

A Response to the Motion for a CFUW National Dues Increase to Fund GWI

Is the increase JUST?

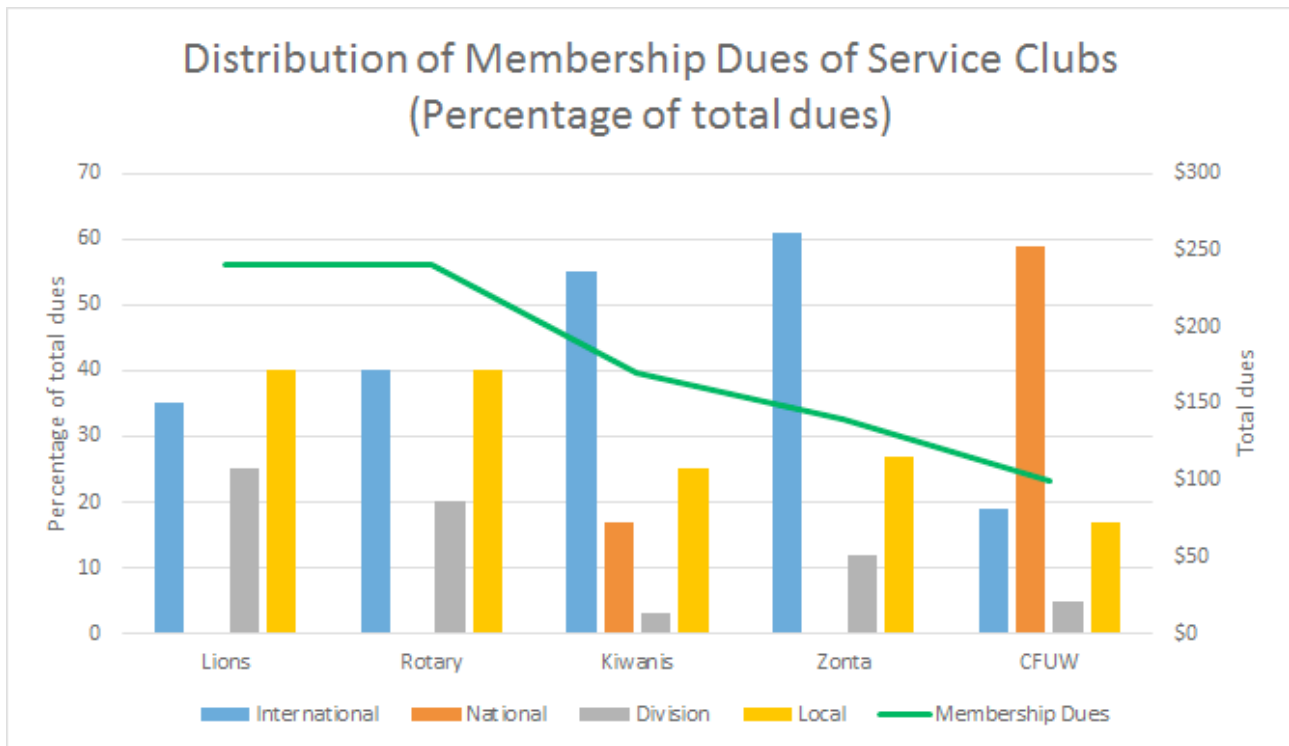
- Since 2004, CFUW has raised the National dues five times¹ to a total increase of \$33, and doubling the fees from \$37 in 2004² to \$70 today. In the same time period, GWI/IFUW has not had any increase in dues.³

(The roughly \$8 increase in the portion of National dues paid to GWI over the years is due to the exchange rate only, not to any increase in funds flowing to GWI.)



Is it REASONABLE?

- The increased GWI dues remain very low when compared with other organizations that have an international connection.
- As the chart below shows, Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Zonta have a greater proportion of dues going to the international level of their organizations. CFUW fees to GWI, even with the increase, are a fraction (half or less) of the levels of these other groups.⁴



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¹ Task Force Report on CFUW's Way Forward, December 2016, p. 7.

² CFUW Stratford News, April 2004, p. 1.

³ GWI Circular 3/16, February 2016, p. 1.

⁴ Inquiries by CFUW Stratford to local service clubs, March 2017. Notes on file with CFUW Stratford.

Is the increase MORAL?

- We, as members of one of the most affluent, secure, and developed countries in the world⁵ can consider whether we have an obligation to look beyond our borders and support resources for women in countries that are struggling with economic and social challenges.
- We are the largest member of GWI, and a decision to undermine that organization by not paying the full fees or by withdrawing altogether will have a huge impact on its survival, and potentially on the wellbeing of other NFAs. GWI President Geeta Desai's response to the question on that impact was:



“If CFUW were no longer a member, we would have to rework income and expenditures. And, our volunteers (Board and committees) would have to exponentially increase the number of hours that they commit to working for GWI as would the remaining staff. However, for us, the implications of losing CFUW as a member of GWI transcends the budget issue. It means losing the leadership of women who bring a unique point of view that is a balance of compassion, dedication to women's rights and clear-eyed common sense.”⁶

- CFUW's independent advocacy at the UN is not the same as advocating as part of an international organization where we speak *with* women from other countries on equal footing, rather than speak *for* others without formal opportunities for collaboration and accountability.

In a world that is increasingly destabilized, where women are vulnerable, and education is crucial, we cannot choose to be insular and isolationist.



Is it VIABLE?

- When the amounts payable to GWI by CFUW are listed in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, we all blanch. However, we are looking at a total increase of \$26 per person⁷ or 50 cents a week. That's some parking time downtown each week, lunch out for two, a new book, or a coffee at Timmy's once a month. It's manageable for virtually all of us.

\$26 a year = just \$0.50 a week

Prepared by CFUW Stratford

⁵ Porter, Michael E. and Scott Stern, *Social Progress Index*, 2016: www.socialprogressimperative.org

⁶ *GWI Responses to Questions from CFUW*, November 2016.

⁷ CFUW National Bulletin, *CFUW Dues Increase Motion*, February 24, 2017, p. 3.