



OHSLA Membership Report

Membership Status (as of 5/4/2021)

- **56 Active Members (dues have been paid)**
 - 54 regular members (\$15)
 - 2 library student members (\$5)
 - Decreased 1 member from January 2021.
- 4 Non-Active Member who started the renewal process less than 30 days ago but have not paid dues yet (Renewal Pending)
- 19 Memberships are overdue >30 days (Lapsed)

New Members since January 2021 Business Meeting

- Karen McKillip, University of NC Greensboro, Library Student
- Diane DeLuco, Ohio Department of Health, Field Manager

Recommendation to Raise Membership Dues

- Recommendation to propose raising yearly OHSLA dues was sent out to OHSLA members on March 3, 2021. The full letter with rationale behind the recommendation is attached to the Membership Report.
- Plan to discuss recommendation and take a vote. According to OHSLA Bylaws, Article VII, an amendment shall require the affirmative vote of no less than two thirds of the members attending the meeting.

Dear OHSLA Members,

As Treasurer of OHSLA, I am submitting a recommendation on behalf of the OHSLA Executive Committee to propose raising yearly OHSLA dues to \$25 for regular members, \$15 for library students and \$15 for unemployed or retired members, effective at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1st, 2021.

Reasons for submitting a recommendation to raise dues:

- OHSLA has had the same price of membership since at least 1998. The proposed regular membership price would increase by \$10.
 - In the Business Meeting reports from 1996 and 1997, the possibility of increasing the annual dues was discussed. It was reported in the 1998 Fall Business Meeting that it was decided to not increase the prices and keep the dues at \$15 for members and \$5 for library students.
 - This means the membership price of OHSLA has not changed in at least 22 years.
- The costs to organize CE-providing events, host the website, and other administrative fees necessary to support an organization have increased over the years.
- Membership numbers have decreased over the years, which decreases membership income.
 - When raising membership fees was last discussed in 1998, the budget was based on an expected 110 paid memberships. Current budget is based on 70 paid memberships.
- OHSLA has not broken-even in its budget since 2016-2017 fiscal year. Attempts to remedy include:
 - Severely limiting meeting expenses.
 - In the 2016-2017 budget, each meeting was budgeted \$1300 per meeting plus food expenses.
 - In the 2018-2019 budget, this budget was decreased to \$750 per plus food expenses.
 - Attempts to market the benefits of OHSLA to increase memberships.
 - Seeking out grants and other methods to provide quality CE content at the lowest possible cost to OHSLA members.

How we arrived at the \$25 for the membership due:

- We compared what we would need to break even with our average membership numbers over the past few years.
- We looked at the membership fees of comparable library associations. Memberships ranged from \$15-\$40.
 - Examples include: Michigan HSLA \$15, Kentucky MLA \$15-16, Indiana HSLA \$20-25, Midwest MLA \$30, and ALAO \$40.
- We used the results of the OHSLA Survey sent out in Fall 2020.
 - When asking if members were in favor of increasing OHSLA's annual dues to break even on administrative costs, 14 selected "yes" and 7 selected "maybe" out of 22 responses.
 - When asked what a fair dollar amount would be for OHSLA dues, 19 out of 22 responses selected numbers in the \$20-\$30 range (5 responses for \$20, 7 for \$25, 1 for \$28, 6 for \$30).

March 1st, 2021

We realize this is a difficult time financially for many libraries. If the recommendation is passed, members will be able to renew for another year at the existing rate if they renew before July 1st, 2021, even for memberships that won't expire before that time. More information will be sent out if the recommendation is passed.

According to the OHSLA Bylaws, Article VII, any amendment shall be written up and distributed to the membership one month prior to the next meeting. An amendment shall require the affirmative vote of no less than two thirds of the members attending the meeting. The vote will take place at the Spring OHSLA Business Meeting on May 7, 2021.

If you have any questions about this proposal, please don't hesitate to reach out to Liz Lyman, OHSLA Treasurer.

Thank you for your support of OHSLA.

Sincerely,

Liz Lyman, OHSLA Treasurer and Membership Chair

Submitted on behalf of the OHSLA Executive Committee