

2011 Proposed Membership Levels

The Mower County Historical Society Board of Directors has approved an increase in membership dues at their September 22, 2010 regular meeting. This increase will take effect upon approval from a majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting as stated in the historical society's by-laws. Below is a table that explains the current levels of membership and current costs compared to the proposed increase.

	Current Membership Levels	Proposed Changes
Individual	\$15	\$25
Family	\$25	\$35
Club/Organization	No level available	\$50
Business	\$50	\$60
Keep the Doors Open	\$100 & up (5 levels)	\$100 & up (5 levels)
Ag Building Sponsor	\$250	\$250
Life	No longer offered	No longer offered

The addition of a club/organization level will allow MCHS to pursue memberships from local service organizations and nonprofits who may be interested in supporting the organization. This level will be defined as “any club, organization, or nonprofit that work as a public charity or as a registered nonprofit organization and do not operate as a for-profit enterprise may join the Mower County Historical Society, as a member, at the club/organization level.”

Why are these increases being proposed?

The reason for these proposed increases stems from a need to increase revenue for MCHS. With tight budgets at the county level, MCHS is trying to reduce its dependence on government funding in order to adapt to any future cuts from Mower County. At the beginning of 2009, research fees were reevaluated and changed to cover costs associated with providing research services. Membership fees are the only remaining line item in our budget that we can reevaluate and change to continue our operations and provide a service to Mower County residents.

How can I make my voice heard in this matter?

The most effective way is to attend the Annual Meeting on November 4 when the vote will take place and cast your vote. You cannot vote by proxy; you must attend the meeting to have your vote count. If you are unable to attend the meeting and want to discuss your feelings about this change, please contact our Executive Director by phone at (507) 437-6082 or via email at mchsdir@smig.net. Another method is to contact a member of the MCHS Board of Directors. Their names are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.