

A Message for the NNECA Treasurer

First, we are solvent financially, have paid all our bills and have reserve money for the forthcoming events at General Convention as well as for an exhibition booth at The General Convention. All we await is the assignment for the Venue for the luncheon of NNECA-42. The General Convention Office will make that assignment after the official bodies of GC have been given their assignments.

Some History

Since beginning as treasurer two years ago I have moved all record keeping from a written ledger format to an electronic format (Quicken), reentering past activity back to January, 2009. We had had a Money Market and Checking Account in Oregon under the watchful, prudent eye of Jim Boston. Following Jim's retirement from the position, a position he held for over ten years, Neysa Ellgren with the help of Patrick Strohl became the interim treasurers until I agreed to accept the NNECA Board's appointment to the position. Their first action was to transfer all monies to a Wells Fargo Business Checking Account which I have maintained. I became the signatory on the account in the fall of 2009 and completed the electronic conversion by November, 2009 in time for the NNECA Board meeting in New York City, January 2010.

As Treasurer for the NNECA Board I oversee three areas of responsibility.

- Management of the costs of purely Board Activity.
- Management of the costs of the Annual Conferences.
- Management of the costs related to General Convention.

Thus I have set up charts of account to reflect those three areas, both the expenses and related receipts.

Board Activities include, among other things:

- Cost of maintaining the Website and electronic communication.
- Reimbursement of Board members for their travel and lodging only when attending the Annual meet in New York City.
- Administrative cost, supplies, banking fees.
- Telephone and Postage.
- Grants to companion organizations, as requested.

The Annual Conference is to be self-funding. However, this has not been possible in recent years. I believe the last Annual Conference to be self-funding with some leftover was in Las Vegas some years ago. NNECA-40 did not and NNECA-41 barely made it some receipts for this are expected in 2012.

General Convention expenses come directly from the General Fund. The cost for the 2009 General Convention Booth and Exhibit space was nearly \$4,000. I have already set aside \$4,000 from general funds for the 2012 General Convention.

The Annual Conference during General Convention is separate from the exhibit expenses. In General Convention years it is scheduled as part of the activity at General Convention. Last year it was in the form a luncheon with a notable speaker. This will be the same this year, a luncheon with a notable speaker. The cost to NNECA for the luncheon in Anaheim was \$50 per person but the Board decided this was too expensive to produce a good attendance, thus the cost was reduced to \$30.00 with the NNECA treasury and a few generous patrons picking up the difference. We expect to again subsidize the luncheon for "NNECA-42."

We have no expectation for generous patrons this year. In past years these came from the financial resources of Board Members and the parishes they serve. The days of having Board members with significant financial resources are over. However, gifts are always welcome.

Now a few words about Association and Member at Large dues

After struggling with this issue for nearly two years, it is the NNECA Board's decision to change the dues structure for all members.

Member Dues will be two tiered.

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| 1. Clergy who are full time stipendiary in a cure | \$ 50.00 |
| 2. Clergy who are part-time in a cure | \$ 25.00 |
| 3. Clergy who are retired or non-stipendiary | \$ 25.00 |
| 4. Seminarians | free |

The effective date of this change is **January 1, 2012**. It is the Board’s urgent appeal that all Associations bring up to date the conveyance of their current and arrears NNECA dues by December 2010. In that way, all Associations will be up to date by the end of this year and we can start afresh with the new dues structure in 2012.

Reasons for the change:

- NNECA is a not for profit voluntary association of Clergy Associations and individual clergy. We are not in the business of making a profit or holding on to extraordinary cash balances.
- The exorbitant costs associated with the previous publication, LEAVEN, are no more. LEAVEN was the major reason the dues were set at \$65 in the first place.
- The present economic impact on clergy, clergy salaries, the availability of full time positions and the reduced income of retired clergy caused us to look at a more equitable two tiered dues structure.
- Projecting our expenses into the future, **if every Association** complies with this new structure we will be able to continue funding the work of NNECA and the NNECA Board for the foreseeable future, maintaining an adequate reserve for emergencies.
- Local Associations will continue to assess dues as they see fit, only the new dues structure will apply for the portion forwarded to the NNECA Treasurer. **IF** an Association maintains their own dues structure this could mean more per member for local programming.
- Future Annual Conferences will continue to be managed with close fiscal oversight, but will not be structured to “break even” or make a profit. A portion of the individual and Association dues to NNECA will be use to subsidize the Annual Conference so we can have the best possible conference at the lowest possible cost.
- **Remember**, it is appropriate for your local Associations to reimburse your membership so they can attend the Annual Conference.

One more word about your NNECA Board

- We are a voluntary Board, receiving no stipend for our work.
- We are reimbursed for Travel and Lodging only for the Annual Meeting in New York City where we meet with leaders at 815 and the Church Pension Group.
- We are reimbursed for Travel and Lodging only for working at the NNECA General Convention booth only if we are not Deputies to General Convention in which case our individual Dioceses pay our expenses.
- On an individual basis, if attending the Annual Conference places an undue financial burden on a board member, he/she can ask for travel and lodging.

In my work with the NNECA Board over the past several years as a member at large, a member of the Michigan Clergy Association, presenter at Annual Conferences and now Treasurer, the policy has swung from paying all expenses of Board members including meals and theatre in NYC, to reimbursement only if your requested it, then paying reimbursement for nothing. We now have a more evenhanded, equitable policy yet flexibility to meet specific needs in individual cases. To be a NNECA Board Member you need not be a cardinal Rector with a large discretionary fund and parish resources to subsidize your work on the NNECA Board. We are a working board of working and retired clergy with limited personal resources.

What do you get because of your connection with NNECA?

- Advocacy with the Church Pension Group at the Annual Board Meeting in New York City. We are still a powerful voice in conversations with the CEO and top management at the Church Pension Group.
- Two way connection with the leadership at 815.
- A first rate annual conference qualifying for continuing education as required by Canon.
- Mutual support and collegial connection with clergy around the whole church.
- Support and counsel in times of personal crisis and conflict.

Below is a summary of my financial report for 2011 which is unaudited.

Please address any specific requests for more information or additional financial details to me directly,

<mikelink41@gmail.com> or 702-243-8667.

Dues received from Associations, 2011

Dues by Associations				
Association	2009.00	2010.00	2011 YTD	Comments
Minnesota	\$1,050.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	
Central PA	\$1,885.00	\$1,885.00	\$1,235.00	
Pittsburgh	\$705.00	\$680.00	\$910.00	
Missouri	\$325.00	\$910.00	\$65.00	
Washington	\$1,430.00	\$1,950.00	\$0.00	
Southern Virginia	\$985.00	\$390.00	\$300.00	Designate for use to help with General Convention Expenses
Massachusetts	\$4,325.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	payment for 2010
Transitional Ministries TMEC	\$195.00	\$0.00	\$390.00	payment for 2010
Transitional Ministries TMEC			\$1,365.00	Payment for 2011
Hawaii	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	
Connecticut	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,632.50	
Members at Large	\$110.00	\$950.00	\$650.00	
Total	\$11,010.00	\$7,340.00	\$9,547.50	

Summary of Accounts, 2011

SUMMARY 2011 Final	
Checking Balance 1/1/2011	\$10,798.21
NNECA Board Receipts	\$9,290.88
NNECA 41 Conference Receipts	\$2,767.84
General Convention Receipts	\$4,300.00
NNECA Board Expenses	\$4,149.08
NNECA 41 Conference Expenses	\$3,179.65
General Convention Expenses	\$1,160.00
Net Receipts less Expenses	\$7,869.99
Checking Balance 12/29/2011	\$10,368.20
General Convention Balance 12/29/11	\$3,140.00
Checks outstanding	\$0.00