



AAFA ACTION

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The President's Corner

Max Ray Alford, President, AAFA #0230

Recently, major changes have been announced concerning the AAFA Action quarterly and its demise. In reading some of the responses to the announcement, there seems to be a mistaken impression that maybe the AAFA is also going away. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There were no discussions about folding up the tents and stealing away into the night. Nor do we anticipate any such discussions now or ever. We are here to stay as long as the good Lord lets us. We were losing active members (those who didn't renew their dues) and these losses were not being off set by new members. Each quarter, we were ordering fewer copies of the quarterly to be mailed to dues paying members. After much study and debating, it was decided to cease publication of the quarterly and that issue 98 would be the last printed copy of the quarterly. As the dues were used mainly for the costs associated with the printing and mailing of the quarterly, it was decided to do away with the dues. As a consequence of that action, the classification of members as "Active" or "Inactive" no longer applies. All members are now eligible to vote on matters that come before the membership. Any new members joining after membership #1396 would pay a one time processing fee of \$5. Although the quarterly was the main expenditure, it was not the only expenditure. For instance, the hosting of the AAFA website costs \$120 a year.

Beyond that, there are various office supplies and mailings we make from time to time.

There are no plans nor were there any mention of even the remote possibility of disbanding the Association. We aim for it to continue as long as we can finance it and find volunteers to run it.

Plans for the 2012 meeting will be announced soon (may have already been announced by the time you read this). We hope to have a big attendance this year. There have been discussions about reducing the length of the meeting or holding meetings every other year. These discussions came about because of the lack of attendance at the meetings for the last few years. Without good attendance, it is difficult to get good rates at hotels. If this meeting attendance is low, I am sure the discussions concerning the meetings will once again jump to the forefront. This meeting is in Houston, TX. The AAFA Meetings Coordinator, Ramona Darden, who resigned last year at the meeting in St. Louis, has graciously consented to head up the preparations for this meeting. Any of you who have attended a meeting in the last fifteen years know what a bang-up job Ramona does. And she always comes up with some fascinating tours. We are hoping for a tremendous turn out especially from the Texas and Louisiana Alford.

Hope to see at the Houston meeting.