

I propose that the "Membership Dues" paragraph of the bylaws be changed as follows:

B) Membership Dues

There shall be three categories of membership dues:

Standard Membership:	\$10.00 per month
Living-Wage Membership:	\$10.00 per quarter
Low-Income Membership:	\$2.00 per month

A new member shall pay a minimum of one quarter's dues.

The Treasurer shall be empowered to accept or reject a member's dues category selection based on criteria of the Treasurer's choosing and the Treasurer's best judgment.

The Party, its Treasurer, members, and other officers shall not divulge a member's self-selected dues category, contribution history, or other personal information without the member's consent.

For reference, the relevant text of the current bylaws:

B) Membership dues (may be paid in installments):

- Full waiver of dues if (a) person states in writing that they really can not afford it this year or (b) person states in writing that they already contribute much more than this in dollars or time to Green Party efforts in Michigan. - Student or Senior or Low-income or Activist: \$5/year - Regular member: \$20/year - Sustaining member: \$50/year - Lifetime member: \$1,000 Note: Per the Michigan state income tax return provisions of recent years (through 1998 at least), "Allowable miscellaneous subtractions [from taxable income] include: Contributions to national or Michigan political parties or candidates. The maximum deduction is \$50 on a single return and \$100 on a joint return."

Notes:

This is primarily motivated by the fact that that GPMI is often unable to do reasonable things for want of funds. It is routine for a few people to come forward and chip in out of their own pockets to make things happen. While admirable, this is embarrassing.

The 2001 G/GPUSA Congress in Carbondale, Illinois presented unpleasant lessons about the ramifications of full dues waivers. I also wish to eliminate the full waiver so that we can always afford to send a general membership mailing. Randym Jones provided perspective about the impact this could have on a low-income person: In Michigan, it is the equivalent of twenty recycled pop cans.

We should not be ashamed to ask people who are making a good living to help the organizations they believe in. Many people have incomes of \$2,000.00 or more per month; asking for \$10 of that is not unreasonable.

More frequent dues collection will help level out the irregular cash flow and may assist in keeping track of people who change addresses.

Comments about Michigan tax law do not belong in GPMI Bylaws, least of all when there is uncertainty about the applicable tax year(s).