

VBBA Dues Increased After 26 Years

For the past several months, the Board has solicited and received detailed financial reports on the VBBA's treasury and both figures for the last 10 years and projections for the years ahead. The bottom line is that without some change in dues, the organization will no longer be financially sustainable.

So, where is the money going?

- **VBBA Conferences:** A big part of it comes from costs associated with the annual conferences and, in particular, two conferences in the past six or seven years that were in the red. Traditionally, the host club or clubs underwrites much of the cost. In these two cases, the clubs were unable to do so and the VBBA picked up the bill. There has also been discussion of ending the conferences, but the feeling is that these are an important educational opportunity for member clubs & individuals. VBBA YouTube www.youtube.com/@vbba307/playlists (Conferences 2014-2022, except 2015 & 2017)
- **Liability Insurance Policy:** A great service to most of the clubs who, unlike the Ground Squirrels and others who are not part of a historical society or park. In an effort to encourage new clubs and help them get on their feet, the organization offers a small amount to underwrite equipment and other costs as well as subsidized membership for the first year.
- **VBBA Quarterly Newsletter**

The \$50 per year membership fee for clubs is the original one instituted when the VBBA was organized in 1996. The same is true for the \$10 individual membership and the \$35 associate club dues. As you can imagine, those fees do not “buy” what they did in 1996. **The equivalent of \$50 in 1996 would be \$84 today.**

Effective in January 2023 new fees for all three categories go into place:

- **Full Member Clubs:** \$75 per year BUT teams can purchase two years' membership for \$125
- **Associate Clubs:** \$50
- **Individual Membership:** \$20

As I noted, these figures were arrived at after much debate and consideration of members' financial challenges. The Board believes this fee schedule will keep the organization going.