

## **International Dues Increased – Available Fund Stabilized**

On Friday, July 25 in the Business Session at the International Convention, the proposed amendments to the *International Standing Rules* came before the convention body. The chair of the International Finance Committee, Lora Nell Spence of Indiana, gave an extensive financial report on the Available Fund which is the operating fund for the Society. The last time that dues were increased was in 2002 when they were raised from \$14 to \$20. Since that time the cost of doing business has increased, just as it has for each of us personally, and a decline in membership has been experienced.

The fiscal year begins July 1, but dues do not begin to come into International until October. In these interim months, money has had to be borrowed from the Scholarship Fund to meet operating expenses. In the last audit, the auditors said that this practice could not continue. In order to have a balanced budget and to avoid further borrowing from the scholarship fund, the finance committee recommended the dues increase to \$40 active dues and \$20 reserve dues.

As the proposed amendment – *International active dues shall be U.S. \$40 and international reserve dues shall be U.S. \$20* - came before the body, there was much discussion. There were two alternate amendments offered: 1) for the active dues to increase to \$30 beginning in 2008-09 2) for active dues to increase to \$30 in 2008-09 and \$40 in 2009-2010. Both of these amendments were defeated. The body then voted on the original amendment which was adopted.

**With this adoption, the International dues will be \$40 active and \$20 reserve beginning immediately for 2008-09.**

This vote will enable our society to be stable in our operations and to not have to borrow money to operate. International staff is looking at ways to increase our non-dues revenue. The most recent endeavors include a 'One Cause Credit Card' and On-line Leadership tools. You can explore these on the website: [www.deltakappagamma.net](http://www.deltakappagamma.net). In relationship to other professional organizations, a dues amount of \$40 is comparable.

If you refer to the March/April 2008 **ΔΚΓ News** these amendments were adopted: 3,4,5,5,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23. These amendments were defeated: 1,2,7.

As you make plans in your chapter, please be sensitive to those chapter members who will find the immediate increase in dues difficult. I have heard some members say that there are members, who can help supplement the dues of others in need and that they are going to have fund raisers to help with the dues increase. Your chapter is encouraged to be creative if needed in finding ways to help with this immediate increase.

Even though this was a difficult vote, it did pass by a significant margin. It will allow our society to operate as a viable business and to continue to offer services to our members.