

IMPORTANT NOTICE to all ALSSAR Chapter Registrars and others who may submit SAR Applications:

Each year about this time, we begin thinking about closing out the dues year for the current year and begin thinking about collection of dues for the coming year. For 2016, there will be a \$5.00 increase in NSSAR national dues for adult members, which we will collect from each current member as they submit their dues for 2016.

This dues increase will also affect those who will be submitting new applications for membership. Although the 2016 dues, including the increase of \$5.00, officially begins January 1, 2016, NSSAR has had a policy whereby the dues portion of any new application approved on or after November 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year will be applied to the coming year. By adding this grace period of November and December to the coming year, new members approved late in a calendar year have not had to pay dues for an entire year when only a couple months of that year remain. NSSAR does not have a system in place to prorate dues. If you pay in January, you pay for the entire calendar year. If you pay in August, you still pay for the entire calendar year.

In the past, when submitting new applications late in the year, the ALSSAR Registrar has had the privilege of requesting NSSAR to hold an application until November 1<sup>st</sup> so the dues will count on the coming year rather than the current year. This has saved countless new members from having to “double pay” dues when they are approved as a new member late in the year.

This year, NSSAR will use a different policy with regard to receiving new member applications, AND to which year the dues portion will be credited. This year, the ALSSAR Registrar will NOT be afforded the opportunity to have NSSAR hold applications until November 1<sup>st</sup> for approval, as has been done in the past.

NSSAR has stated that if an application is **received** at NSSAR anytime **before November 1<sup>st</sup>**, and that application is approved before the end of the calendar year 2015, the dues portion will apply to 2015, AND the new member must then pay 2016 dues as well. (i. e. if an application is submitted on September 15 and approved on December 1, the applicant’s dues will be applied to 2015, even though there are only 30 days left in the calendar year.) NSSAR has also stated that any application received on or after November 1<sup>st</sup> must have the \$5.00 dues increase included.

This new/revised NSSAR policy was discussed with ALSSAR State President Bill Stone recently. In order to keep ALSSAR applicants from having to “double pay” dues when they are submitting new applications through the months of September and October, the following policy will be used in Alabama for the remainder of calendar year 2015:

1. Any new adult application **POSTMARKED prior to September 1, 2015** will use the current fees and dues amounts as listed on the ALSSAR Fees and Dues Chart dated “Effective January 1, 2015.” Upon completion of a review by the ALSSAR Registrar, these applications will be processed as usual and forwarded to NSSAR.
2. Any new adult application **POSTMARKED on or after September 1, 2015** MUST include the \$5.00 dues increase. After a review, these applications WILL BE HELD by the ALSSAR Registrar until approximately October 25, 2015, then forwarded to the ALSSAR Secretary for final

processing, before being forwarded to NSSAR. This will insure that applications do not arrive at NSSAR until November 1, 2015 or later, AND will insure that these new applicants, once approved, will not be charged "double dues."

3. If there are any unusual circumstances where an application is to be submitted to the ALSSAR Registrar during September or October, and needs to be immediately forwarded to NSSAR rather than be held until November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Chapter Registrar or Sponsor should contact the ALSSAR Registrar prior to mailing the application. The ALSSAR Registrar will advise the Chapter Registrar or Sponsor as to the correct fees and dues amount to be submitted with the application.

It is realized that applications submitted in the early part of this September/October holding period will take longer to arrive and be reviewed at NSSAR. However, through the years, the one common theme that we have heard is that we do not want new members approved late in the year to be charged dues for the coming year immediately after they have been approved as a member.

This dues increase does not apply to Junior Applications, Supplemental Applications, or the Life Membership Program. The dues increase does apply to CAR to SAR Transfers and the old Youth Registrant Program (now obsolete) to SAR Transfers. There will be a revised Fees and Dues Chart posted on the ALSSAR website dated "Effective September 1, 2015. For your convenience, listed below are the application/membership types that will be affected and the amounts that should be submitted when **POSTMARKED on or after September 1, 2015.**

<b>New Member Regular Application (age 25 or older)</b>	<b>\$135</b>
<b>New Member Regular Application (age 25 or older – Family Plan)</b>	<b>\$85</b>
<b>New Member Regular Application (age 18 thru 24 – Established Lineage)</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>New Member Regular Application (age 18 thru 24 – New Lineage)</b>	<b>\$95</b>
<b>CAR to SAR Transfer (requires an SAR Application)</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>Youth Registrant (obsolete program) to SAR Transfer (Requires a Letter)</b>	<b>\$35</b>

There will also be a new rate for Memorial Applications. The total cost of a Memorial Application will increase from \$380 to \$430. Memorial Applications will be processed as usual and will not be held since that individual is deceased and will not renew his membership for 2016. The date a Memorial Application is submitted may make a difference in the cost. If you plan to submit a Memorial Application during September or October, check with the ALSSAR Registrar prior to submitting a Memorial Application for the correct amount to be submitted.

It is suggested that we hold all reinstatements until November 1<sup>st</sup> so that their reinstatement and dues will count on 2016. If they reinstate now, it will count on 2015 and they will have to pay dues again for 2016.

As always, if you have any question regarding an SAR Application or the correct amount to submit with an application, feel free to contact the ALSSAR Registrar.

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