Fee. This implies, to me at least, a "Family" Membership, and I did not think that such a classification existed. I do not know the WNGA Constitution with me so I am going by memory but I don't remember seeing a reference to this.

Before we complete our report, and as the wording a "Family" membership classification is not

definitely in/out, this question must be resolved.

I will be back home by 1st April, God willing, so could you e-mail answers to the following:

1. Annual dues.

Are these strictly for individuals or does, in some way, a "family" get paid for by one fee.

2. Life Memberships

Are these strictly for individuals, or does, in some way, as you have said, a "family" get ~~cost~~ covered by one fee.

3. Your interpretation of the constitution on this matter.

4. If in 3 above only individuals are allowed then what do we do about the 10% you mention in your letter?

5. Double mailings I can understand the problems here but this is separate from dues. By the way we seem to have three mailings for our house:-

Ed Field, Thomas Field, ~~Phil~~ Phylas Field?

E.N.

M E M O

TO: Ed Field, Chairperson, WNGGA Membership Dues Committee
FROM: *Ellis J.*
Ellis Jones, Executive Director
DATE: March 21, 2000
SUBJECT: Membership Dues Situation

Thanks for your March 13 letter regarding the WNGGA Dues situation. Here are my responses to your questions:

- 1. Annual Dues. Are these strictly for individuals or does, in some way, a "family" get paid for by one fee?

Response: As we have clarified the membership list no couple was listed as having one annual fee. If an annual membership was requested for a couple, we would call their attention to the provision that it is an "individual" membership.

- 2. Life Memberships. Are these strictly for individuals or does, in some way, as you have said, a "family" get covered by one fee?

Response: The basic membership list which I received from my predecessor included most of the couples who are listed. I am assuming that when they sent in a Life membership fee and gave both names, that they were then entered into the data base as such. We have had very few occasions in the last year and a half where this has happened but if it did, because of previous practice, we would go along (reluctantly) with the previous practice. I have no understanding as to why the "Individual Life" membership was interpreted as allowing a couple to have a "Joint Membership."

- 3. Interpretation of the Constitution. Here is what has evolved over the past 35 years in the Constitution. I have done some research and share the following information. The research is based upon the copies of the WNGGA Constitution and Bylaws on file here.

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The 1965 WNGGA Constitution and Bylaws states on page 12 the following:

Dues

- 1. Individual Annual membership shall be \$2.00 per year. See Article III Membership.
- 2. Organization Annual membership shall be \$2.00 per year. See Article III Membership
- 3. Life membership with full privilege will be accorded any Organization or any Individual who shall contribute \$10 or more to THE ASSOCIATION Treasury.

4. Any organization contributing \$25.00 or more shall be entitled to a Charter as a member organization.
5. All membership dues shall be payable in advance.

The Article III Membership provision referred to in 1 and 2 above states

Any person of Welsh lineage, or any person or organization in full sympathy with the stated purposes of THE ASSOCIATION, shall be eligible to membership. Any Organization member in good standing shall be entitled to one delegate at the Annual Meeting and shall be entitled to one vote. Each individual member in good standing shall be entitled to attend the Annual Meeting and shall be entitled to one vote.

The **1971 WNGGA Constitution and By-Laws** states on page 12 the same information as 1965 except that No. 5 was deleted.

In 1978, the **Bylaws and Constitution** were combined into one document entitled **Constitution**. Article XVI entitled "Dues" states:

- a) Annual dues for an individual shall be \$5.00. Life membership dues for an individual shall be \$20.00. Life membership dues for an organization shall be \$25.00. On payment of dues each member shall receive a card indicating Life or Annual membership and a copy of the Constitution, with amendments if any.
- b) The fiscal year of the Association shall end on July 31st.

In 1993, the **Constitution** was amended to change the 1978 provision to the following:

ARTICLE XVII DUES

- a) The individual annual and life and organizational dues of the association shall be proposed by the Board of Trustees and ratified by the general membership of the organization present and voting at the annual meeting. On payment of dues each member shall receive a card indicating Life or Annual Membership.
- b) The Fiscal year of the Association shall end on July 31st.

At some point following that adoption the dues were changed to be \$7 for individual annual, \$30 for individual life, and \$50 for organizational life.

In 1999 (last September), the **Constitution** was amended again to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

- a) Any person with Welsh lineage or any person or organization in full sympathy with the stated purpose of the Association shall be eligible for membership.

- b) The individual annual, life, and organizational dues of the Association shall be proposed by the Board of Trustees and ratified by the general membership of the organization present and voting at the Annual Meeting. On payment of dues each member shall receive a card indicating Life or Annual membership.

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4. If in 3 above only individuals are allowed then what do we do about the 10 percent you mention in your letter?

Response: It seems to me that there are some options.

- a) Establish a "family" Life membership category with a fee perhaps 50 percent higher than for Individual Life with a limit of two persons eligible for each "family" membership.
- a) Contact all couples who have the Life membership and indicate that an error was made and that Life membership is for only one person but offering them the option of sending in an additional check to receive "family" membership. That amount would be the difference between the current Individual Life and Family Life.
- b) "Grandfather" in all current couples who have this joint Individual Life membership and just apply the new rates to new members.
5. Double Mailings. If a couple has an Individual Life membership, we send only one copy; however, if both persons of a couple have separate Individual Life and Individual Annual membership, we have them listed separately on the mailing list unless they ask us to combine them. Then we list them at one address. The decision is left to the individuals to let us know. In your own situation, Ed, we have changed our mailing list to have only "Phyllis Field" and "T.E. Field."