

Membership fees

EDWARD VAN OORT-PIECK

When the BOA was established in 1989 the membership fee was set at \$25 per year. Somewhere in the mid 90s the fee was increased to \$30. If we would apply the CPI increases to the original \$25, current membership fees should now be \$48.

Over these years our expenses have increased considerably more than the CPI, mainly because the BOA doesn't spend on those items that keep the CPI low (flat screen TVs, clothing, air travel) but does on the items that increase a lot more: insurances, meeting room hire, printing and mailing). The consequence is that we need to have more and more members just to pay these necessary outgoings.

Your Committee has therefore decided – very reluctantly I may

say- to increase the membership fee to \$40 from 1 July 2011 and to \$50 from 1 July 2012, after which it should remain stable again for many years to come (if inflation doesn't rear its ugly head too much).

Your Committee tends to be pretty frugal: most costs incurred by individual committee members are never reimbursed, our editor has put in a lot of effort to reduce the printing and mailing costs of our newsletter and we don't spend on anything that is not absolutely necessary.

For the BOA to do its job properly – to provide 'consumer action in boating' and defend your rights as a boat owner – we need to be able to fund specific actions and activities. It is therefore

important that we generate a moderate surplus each year that can be applied to targeted activities. It is sad but true that unless the BOA is constantly vigilant and capable of organising 'defensive activities' we as boaters will be seen as an easy target by the governments (of any political persuasion) to find either savings or impose more costs.

You can rest assured that your membership fee will be utilised in the most appropriate manner and is the best insurance policy against unfair government imposts – or lack of government action where action is required.

Edward van Oort-Pieck
Honorary Treasurer