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Dues Increase

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Dues Increase

By Daardi Sizemore and Ellen Swain

The budget that has been proposed for the 2013 fiscal year reflects another year of net loss. While our reserve is currently strong, continued spending at a loss will significantly impact the organization's ability to operate.

The affordability of MAC membership is important to the organization. This means careful consideration before proposing a dues increase. Council has been very thoughtful and believes this is an important next step for MAC. This is not the first dues increase MAC has had. Since 1992, MAC has had only two dues increases. Individual memberships have gone from \$16 to \$20 in 1996 and to \$30 in 2001. Since 2001, our financial needs have changed. Most noticeably, we began working with DMN/AMC to manage our administrative needs and started using MemberClicks for secure on-line membership renewal, elections, donations, and conference registration. Inflation is another factor to consider. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator, what cost \$30 in 2001 now costs \$39.20 in 2012. It is costing MAC more today to do the same things it did in 2001.

We can (and should) consider cuts to our budget, but unless we consider eliminating services like MemberClicks, or products like our publications, we will have only a small impact on the deficit. The MAC membership has requested these services and values our products, and Council believes that they should continue. It should be noted that in 2012, almost 80% of our revenue was submitted on-line.

As mentioned in the treasurer's report, MAC Council is continually reviewing expenses and looking at ways to save money. This is currently not enough to balance the budget.

If we want to work towards a budget that operates in the black, we need to consider a dues increase. This dues increase proposal will be put forth to the membership for a vote at the Member's Meeting at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana. If approved, this dues increase would go into effect for the 2014 membership renewal period:

Category of Membership	Current Dues	Proposed Dues
Individual	\$30	\$45
Institutional	\$60	\$90
Canadian	\$70	\$100
International	\$80	\$110

Together with a careful review of our expenses, a dues increase would help us on our way towards balancing the budget.

If you have questions about the budget or dues increase proposal, please feel free to contact one of us, or another officer or member of Council: daardi.sizemore@mnsu.edu or eswain@illinois.edu.

Speaker's Bureau

MAC President Ellen Swain and Education Committee Cochairs Amy Cooper Cary and Karen Spilman have been working with membership in the past year to develop a pilot project for the MAC Speaker's Bureau. The Speaker's Bureau is designed to host talks and workshops (no more than four hours) on all aspects of archives and archival work. These proposals, vetted by MAC's Education Committee, will be offered to sponsoring organizations or groups within the MAC region. Sponsoring organizations have the option of hosting these talks and workshops free of charge or for a nominal fee, and will compensate the speaker with an honorarium and travel reimbursement.

A call generated 17 proposals for workshops. In the coming months, the Education Committee will work with a small taskforce of its membership to arrange the first offerings in this series. Keep an eye on MAC announcements and on our new Event Calendar (<http://www.midwestarchives.org/calendar>) for more information about a Speaker's Bureau presentation, coming to a location near you!

If you would like to host a talk or workshop, or would like to propose one, please contact Education Committee Cochairs Amy Cooper Cary (amy.cary@marquette.edu) or Karen Spilman (hof0003@umn.edu) for more information.