

Membership Dues Change

SPN is an organization of over 2000 professional nurses dedicated to promoting and providing optimal care of children and their families. The elected leaders of SPN have always attempted to respond by providing the services necessary to continue the growth and development of SPN and its members. Strategic planning sessions for the organization are regularly conducted and any proposed changes are evaluated for their impact on members and the Society as a whole.

With our growth and progress as a national organization comes an added fiscal responsibility. We need to continue providing the current services as well as prepare for added benefits over the coming years. To sustain SPN operations during uncertain economic times, the Society must build a reserve account that ensures financial stability.

Treasurer's Report

With just a month left before we can officially "close" the 2004 budget year, we are again anticipating very positive financial performance for the organization. The 2004 annual conference again produced more revenues at less cost than we budgeted and we have continued to see growth in both the corporate membership and individual membership revenues. We have also continued to be very cautious in our budgeting and careful with our spending to achieve these results.

Based on the past four years of positive financial performance, the SPN Board began planning during the October Board Meeting for longer-term financial goals related to continuing to grow the organization and to establishing realistic reserve accounts which would ensure long term financial viability for SPN's future. We also began to review patterns of cost and inflation against the organization's "wish list" for the future and to develop funding plans that will take both of these dimensions into consideration in our future budgeting. Once this budget year is officially completed we will be able to complete the budgeting for 2005. In addition, we will be discussing the long term financial plans more with SPN members at the annual conference.

The Board and national staff continue to be committed to operating as cost efficiently and effectively as possible. We will continue to balance the addition of some new member benefits including the enhancements to the SPN Web site with increasing the

In order to progress with the building of the reserve account and to develop new member benefits, the Board of Directors, after careful consideration, has approved an increase in annual membership dues from \$90.00 a year to \$105.00 per year, effective July 1, 2005. If you renew your 2005 dues prior to July 1, you will pay only the \$90.00 a year amount.

investments in the production of the national conference, additional support for local chapters, and growing SPN's savings accounts.

Members can continue to help us be successful by supporting the efforts to increase membership, grow new local chapters, and grow the corporate member program. In addition, you can share your ideas with any Board member about the types of new member services which you would most like to see added to "the wish list" for the future! Together we are making it happen! Thanks for the great team effort!

Mary Salassi-Scorer, MNSc, RN
Treasurer

Pathways Awareness Foundation Publishes Brochure

Pathways Awareness Foundation, a national non-profit organization dedicated to raising community awareness of the benefits of early detection and early therapy for children with physical differences, received an endorsement from the American Academy of Pediatrics for its brochure *Assure the Best for your Baby's Physical Development*.

The brochure, designed to educate parents and assist medical professionals, includes a growth and development chart highlighting speech, play, and physical developmental milestones from 3 to 15 months of age. This unique tool allows parents to become proactive in tracking their child's development and encourages early treatment for delays.

To receive your free copies of the brochure to distribute to parents or to get more information call the "parent-answered" toll-free number at (800) 955-2445, e-mail friends@pathwaysawareness.org or visit the Web site at www.pathwaysawareness.org

