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Why a dues increase?

Why is the AOCS Governing Board facing a decision whether to raise dues effective in 1980?

Simply because annual dues have remained constant at \$24 since 1970, while costs have been rising for the programs and services that dues help finance. For the past few years, the rising costs have been offset by an increasing number of members and additional income from varied activities. But the AOCS Finance Committee believes that situation cannot continue indefinitely and recommended last summer the Governing Board review the situation so that a decision could be reached no later than the 1979 meeting in San Francisco.

AOCS Treasurer Frank Naughton says the finance committee will prepare a new five-year projection once full fiscal information from 1978 is available.

The budget for 1978, for example, was approved as a deficit budget, but appears to be headed for the black, in part because of increased advertising revenues and educational program revenues.

The 1979 budget approved last summer shows a projected deficit of \$29,300, with expenses totaling \$691,000 and income of \$661,700. According to finance committee projections, a \$10 dues increase for 1979 would have tilted the budget into the black by about \$45,000, assuming there was no decrease in membership because of the dues increase. With a 10% loss of members, the hypothetical 1979 projection showed a surplus of \$33,000.

One of the major AOCS expenses is publication costs. A portion of each member's dues is allocated to publication costs, generally equivalent to the ratio of publications' costs to total AOCS' expenses. Publication costs have risen about 21% from 1976 to the 1979 budget, from about \$285,000 to \$402,000. Publication income has risen about 8%, from \$345,000 in 1976 to an anticipated \$433,000 in 1979. Rising printing and postage costs have contributed to a major share of the increase, with salaries accounting for the rest.

World conferences are treated as extraordinary events in AOCS budgeting and are not included in regular operating and expense budgets. If a future world conference should lose money, however, that would need to be covered by AOCS. Thus, the decision to put before the Governing Board the question of a dues increase.

Regardless of the decision, it appears inevitable that AOCS will have an annual operating budget of more than \$1,000,000 sometime in the early 1980s, if only because of inflation. ●

