

## It's time to renew your Newcomers membership!

**GROWTH:** Our club has experienced an unusual pace of growth this year. Since the July 1<sup>st</sup> start of our fiscal year, we have over a hundred new members. We are also 'coming of age' as more members join with the expectation of engaging online for various organizational transactions. We are growing our electronic transaction capability and have acquired a 'Zoom' subscription to enable us to continue to function while we are 'physically distanced'! Stay tuned for our first 'physically distant' General Meeting and Program. You'll also be learning soon how to use the subscription to continue many of our activities via Zoom. Unfortunately, the socials remain cancelled!

This provides context for a slight increase in dues for next year for some members. Traditionally we operate on a 'break-even' budget, accruing extra money only if any money remains at the end of the year. If you want to view our finances, you will find them in the members-only section of our website. You will see that right now we are on target to have about \$600 at the end of the year.

So why raise the dues and change membership application?

- Any organization should grow a reserve to sustain itself in the event of a crisis.
- To sustain full functionality of the website, we have slightly increasing routine fees annually—more to increase functionality.
  - Here it is important to acknowledge that Susan Gilbert and Pat MacDonald, our Webmasters, have donated their expertise this year—otherwise we would have significant costs for its development. Thank you, Susan and Pat!
- We want to make single membership more equitable with couples' membership.
- We learned from our lawyer that we cannot have one person signing an application for a couple when a release is included, so we will change to individual applications/membership.
  - We are also strengthening our liability release to more effectively protect our activity leaders.
  - You only need to sign it once every 6 years.

The Board concurred that considering our ten programs each year are free to members, most of our 10 socials a year are subsidized to varying degrees and that our 60+ activities are essentially free, an increase of \$5.00 for each member of a couple was a reasonable increase that would handle the impact of our growth.

## What does our membership dues cover?

Dues ensure:

- **Monthly Programs** including:
  - Space rental
  - Honoraria for some speakers
  - Hospitality supplies
  - Technology for the speakers (e.g. sound system, projector, etc.)
  - Publicity
- 10 or more **Social Events**—several of which are partially subsidized to keep the member cost as low as possible (e.g. a summer musical, a sail on the Liberté, a Sunset Cruise on the Island Queen, Tapas and Trivia, Octoberfest, Mix & Mingles...etc.)
- The option to participate in **60+ Activities**, most of which are free
- A personal identification badge to make it easier for us to learn each other's names

- Directory of the members
- Administrative costs (liability insurance, audit fees, office supplies, correspondence, printing, website fees, etc.)

**If the year goes from July 1st to June 30<sup>th</sup>, why renew now?**

Our club is a year-round organization where the Newsletter, social events and our activities continue throughout the summer. The Board meets every month—even in the summer, to plan for the coming year. We need to know what our resources will be in order to secure the speakers *etc.* for our programs and plan for and reserve venues to ensure a healthy array of social events.

**You can renew in two ways:**

**(REMEMBER, both persons in a former couples membership must renew individually)**

1. Click on this link <https://www.falmouthnewcomers.org/membership>
  - a. And then click on **Renew online** complete the whole renewal online including signing the release and paying.
  - b. Or click on **download the renewal form**. Print both pages of the revised membership renewal form. Complete the information on the application (page 1), sign the release (page 2). Submit both pages with the membership fee promptly, ideally by June 30, 2020. Mail application, signed release and check to our VP of Membership (address below). NOTE: Couples may mail their individual applications and releases together in the same envelope with one check to cover both payments.

We look forward to sustaining the rich experience that we all enjoy.

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