



*International MOMS Club®
Fact Sheet*

Goals for Helping Our Chapters

The International MOMS Club has always held fast to the principle that a family's decision for a mother to stay home to raise the child/children involves a considerable financial sacrifice.

This is why the registration fee that each chapter pays to the International MOMS Club has been only \$2.00 per member (or \$30 for chapters with less than 15 members) since the beginning of the MOMS Club – for over 35 years.

We have been able to keep it that low for over 35 years by relying heavily on our team of talented volunteers, who have tirelessly donated their time and special skills to help bridge the ever-widening gap between what chapters contribute to International and what it costs to provide the services and support we're so proud of offering.

You've noticed that the MOMS Club has been actively working to expand our online presence and the resources available to our chapters through our website over the years. Our Chapter Information Portal (CHIP) gives board members access to chapter information, the ability to contact their primary coordinator at the press of a button, file annual reports and update information, but there is so much more we want to do.

As we look to the future, though, it is no longer feasible to move forward with an all-volunteer force donating their time and talents. We are very proud of our volunteers, but we are at a point in our growth where we need to bring in professionals to continue to maintain and expand the features that our chapters are requesting.

That is impossible to do on the 35-year-old registration fee. In order to move forward, we need the resources to pay those professionals, so on January 1, 2019, MOMS Club will be increasing the registration fee to \$5.00 per member for chapters with 10 or more members, and \$50 per chapter for those few with less than 10 members. This is still significantly less than any other national organization.

By informing chapters now, we know it will allow them time to prepare and adjust their dues accordingly, if needed. Most chapters will not need to increase their members' dues to cover the change in registration fee, but those who do will have plenty of time to adjust their budgets.

We understand there will be questions. Here are the answers to the most common ones:

1) Do we vote to accept or reject this new increase in registration fees?

No, you do not vote on the registration fees. As per your chapter Bylaws, the registration fee is always set by the International MOMS Club to be fair to all chapters and affordable to your members. It's a part of who you are as a MOMS Club chapter, and is not subject to a vote.

2) Do we need to raise our dues?

Many – indeed most – chapters are not going to have to raise their members' dues to cover the change. The reason is that most chapters' expenditures through the years have actually gone down, often thanks to the internet. What used to be budgeted for printed and mailed newsletters, for example, is still in many chapters' budgets, even though most chapters no longer print or mail a newsletter.

The first step is to look at your chapter's overall budget. Is it realistic for what your chapter needs to spend today? Some meeting room costs may have gone up for some chapters, or down for others. Newsletter expenses will undoubtedly have gone down through the years. If your chapter normally has had money left over at the end of each fiscal year, then it's because expected expenses have gone down, but the budget hasn't changed. That extra can be used to cover this change in registration fees, without a change in your membership dues.

If you don't have extra in your budget that you can use for this, then it might be time to either adjust what is spent on various things or increase your members' dues. If your dues have not changed in years, they may not be realistic to cover inflation and the other extra things your budget may need to cover.

But, the first step is to look at your overall spending. Is your budget realistic for your chapter's needed expenses now? If it is, then you may have to increase your dues, but you may find that simply shifting money from one category to another may still cover all your chapter needs.

3) If we decide we need to raise our chapter dues, do we need to vote?

Yes, an increase in membership dues requires a chapter vote at your monthly meeting. Remember though, you're not voting on whether to increase the amount you're paying in your chapter's registration fee to the International MOMS Club. That's not determined by a chapter vote; it's a policy set forth by the chapter Bylaws and is a part of who you are and your nonprofit status. You're only voting on the amount your chapter should raise its membership dues to the chapter, in order to increase the treasury amount for your chapter's overall budget needs.

4) If we vote to raise our chapter dues, when should we have it start?

That's up to your chapter. We suggest, though, that you'll want to have your new dues start as soon as possible in order to give yourself enough time to prepare before the increase

begins in January, 2019. It's not a large increase, but *if* you need to adjust your dues, it's easier to do it now than later.

5) How much should we raise our dues?

It depends on what your chapter needs. You need to look at your whole budget, not just this small increase. If you find you do need to increase your dues to cover the increase, you should only need to raise the dues by \$3 per member, because, your budget already covers the original \$2 fee, so the only change is the \$3.

However, if you look at your budget and find that there are other expenses that have gone up that are necessary for your chapter (like meeting rooms), then you will want to adjust your dues to cover everything that your chapter needs.

You may well find that you don't need to increase your dues at all. Most chapters have more than \$3 per member unallocated funds in their treasury each year. Those chapters will not need to increase their dues at all.

6) Will this be the last increase?

No one can predict the future, but you know from the history of International that we take our financial responsibility very seriously. We want to provide the best services to our chapters *at the most reasonable prices possible* – we've done that for over 35 years.

As chapters have become more technologically savvy, they've come to expect more services, and those services cost money. We can promise that any future increases will only be what is necessary to provide the services our chapters both need and expect as part of an International nonprofit organization.

6) What kind of additional services can we expect from our higher dues?

In general, we are looking to expand the internet portal capabilities so you can do more through the International MOMS Club website than ever before. We want that portal to be as seamless and easy-to-use as possible, and that is requiring professional services to provide that to our chapters.

As more specific information becomes available you can be assured that we will be sharing the exciting new developments and services with all of our chapters!

*If you have questions about your chapter
and the International MOMS Club,
contact your chapter's Coordinator
or email us at supprt@momsclub.org.*

