

National Dues

General Information

The Polish Falcons of America National Board of Directors has reviewed the matter of implementing National Dues. Dues are not an unfamiliar concept within the PFA or many other fraternal groups or clubs. In fact, dues in many organizations are a necessity to help defray the costs of providing the Members the benefits they enjoy or are entitled to enjoy with Membership. These benefits, whether utilized or not, are a real expense to the organization which must be offset with some sort of regular and planned income.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2011, the Board voted that a minimal level of dues be assessed to the PFA Membership beginning in 2012 for the good of the organization. Following are the details of the program:

National Dues Program Details

1. Dues are assessed per Member and not per policy.
2. Members age 18 or older are assessed dues.
3. National Dues will be set at \$12 per year (only \$1 per month).
4. Exemptions apply to those who have attained BOTH 80 years of age and 50 years of Membership. If you have a situation which the payment of dues creates a financial hardship, you can appeal your situation to National Headquarters for consideration.
5. National Dues are based on a calendar year and not an anniversary year.
6. Dues will be collected from everyone age 18 or older as of January 1 of each calendar year.
7. Dues will be collected from new Members as of the January 1 of the following billing period (i.e. A new Member signing up in February 2012 will not have dues assessed until Jan. 1, 2013).
8. As per the PFA Constitution and Bylaws, a Member who does not pay dues will be considered a Member "not in Good Standing."
9. In order to participate in certain programs or activities - including the scholarship program, a Member considered "not in Good Standing" must be current on all dues since the inception of the program to be considered "in Good Standing." If the adult PFA Members of the household are considered "not in Good Standing" then the youth Members are also considered "not in Good Standing." The definition of "certain programs or activities" includes, but is not limited to: bowling, volleyball, camp, Zlots, scholarships, special trips, clinics, softball, soccer, basketball, etc.
10. A Member "not in Good Standing" will not lose out on any insurance or annuity benefits entitled to him or her.

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions about National Dues.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this happening? Now I have to pay money to receive benefits?

- The collection of National Dues is not a new concept. In fact some older Members may remember a time when National Dues were collected. In 2001, the practice stopped. Due to the current economic times and conditions, our fraternal benefit programs need some financial support for them to continue to be provided.

How much are dues?

- National dues are being established at \$12/year. Only \$1 per month.

Does this take the place of Nest dues?

- No. Nest dues are completely separate. Some Nests collect dues from their Members and some don't. National dues affect all Members.

I have a large family. Will I have to pay dues for all of them?

- No. Dues will affect Members 18 years or older. If your household, for example, has two adults who are Members and three children (all under the age of 18), only the two adults will be assessed National Dues.

I am on a fixed income since I retired. Do I have to pay dues?

- We considered this a factor for many of our older Members and kept the annual amount as minimal as possible in order to not create a financial burden to anyone. There is also a provision that exempts senior Members with both 50 years of Membership and 80 years of age to be exempt from payment of dues to address this matter.

I am a Gold Legion of Honor Member. Will I have to pay dues?

- Yes

Will I receive a separate invoice for Nest dues and National Dues?

- No. You will receive one invoice that shows the dollar amount due for each. If your Nest does not require dues to be collected, you will see that amount as zero.

When did this start happening?

- The first notices for National Dues were sent in early February 2012.

How long will National continue to collect dues?

- The collection of National Dues will be an ongoing program. There is no foreseen end date to the collection of National Dues. The Board will, however, continually monitor the need to collect National Dues.

What if I don't pay the dues?

- Although we hope Members do not go down this road, it obviously may happen. If a Member does not keep their National Dues obligation current, he/she will not be considered a Member "in Good Standing." Not being "in Good Standing" may preclude or prohibit the Member from receiving certain benefits or the ability to participate in PFA sponsored events and activities.

If my spouse or I don't pay our dues will our children under the age of 18 still be allowed to participate in youth activities or programs?

- No. If the adult PFA Members of the household are considered "not in Good Standing" then the youth Members are also considered "not in Good Standing" and may be precluded or prohibited from participation in PFA sponsored events and activities.

Does a scholarship applicant need to be "in Good Standing" to receive a PFA scholarship?

- Yes. The scholarship program is a PFA sponsored program and applicants must be "in Good Standing" to be eligible. (If under 18 years of age, the adult PFA parent Members in the same household must be "in Good Standing.")

I still feel that this should only apply to new Members. I should be grandfathered.

- This issue was heavily debated and considered. The board feels that \$12 per year is not burdensome and is vital to the organization's ability to continue offering its programs that we all have come to enjoy.

Is there any acceptable reason I could get my dues waived or deferred?

- If you have a situation which the payment of dues creates a financial hardship, you can appeal your situation to National Headquarters for consideration.

Will social Members be required to pay dues?

- Yes - but only National social Members, not Nest social Members.

Will my annuity or insurance benefits be impacted if I do not pay dues or am not current in paying dues?

- No - not paying dues does not affect the annuity or insurance benefits you are entitled to receive.