

## Assisting Chapter Members with Dues: Illinois State Organization Shares Ideas

Many states and chapters are developing positive ideas for assisting loyal members who struggle to pay dues in tight financial times. The International Membership Committee reviewed Illinois State Organization's many ideas for assisting members with dues and shares them here with you.



- Maintain a sister-to-sister fund that allows the chapter to pay the dues for individuals who are struggling financially. Some chapters earmark a specific fund raiser for this effort.
- Encourage members to pay automatically for other members who are in care facilities.
- Allow members to pay in installments. This may mean that the chapter will have to cover dues costs to meet deadlines.
- Give a \$10-\$20 rebate to one or more individuals who pay at an early date set by the chapter.
- One chapter, at its September meeting, honors members who paid their dues.
- Provide a prize of a FREE membership paid for a year to a chapter member.
- Allow interested chapter members to sponsor other members by paying their membership dues for one year.
- Make personal contacts with those members who have not paid their dues. Perhaps they have forgotten; perhaps another family member pays their bills and does not realize the importance of maintaining membership.
- Begin the effort of collecting dues early so members are prepared for payment.

### Share YOUR Ideas

Appreciation and thanks to Beverly Johns, Illinois State Organization Membership Chair, for sending chapter plans for dues assistance. Note that many of these ideas are backed by specific fund raisers. Enjoy, share, and email us your ideas for dues assistance.

- Recognize and give a prize to the first five members who pay their dues.

One last timely idea could be for chapters to host a holiday crafts and baked goods fund raiser with proceeds going toward "Chapter Members' DuesFund." Monies from this designated fund can then be used to assist members with annual dues as needed.

Proactive and positive solutions to dues assistance enhance our vision of **Pride in the Big Picture** as members work together to strengthen their chapters by personal involvement with one another.