

August 23, 2017

District 11 Club Presidents,

At the October District 11 Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, there will be informative and important exchanges of ideas and issues that are of great importance to the goals and efforts of our District and each club.

In addition to the election of officers for the 2018-20 biennium, delegates will be asked to approve the 2018-20 district budget. The District Board has determined that an increase in district dues is necessary to maintain our current level of activity. This would be the first increase since 2008 (10 years); the Board has kept it as minimal as possible.

District 11 sustained a loss of 65 members during 2016-17; we currently have 781 members in 40 clubs. Unfortunately, we also sustained a loss from our conference last fall due to low attendance.

The Board is proposing an increase of \$10.00 per member per year. Five dollars (\$5.00) of the increase will go to the general operating budget and five dollars (\$5.00) to the conference budget.

Operations - As we all know, inflation has steadily increased the price of everything. The Board has tried to minimize operating expenses wherever possible –

- We only (physically) meet three times a biennium (two of which are at conference), all other meetings are by conference call,
- Area Directors try to stay with local members when they visit clubs (which they are required to do once a biennium),
- Email has replaced “snail mail” for communication,
- We also try to raise additional funds through raffles, bed sheet and jewelry sales.

Conference – All members benefit from conferences – the exchange of information, ideas, goals, and plans are important to every club and member. Therefore, the Board believes every member should help support the conferences, not just those attending. Seven (7) districts in North America include a conference fee as part of their dues (ranging from \$3.00 - \$8.00).

We continue to maintain modest dues in District 11; and as we add new clubs and members in our existing clubs, our financial status will improve.

Please have your Club review the enclosed proposed budgets and your voting member prepared to address this at the Conference. There are two proposed budgets – one with the dues increase and one without. Please note the “use of funds” (use of our existing funds or “loss”) if we do not increase dues.

Yours in Zonta,
District 11 Board