



Membership Dues Increase FAQ

What are the proposed dues increases for each membership category?

Individual Memberships	Proposed Dues
U.S. Individual	\$60
Canada Individual	\$80
International Individual	\$80
Household	\$40
Student	\$20
Canada Individual – Online	\$50
International Individual – Online	\$50
Trial	\$40
Business Memberships	Proposed Dues
U.S. Business	\$90
Canada Business	\$110
International Business	\$120
Canada Business – Online	\$80
International Business – Online	\$80
Chapter Memberships	Proposed Dues
Chapter Dues	\$35

When will the membership dues increase become effective?

The membership dues increase will become effective immediately if a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the proposed Standing Rules change is approved by the general membership at the 2017 Annual Meeting on May 18 in Daytona Beach, Florida. Current Members would pay the new dues rate for their respective category upon the time they are scheduled to renew their membership.

Why are there proposed increases to membership dues?

Like many organizations, we have seen an increase in operational costs year-over-year. We have incurred those costs without increasing dues for seven years. Operational expenses have outpaced the rate of incoming dues, in part due to a decline in membership. Without increasing dues, it will be difficult for the Society to continue to operate and offer benefits and service to our members and Chapters.

Has the organization tried to reduce its costs in other ways?

Yes. We have and will continue to look for ways to reduce expenses. For example:



- In 2016, we sold our headquarters building to eliminate high maintenance and utility fees as well as office space that was not being utilized.
- We shortened our annual conference by one day to reduce the venue cost and related fees, while maintaining the same number of classes and increasing the number of special events.

Can the Society obtain needed funds from other sources?

- We are exploring grant funding opportunities that the Society may be eligible for through the International Museum of the Society of Decorative Painters' (IMS DP) 501(c)3 non-profit status; however, these grant funding opportunities are not immediate nor guaranteed.

Will I lose any benefits?

No. With this increase in dues, we will be able to invest in new initiatives aimed to improve benefits and grow membership, including a/an:

- New website with a more user-friendly, responsive and secure experience
- New SDP database system to ease and automate joining and renewing memberships
- Chapter Tool Kit, which recently launched and will continue to grow in new resources that Chapters can use to enhance local activities and recruit members
- Online beginner painting program to educate and create interest in painting, and secure new members

What are the benefits of membership?

In addition to these tangible items listed below, you are a valuable member and an essential part of the international painting community where you will grow your artistic skills, meet new lifelong painting friends, and have fun!

- Quarterly digital or print subscription to *The Decorative Painter*, our official magazine, filled with several original projects in each issue in all styles of painting, Society updates and a variety of articles about painting
- Discounted access to our Annual Society of Decorative Painters International Conference & Expo where you can paint, learn and shop new products
- Ability to join or start a Chapter to paint and learn through monthly paint-ins, seminars, community service events and more—all the while developing new friendships with fellow painters in your area
- Receive exclusive discounts with a growing list of painting industry businesses that provide painting supplies, art publications, travel and more (Use these discounts to offset the cost of your membership!)



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- Participation in our recognized worldwide Certification Program that trains painters to develop their skills with the goal of earning the title of Accredited Decorative Painter, Certified Decorative Artist and/or Master Decorative Artist
- Learn to teach, stay informed about teaching news and techniques, and become certified with our Teacher Development Program (Use your painting skills to develop a business and earn an income doing what you love!)
- Stay up to date on industry news and continue to learn with our social media, blog, monthly eZine, and various online publications
- Access to the members-only page of decorativepainters.org where you will find the digital edition of *The Decorative Painter*, our Online Video Library offering everything from one-minute tip videos to complete video lessons, member-exclusive discount list, and more
- Opportunity to visit and support the International Museum of the Society of Decorative Painters (IMSDP), which exhibits and preserves decorative works of art with historical significance to painting and special meaning to our community
- Eligibility for the SDP Platinum Visa Card (Along with the great benefits you receive, every purchase goes to support SDP at no extra cost to you!)

Why are the Canada and International Memberships more expensive?

The cost to ship *The Decorative Painter* to Canada and other countries is more expensive than it is to ship *The Decorative Painter* within the United States.

Why is a Business Membership more expensive?

Business Members receive all the benefits of Individual Memberships, plus discounted rates to exhibit at our Annual SDP International Conference & Expo; discounted advertising rates in our publications; a listing in our Online Business Directory; and exposure to our entire membership as a business.

When was the last dues increase and how much was it?

It was in 2010, which increased U.S. Individual Membership by \$5.

Will there be another proposed dues increase in the near future?

The dues increase that is being proposed is the only dues increase planned at the time. The Society will continue to review its financials on an annual basis.

Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact any of our Board of Directors. Contact information can be found on our website at decorativepainters.org/contact.php.