



Official Call to the January 2023 IEB Meeting
November 28, 2022

Dear State and Provincial Presidents:

The IEB will not be meeting at Headquarters In January. We will conduct our [meeting via Zoom on January 18, 19, and 20, 2023](#). If there is anything that you would like added to the agenda, please send it to me by January 6th. If your state or province plans to sell something at the SD Convention in May, please fill out a Request to Sell Form (available on the Questers Website) and also send that to me by January 1st.

Some of you already know this; others do not. The IEB has made the difficult decision to raise dues for the upcoming year. The decision was not reached lightly. Our treasurer prepared a budget. Then the past president, the treasurer and I spent five hours on a Zoom meeting going over every line item. The treasurer went back and reworked the budget. We then spent another three hours on a second Zoom meeting. It has been eleven years (12 by the time it goes into effect) since dues were raised. At that time, we had 13,000 members. We now have about 6,500 members. At the same time, most expenses have skyrocketed. One large expense that we cut was the printing and mailing of the Directory. Thanks to Mark McPherson, the information for the Directory now can be pulled directly from our database without retyping the whole thing. It took some extra time to set it up but in the future, it should make things much easier for our Headquarters Administrator. The advantage of emailing the Directory is that it can be updated periodically. There have been a few changes in some state officers since we sent it out, and there were a few glitches that have been resolved. Consequently, you will be receiving an updated version soon. If you have noticed errors or changes that need to be made, please contact Kay at Headquarters as soon as possible. In the long run, this may turn out to be a blessing in disguise. We have no control over most expenses: increases in insurance, taxes, contractors, utilities, etc. [The dues will be \\$45 U.S. We will allocate \\$10 U.S. to the chartered states and Ontario, and we will be allocating \\$5 U.S. to the P&R Fund.](#) We hope this increase will help chartered states and Ontario with their budgets and will allow more chapters to receive P&R Grants in the future. We realize that some chapters will disband as a result of this increase, but they would disband even if we raised dues only \$5. Eleven years is a long time for any business to go without raising dues, prices, rent, etc. We couldn't continue on this path forever.

Sometimes I get bogged down in the daily issues confronting our organization---the declining membership, the budget, worries over declining convention attendance, or the unexpected fires that need to be extinguished. It's easy to get depressed, especially since I live in an Unchartered State where I only see my thirteen fellow chapter members. I lose track of the bigger picture. It was so refreshing to visit five states this fall and to see that there are still active chapters and hardworking state boards. South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois and Arizona all hosted wonderful state events. Each was unique but each was well-planned and provided educational programs, displays of collections, wonderful food and fellowship, and a variety of fundraising activities. Their gracious hospitality gave my morale such a boost! Unfortunately, I had to turn down six states due to scheduling conflicts, and for this I apologize to Indiana, New Jersey, Maryland, Wisconsin, Ohio and California. I do hope you will invite me again. I have two visits scheduled for April in Ohio and Missouri. If you are planning to invite me to your state or province, please contact me as soon as possible. Flights from Billings are not as easy to make as they are from a big city. I need advance notice. I look forward to visiting many of you in the future.

I would like to encourage each of you to encourage your members to consider registering and attending the International Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in May. South Dakota is my home state, and I am very proud of the work that the South Dakota Core Committee has done to provide all of us with another fun-filled, educational and entertaining convention. I do hope that each of you will attend. If you have never attended a convention before, you will find that after attending one convention, you become hooked!

I do want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the work you and your boards are doing to keep this organization running. I continue to be amazed by your creativity and enthusiasm. I especially want to thank you for your patience this year while we are adjusting to our office transition and to so many new and unexpected changes. I want you to know that our new Headquarters Administrator, Kay Grossman, is such an asset to Questers. She is hardworking, dedicated and conscientious. I prayed every day that she wouldn't quit before we could get through those difficult first six months. If I had been handed that job, I might have been tempted to quit, but she didn't. She toughed it out and now, I think the worst is behind us.

I wish each of you a happy holiday season and continued success in your state or province.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Todd
Questers International President