

## **QUIZ! – USPS Family Unit Dues**

### ***How would you reply?***

*V/C Robert Baldrige devised a new and more efficient system for dues billing for USPS. As the architect of this simplified dues structure, our National Secretary stated in the Jan/Feb issue of the Ensign (see page 7 -- a good article that may help explain), "Although the old system offered more options, it was confusing and gave family members no incentive to become active members. The new structure is easier to understand, encourages the whole family to sign up at one time and spurs eligible family members to change their membership type to additional active by eliminating the extra charge."*

*To ascertain your understanding of this new system, imagine you are asked the following questions. Determine how you would answer them and then check your answers at the end.*

- 1) ***Are you changing membership types? Or, is everyone now just a member?***
  
- 2) ***Are squadrons and districts required to change their dues structures?***
  
- 3) ***How does this affect dues revenue for national?***
  
- 4) ***How does this affect dues revenue for districts and squadrons?***
  
- 5) ***Our District and VHQAB Squadrons will not have time to consider restructuring dues prior to the 28 February deadline for updating National as to our dues for the coming year. Our District assesses dues for Active and Additional Active members, and several of our squadrons charge dues for Adult Family and Junior Family members. Will VHQAB be able to accommodate both systems, and if so, for how long?***
  
- 6) ***Will there still be an "Entrance Fee" for new members, and if so, how much?***

7) ***What about Sea Scout and apprentice members? Is there an entrance fee?***

8) ***If a Life member suddenly acquires a new family, will there be an entrance fee, and if so, how much?***

9) ***The program currently requires a \$1.00 per member annual donation to remain on the Educational Fund Honor Roll. How will this be determined under the new structure?***

10) ***Will on-line VHQAB membership reports continue to include the familiar AA, AC, FM, SC codes? If so, for how long?***

## **Answers:**

1) *Are you changing membership types? Is everyone now just a member?*

**No.** We'll still have family and active membership as an option under this plan. The only change would be in the way dues amounts are calculated.

2) *Are squadrons and districts required to change their dues structures?*

**No.** Squadrons and districts can make their own decisions about their dues structures. To benefit from the simplification, however, they'll need to mirror national.

3) *How does this affect dues revenue for national?*

In static comparison (the same number of each membership type) there is a slight increase, about 1%, in dues revenue for national. The proposal is not about raising revenue but, instead, the goal is to simplify the dues structure, remove the price penalty for additional actives, and to increase membership.

4) *How does this affect dues revenue for districts and squadrons?*

If districts and squadrons mirror the national structure but don't change the actual amounts, some will gain and some will lose. Again, in a static environment, 54% of squadrons would see increased revenue while 41% would see a decrease. It usually depends on whether squadrons charge for family membership. All squadrons combined would gain a total of \$20,768 while districts would gain \$498. Of course, squadrons could choose to adjust their fees up or down to make the proposal revenue neutral.

5) *Our District and VHQAB Squadrons will not have time to consider restructuring dues prior to the 28 February deadline for updating National as to our dues for the coming year. Our District assesses dues for Active and Additional Active members, and several of our squadrons charge dues for Adult Family and Junior Family members. Will VHQAB be able to accommodate both systems, and if so, for how long?*

**Yes and for the foreseeable future.** Squadrons and districts have a choice. They can change their dues to the family unit structure or leave them in the "charge for each member" structure. HQAB is flexible enough to handle either or a combination of both.

6) *Will there still be an "Entrance Fee" for new members, and if so, how much?*

The entrance fee was set to \$25 for new primary actives. That is the first member of a family unit to join. New members joining an existing family unit (there is already an active member in the family unit) will not pay an entrance fee.

7) *What about Sea Scout and apprentice members? Is there an entrance fee?*

**No.** There has never been an entrance fee for Sea Scouts or apprentices; their dues would remain unchanged.

8) *If a Life member suddenly acquires a new family, will there be an entrance fee, and if so, how much?*

**No,** all existing members were "grandfathered" so, when they acquire new family members, there is no fee when a new member joins a family unit.

9) *It currently requires a \$1.00 per member annual donation to remain on the Educational Fund Honor Roll. How will this be determined under the new structure?*

**Good question.** The requirements of honor roll status are determined by the Educational Fund and we need to discuss this with them. Currently, honor roll status is given when a

squadron contributes \$1 for every active member. We could ask the Educational Fund to also grant honor role status to squadrons on HQAB that charge \$1 for each single active and \$2 for each family unit.

10) *Will on-line VHQB membership reports continue to include the familiar AA, AC, FM, SC codes? If so, for how long?*

**We'll keep the current codes and, probably, add some codes. Squadrons will need to be able to distinguish between single actives and primary active members (PAMs) that is the original active in a family unit.**

*Answers were provided by V/C Joseph Mesenburg, SN in response to questions asked by D/20 Treasurer Caren Canfield and other USPS leaders.*