

UAA Membership Update

UAA is proud to continue offering the membership affordable pricing and low cost educational opportunities for the past 37 years. UAA has not increased its membership dues since 1996. Earlier this year the UAA Board voted to increase membership dues. Effective September 1, 2011 membership dues will be \$40. The Board of Directors feels that an additional cost is necessary to maintain the quality of offerings our membership has come to expect.

Since the last dues increase, over 15 years ago, UAA has experienced enormous growth in membership and has expanded our services and programs. Some of the changes have included the following:

- Introduction of a New Publication - UAA Newline – 6 issues a year
- Coordination of the International Symposium on Rights-of-Way Management Conference in 2009 (ROW 9) and development of the ROW 10 meeting for 2012.
- An ever expanding website with a plethora of resources and a secure Member's Only section
- Development and implementation of low cost Regional Meetings throughout the United States
- Provision of online ISA CEU Quizzes 6 times a year
- Establishment of the Job Bank
- A presence in Washington DC
- Fostering of Partnerships with the Society of Municipal Arborist and Arbor Day Foundation
- System Foresters Summit
- Establishment of the Utility Arborist Research Fund

The decision to raise dues was based on an analysis of revenues and expenditures and an increase in administrative costs with the hiring of the new Executive Director and part time administrative staff. The Executive Director position has increased from a 25% time position shared with ISA to a 50% time position dedicated to UAA. With this new hire, UAA is focusing on growing the organization and improving our partnerships with ISA and UAA worldwide. Membership dues will be used to establish a solid foundation for new initiatives and project development in support of the strategic plan. Such initiatives and projects include:

- Webinar program
- More regional meetings
- Training courses
- A continued presence in Washington DC
- Utility Arboriculture research projects

Timely, targeted, affordable continuing education and training materials is the highest priority for UAA members and the FY2011-2012 budget reflects this emphasis and commitment.

We know that there is stiff competition for your membership dollars, so when you receive your 2011-2012 membership renewal, we hope you will choose UAA. In order for UAA to provide high quality member services and flourish by *"enhancing the quality of utility arboriculture"* your membership is vital.

With thanks for your continued support,
Utility Arborist Association Executive Committee and Staff