

NGFS Dues Increase

For the past several years, the NGFS has been operating at a deficit. Our largest annual expenses are for insurance, legal and accounting services for 501c7 and 501c3 tax filings, website maintenance, and our Y-DNA Project. Each time that an official notice or newsletter is sent to members on our internet mailing list, there are also administrator's expenses for printing and mailing to more than fifty members with no e-mail addresses. Although board members, officers, and committee chairs attend annual board meetings at their own expense, the NGFS pays for the conference room. The officers, board of directors, committee members, and administrator volunteer for the NGFS; they receive no salary.

Our budget deficit was discussed at the NGFS Triennial Board meeting in October. Our past dues were originally \$10 in 1981 to 1989, \$15 from 1990 to 2006, and \$25 from 2007 to 2017. We also generated income from the sale of our Memorabilia Books, interest on bank accounts, and our Triennial gatherings.

When our members reach their 80th birthday, they become honor members and no longer have to pay dues. They continue to have access to the Members' Only Section of our website and receive all communications by e-mail or USPS. Out of 242 active members, eighty are Honor Members who have reached that milestone and no longer pay dues. However, in 2017, twenty-five new members joined—seven being husband/wife memberships. Several have encouraged their descendants to join NGFS.

In the past, we also offered Lifetime Memberships. Paying a lump sum for a membership to the age of 80 was convenient for members and generated income which could be invested by the Society. The original investment interest rate of 4.5% has dropped to 0.4% so the Society is losing income.

The NGFS Board will continue to address our budget deficit in the coming year. In the meantime, the following actions have been taken:

1. On January 1, 2018 dues will be raised from \$25 to \$35 for a single membership. Spouses will continue to pay \$15 so that a h/w membership will be \$50. For those of you wishing to pay your 2018 dues before the deadline, you may do so at the current cost. Also, for those of you with PayPal Accounts, the adjustment must be made.
2. New Lifetime Memberships will no longer be offered until the board has more time to complete the necessary financial analysis in consideration of its value for members and the organization. All existing Lifetime Members will continue in good standing.
3. The Board will actively work to expand membership to younger members through cutting-edge Y-DNA research and the development of a Virtual Museum on a future Grigsby Foundation website. We hope to offset the future expenses of these projects through donations to the National Grigsby Preservation Foundation.

Thank you for your past support, and we look forward to demonstrating the benefits of being an NGFS member in the future.

From The NGFS Board of Directors, Posted 1 December 2017

Dues Only to be Sent to

Phyllis J Bryant
NGFS Administrator
69 Plymouth St
Medina OH 44256-2415
ngfsadmin@gmail.com