

# Wrap Up Your Bylaws Obligation; Dues Alert

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## Electronic version of your bylaws:

Many of our clubs have not sent the electronic version of their bylaws to me for archiving. My term of office is up in December. I would like very much to be able to turn over a complete file of club bylaws to my successor.

I suggest that you send them to me in a PDF file. That way they cannot be changed. Most of you have sent Word documents. That's fine, but remember that an inadvertent key stroke of someone looking thru your document can change that document.

Please send them to me as soon as possible.

Thanks for all your hard work cleaning up your bylaws and getting them ready for your successors. Bylaws are the rules your club lives by. They are there for the protection of your members and your club against the whims of your officers or other members. Encourage your members to read them and to make sure your officers are following them. Your club will be stronger and better for it.

*PS—Remember to send in your bylaws for approval whenever you amend them.*

## Dues Alert

In my last message I talked about the fact that in September the NFRW Convention delegates raised the per capita dues by \$2, from \$8 to \$10 per year. That means starting now (2010), you will be sending \$15 per member to TFRW for your obligations to TFRW (\$5) and NFRW (\$10), in addition to the service fees.

By now I hope you have reviewed your bylaws and standing rules to see how they are affected by this change. If your actual dues figure is in your bylaws, you will need to make a bylaws change. If you do, you will need to send your bylaws to me for approval, as stated in the TFRW Bylaws, Article IV, Section 9, Number 2.

If you have the actual figure in your standing rules, you will need to make that change at your next general meeting.

***By now you and your membership should have made the decisions pointed out below.*** If not, you need to get busy and make them.

- You need to decide whether your club will raise its dues by that \$2 or absorb the loss.
- You should discuss it at your Board Meeting and decide what the Board will recommend to your membership at the next general meeting and the reasons for that recommendation
- You should take into consideration:
  - How high your dues are
  - The ability of your members to pay them
  - Whether your club can operate on the reduced income if you do not raise your dues
  - Whether you will lose members or fail to attract new members if you raise them

Whichever decision your Board chooses, you must submit it to the membership. They should have the final say in whether you raise the dues or absorb the loss.

**You need to make your decision immediately, because after November 1, you will start accepting renewal memberships for 2010, which will include that extra \$2, whether or not you raise your dues. Starting on that date, you will be sending \$15 to TFRW for each member—\$10 for NFRW and \$5 for TFRW.**

*See you in Galveston for a "Wave of Inspiration !"*

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