January 26, 2009

Dear SNRS,

During the upcoming SNRS State of the Organization and Business Meeting on Friday, February 13 at 8:30 AM at the Annual Conference in Baltimore, the SNRS Board will present an important motion to raise annual dues for full members (this would not apply to student membership rates.) According to the SNRS Bylaws, dues can only be raised by a vote of members attending the annual business meeting. The Governing Board and I want to inform the membership of the rationale behind this action in advance of the actual vote.

In these difficult economic times, all organizations are facing complex choices concerning decreasing services or asking members to increase their support. At SNRS, we’re pleased to say that we have steadily increased services over the past few years without requesting an incremental increase in member support. However, as our organization matures and as we continue to work to improve services, we need to keep pace with significant increases in the cost of doing business.

If we benchmark our dues structure with our 'sister' regional organizations, all have a higher yearly rate of dues for full members than SNRS (rates accessed from respective websites on 1/18/09):

- MNRS - $175
- WIN - $160
- ENRS - $120
- SNRS - $75

During the past several years SNRS has accomplished the following without an increase in dues:

- added three small grant opportunities and partnered with new groups such as Sigma Theta Tau International for additional funding;
- expanded the scope of awards given to both established scientists and students;
- enhanced the SNRS webpage as a site for communication of valuable information for researchers and students, a searchable online membership directory, an expanded job board, and other significant member benefits;
- increased the frequency of issues and the capacity of the Southern Online Journal of Nursing Research;
- revitalized and extended the scope of the Research Interest Groups to include dedicated opportunities for publication, presentation and networking;
- increased the length of the annual meeting including more pre-conference and plenary sessions, as well as time for networking functions;
- secured the services of a professional management company to upgrade and streamline operations resulting in SNRS now being the largest of the regional research societies with the greatest attendance at our annual meetings;
- contracted with an new abstract vendor to improve the abstract submission, review and selection process for 2009 and beyond.
An increase in dues will allow us to continue this high level of service, expand funding for research, offer unusual educational opportunities to our members outside of the annual meeting, and create a foundation that would allow us to support our grant funding mission into perpetuity.

With these issues in mind, we ask you to consider two options for a dues increase:

1. An incremental increase in dues by $15 per year for three years for full members (2009-2010 = $90; 2010-2011 = $105; 2011-2012 = $120)
   or

2. An increase in dues for full members to $120 per year starting in 2009-2010

Again, the increase is proposed only for full members, with student membership dues remaining unchanged. A motion for a change in annual full membership dues will be presented for your consideration and vote at the Business Meeting; please plan on attending and casting your vote.

Sincerely,

Elaine J. Amella, PhD, GNP-BC, FAAN
President, SNRS (2008-2010)

P.S. An important SNRS Board of Directors initiative is the establishment of an endowment fund to provide perpetual funding for research projects. We strongly encourage you to attend a special session to be held at the conference in Baltimore. This session from 3:30 - 5:00 PM on Thursday in the Fredrick Room will be led by Board member, Dr. Mary Walker, who will discuss the need for the fund and development of an SNRS Research Foundation as a fundraising arm of SNRS to manage the fund. I look forward to seeing you there!

Southern Nursing Research Society

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