

The Chapter increased membership dues effective May of 2005. This is the first time dues have been increased since 1993, and reflects the increased benefits that members have already begun experiencing as a result of expanded staffing for the Chapter.

As many of you know, the Chapter hired its first Executive Director last July with support from several grants which will be expiring at the end of this Fiscal Year. This increased staffing is allowing the Chapter to expand the benefits received by members in the following ways:

- The Maine Chapter AAP is developing its first ever website, scheduled to go live in August 2005, which will offer a rich array of information, resources and opportunities for you to communicate and network with your colleagues and professional community.
- The Chapter is entering into collaborative partnerships with an increasing number of medical and public health organizations to address pressing issues in child and adolescent health, including the Maine Center for Public Health, Maine Harvard Prevention Research Center, Maine Bureau of Health, and the National Initiative for Children’s Healthcare Quality.
- The Chapter is undergoing multiple “back office” and management improvements which will strengthen its organizational capacity to meet its ambitious strategic plan goals and rise to new levels of responsiveness to the evolving needs of Chapter members
- The Chapter is increasing its involvement in advocacy activities to advance the interest of pediatricians and children in Maine.
- The Chapter is improving the quality of CME courses offered during each Spring and Fall Educational Conference, for which members receive registration discounts.

The dues increase is as follows:

Category Level	Previous Dues Level	New Dues
Fellow	\$75/yr	\$95/yr
Allied Health Professional/Associate	\$65/yr	\$80/yr
Resident	\$25/yr	\$35/yr
Medical Student	No fee	No fee

We value your continued membership and are confident that the modest increase will translate directly into a higher level of service and responsiveness to you individually as well as for the collective interest of pediatricians in Maine. The Chapter will continue to act as a champion for issues affecting the children in your community and as well as your practice. As individual pediatricians it is difficult to make a difference, but as a unified group we **can** make a difference.

In addition to these important functions, the Chapter continues to provide opportunities for members to get involved in committees, programs and initiatives at national AAP. If you

have any questions about anything concerning the Maine Chapter AAP, please feel free to contact me at lryan@aap.org or Executive Director Alex Hildebrand at ahildebrand@aap.org or 879-1509.