NCFC Board Vote re dues (selected emails minus most of the discussion ones)

Diane Willis <willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org> Nov 4, 2020, 10:51 PM (4 days ago)

to NCFC, Joy

Hi Everyone,
This evening I received the following suggestion to roll-over people's dues from 2020 to cover 2021 since we haven't met in person since January. I would welcome your comments! In particular, Treasurer David and Membership Chair Mike might want to contribute comments from their perspectives. (I'll reserve my comments until everyone has a chance to respond. Please reply to all.)
Thanks!
Diane
Here is the email:
From: **Michelle Diener** <mkdiener@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Nov 4, 2020, 9:25 PM
Subject: Club dues- suggestion
To: NC Fossil Club <paleonc@ncfossilclub.org>

Hi Diane

Other clubs that I am in are rolling over their club dues to next year since clubs have not been able to do any real gatherings due to COVID. I know you asked that we pay membership dues again which I am ok to do if needed but wanted to suggest instead that maybe we can roll over the dues from this year until next year since this year we really could not meet due to the pandemic. Your thoughts?

Michelle Diener

Diane Chapman Willis
President, NC Fossil Club
willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org

NC Fossil Club Thu, Nov 5, 10:17 AM (3 days ago)

to board, Joy

The membership dues income for 2020 was $4,012. The number of memberships by quarter are shown below. Note that there were 212 memberships in 2020 and 271 in 2019.

4Q2019	102
1Q2020	82
2Q2020	8
3Q2020	9
4Q2020	11
	212

Mike

David Sanderson Thu, Nov 5, 4:39 PM (3 days ago)

to NCFC, Joy

Hey Everyone,
Since I'm the guy that has to pay the bills, I will play the devil's advocate in suggesting we don't give up our dues for a year. Even though we are currently meeting virtually, we are still able meet almost all of our goals as a club. We are still able to print and sell our books that fossil enthusiasts enjoy the world over. Our virtual meetings still offer speakers that any member can listen to. We are still able to make grants and donations to worthy causes. We made a $1000 research grant in 2020! The fact that we didn't have a fossil fair was a big disappointment but that is no reason to cancel our dues. It is also disheartening that we no longer have field trips but let me remind you that the Martin Marietta open quarry dates are not club sanctioned field trips. The members that would have participated in the Old Dock, Greens Mill Run and Tar River trips are a small percentage of our total membership. My point is that we are still a strong and functioning club and I don't see a logical reason to forgo our dues. Granted we might have a large percentage of our members who are now unemployed but with a minimal membership cost that should be irrelevant.

In hind site we spent $1000 on club insurance in 2020 for no reason. With virtual meetings, no fossil fair or field trips that expense was a waste. In March of 2021 we will have to pay that again (that is if a vaccine is out and there is some hope of our lives getting back to normal). Financially we are still a very healthy club with $21,797 in the bank. Book sales have slowed and will continue to slow in the future so our expense in printing will take longer to recoup. Expenses to date total $7698.46 with an income of $6866.54 so we have spent more than we took in. $4447.75 of that expense was book reprinting costs so Gary is right that number should not be considered because it will slowly come back in book sales. Without book costs our expenses are $3251.71 to date. Our dues income to date is $2904 and book income is $3962.54

With dues income being close to current or expected expenses it will not hurt the club to go a year without dues. I don't see the reasoning behind giving up dues for a year when Diane has worked hard to create virtual meetings and to maintain our goals. I also want to give credit to Linda for staying in close contact with the quarry managers.
I don't think we would even have the open quarry days if she didn't remind them.

Thanks,
David

Diane Willis <willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org> Nov 5, 2020, 11:14 PM (3 days ago)

to Joy, Ramona, NCFC

Thank you to everyone who has commented! We are missing Trish, but maybe she will have comments later. (I added Ramona to the recipient list so she will know what is going on.) Once again, when you reply to this please reply to all.

I feel like we should resolve this issue now, as opposed to leaving it for after our meeting on Saturday, because we already announced to the membership that it is time to renew. I have one question for Mike: if we were to follow Julie's suggestion of automatically giving "free" 2021 membership to all existing members as of now in 2020, but accepted "donations" of membership dues anonymously, 1) how could donation fees be "anonymous" since payment is done online because nobody can check our mailbox these days, and 2) how could new members join and be recognized as members?

When Mike is able to answer this, and if there are further comments, after those I would like to ask if anyone would like to make a motion on which we can vote, so be thinking about what you might want to propose.

Thank you all so much for paying attention to the business of the Fossil Club while we all bite our nails over the national/state election results!
Diane

From: **NC Fossil Club** <paleonc@ncfossilclub.org>
Date: Fri, Nov 6, 2020 at 11:50 AM
Subject: Re: [NCFC Board] Question from a member re dues
To: <board@ncfossilclub.org>

In regards to making dues optional and anonymous. Rolling members' memberships over to 2021 is not really that hard. Suggesting that making renewals in 2021 optional does seem like it wouldn't generate a lot of takers. In regards to allowing people to rejoin anonymously, that's not really a possibility for those who pay online. This would only work for those who would like to send in cash by mail. We do have an option of allowing people to make a donation to the club. That has lesser fees, but still requires payment information and is not anonymous.

In regards to the overall issue, I agree with David. Also, out of the 218 current members, we have only gotten two inquiries regarding this. The one we've been discussing and a second one that just came in requesting that we allow 1/2 price memberships for 2021 (would be too hard to implement). We do have some people who join just for the opportunity to sign up for trips, but there are many others who don't normally take advantage of the trips or even attend the meetings. Some even join for the benefit of getting free CDs with a book purchase or just for Janus. Finally, I think that our membership fees are relatively low, and might not really impact members' overall budget one way or the other.
Mike

Diane Willis <willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org> Nov 6, 2020, 8:41 PM (2 days ago)

to NCFC, Joy, Ramona, bcc: me
Hi Everyone,
It is getting late to make a determination, but I'd like to have someone who has seen and digested all of the many comments about dues, including the information provided by David and the latest information provided by Mike (can't be anonymous and can't cut the dues in half), make a motion to this whole group (Reply All) about whether or not we should waive dues for current members for 2021, or whether we should keep our dues as they are (for everyone). Then we can vote on the motion after we see it (unless there are questions for additional discussion, but I think we've done quite a bit of discussion!). Anyone???

Thank you,
Diane

Trish Kohler Nov 7, 2020, 12:59 AM (1 day ago)

to NCFC, Joy, Ramona
I move that we continue paying our dues as usual for the 2021 year despite the possible restrictions of in-person meetings and fossil digs during this upcoming year due to the Coronavirus. Trish Kohler

Diane Willis **<willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org>** Sat, Nov 7, 8:11 AM (1 day ago)
to Joy, Ramona, NCFC

Hi Everyone,
Trish, thank you for the motion, and Travis, thank you for the second! Let's vote: please answer to all and vote YES to be in favor of the motion, or NO to not be in favor of the motion. I'll pay attention to the answers this morning, and hopefully we will have some answers before 1:30!

Thank you all,
Diane

Diane Willis **<willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org>** Nov 7, 2020, 7:41 PM (21 hours ago)
to Ramona, NCFC, Joy

Thank you to all of you who responded so quickly to this dues issue, made comments, and voted! We had 10 of our 15-member board able to respond before the meeting earlier today, and all ten voted yes to keep the dues in place. So I announced that at the meeting. Thanks again! It has been a pleasure working with all of you.
Diane

Diane Chapman Willis
Immediate Past President, NC Fossil Club
willis.dc@ncfossilclub.org