

A BRIEF GUIDE TO MEMBER DUES

by Keith Jones, Secretary, Mid-Atlantic District

District Treasurer Bob Eckman and I receive a number of inquiries from Chapter Secretaries and Chapter Treasurers about how to decipher the many dues categories and rules for both new members, renewing members, and former members who are coming back into the Society. This summary was reviewed and supplemented by Chris Buechler, who trains Chapter Secretaries at the annual Leadership Academy sessions. Chris also serves as Secretary of the Alexandria, Virginia Chapter, one of our Society's largest and best-organized chapters.

The various common membership categories are dependent on age (like Youth), experience (50+ years), a combination of age and experience (like Senior), or a one-time payment (Life) or the more common annual membership whether paid as lump sum or by auto-draft. When determining dues for each category it is critical to remember that the total amount of dues is composed of *four separate* elements – Society, District, and Chapter dues, as well as Society enrollment fees where applicable – and that the amount of each is set by a different governing body.

The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) website shows 10 distinct membership categories (also called “member class codes”), as follows, with 2009 BHS and M-AD dues shown in braces and brackets. Two previous categories (Student and Lifetime Student) were eliminated at the end of 2008 and multi-year subsets (3-, 5-, or 8-years) ceased to be offered in July 2008.

<u>Full Dues Categories</u>		Annual Dues (2009)	
		BHS	M-AD
NW	New Member*	{\$101.00}	[\$25.00]
RG	Regular/Reinstated Member*	{\$101.00}	[\$25.00]
LF	Lifetime	{\$00.00}	[\$25.00]
<u>Reduced Dues Categories</u>		BHS	M-AD
SN	Regular/Reinstated Senior (2009)*	{\$50.50}	[\$12.50]
SN	New/Reinstated Senior (2010)**	{\$75.75}	[\$18.75]
LS	Lifetime Senior	{\$00.00}	[\$12.50]
Y2	Existing Member under 26 years of age	{\$50.50}	[\$12.50]
<u>Zero Dues Categories</u>		BHS	M-AD
Y1	New Member under 26 years of age*	{\$00.00}	[\$00.00]
R5	Regular with 50 or more years of service	{\$00.00}	[\$00.00]
L5	Lifetime with 50 or more years of service	{\$00.00}	[\$00.00]
S5	Senior with 50 or more years of service	{\$00.00}	[\$00.00]

*New and reinstated members pay a \$10 BHS enrollment fee. When a current BHS member becomes a member of more than one chapter (dual membership), an additional \$10 enrollment fee also applies. Each district and chapter is empowered to set its own dues policy and rates.

**Effective January 1, 2010, the Society Board has reduced the discount for senior members who reach age 70 at the time of renewal or reinstatement from a 50-percent reduction to a 25-percent reduction. This chart presumes that the District Board will follow suit but that determination is pending Board action.

Membership Categories

New Member (NW)—Never a member of the Society and over the age of 25 on date of enrollment. Upon renewal, converts to Regular Member (RG).

New Youth Member (Y1)—Never a member of the Society and under the age of 26 on date of enrollment. Upon renewal, converts to Youth Member (Y2) if under 26 or to Regular Member (RG) when he reaches age 26. Society or District dues are waived for first year, but must pay the \$10 BHS enrollment fee.

Regular Youth Member (Y2)—Existing or reinstated member under the age of 26 at time of renewal or reinstatement. Upon renewal, remains in Y2 category if under 26 or converts to RG category when he reaches age 26.

Regular Member (RG)—Existing or reinstated member over the age of 26 but not eligible for Senior (SN) category. The member is considered “reinstated” if he rejoins more than 6 months after the expiration date of his previous membership; at reinstatement he must pay applicable dues and the \$10 BHS enrollment fee.

Senior Member (SN)—Existing or reinstated member age 70 at time of renewal with at least 10 cumulative years of BHS membership. Society and District dues are assessed at 50% of RG rates (changing to 75% for members reaching senior status as of January 1, 2010 or later). Reinstated senior members must also pay the \$10 BHS enrollment fee.

Transfer Member—Current member requests transfer to another chapter without retaining membership in the chapter he is leaving. Transfers do not require the \$10 BHS enrollment fee. District and chapter establish their own policies concerning dues for transfer members. Usually these are not refunded, so the transfer member may pay dues to two chapters (and/or two districts) during the year in which the transfer is made.

Dual Member—Current member enrolls in another chapter while retaining membership in his current chapter. Dual member must pay a \$10 BHS enrollment fee, and may be required to pay chapter dues for the additional chapter(s), and District dues unless the additional chapters are in the same district as his primary membership.

Life Member (LF)—Life members make a one-time payment of 20 times the current BHS Regular Member (RG) annual dues. Life members pay no annual BHS dues but are subject to District and chapter dues based on the policies of those organizations.

50-Year Members (R5, L5, S5)—Regular, Senior, and Lifetime Members who have accumulated 50 years of BHS membership are exempt from both BHS and M-AD dues but may be subject to chapter dues per chapter policies.

Pay-As-You-Go-Joe, Automatic Deduction, etc.—These are not membership categories but offer various methods for the member to pay his dues (BHS, District, Chapter) in installments rather than in an annual lump-sum payment.

Promotional Offers—From time to time, recruitment initiatives may be advertised that offer deferred or reduced dues, introductory rates, and the like. These programs will be broadcasted to Chapter Secretaries by the BHS headquarters staff along with instructions for reporting such enrollments. Each district's Leadership Academy program will also highlight any new or upcoming programs and show the Chapter Secretary how to enroll members in the programs.

How to Pay—For new and reinstated members, please have them write a check payable to “Barbershop Harmony Society” for the total amount, including (as applicable) chapter dues, District dues, BHS dues, and enrollment fees. Include the check with the membership application and mail to Society HQ in Nashville. Renewals should be processed online by each member on the eBiz website at www.barbershop.org.

If you have additional questions or situations not addressed in this article, please consult the Chapter Secretary's Manual and Exhibits at www.bhs.org. If you need additional assistance, please contact your Chapter Counselor, your Division Vice-President, or send an email to keith.m.jones@midatlanticdistrict.com.