

**Council on Education and Research
Report from Chair
Mississippi Dietetic Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 30, 2009**

- 2-Dec Requested nominations for Outstanding Dietetics Educator Awards via email to department chairs at DSU, MSU, UM, & USM
- 3-Dec Requested nominations for Outstanding Dietetics Student Awards via email to program directors at DSU, MSU, UM, & USM
- 14-Jan Participated in a conference call regarding fee charges for CPEU applications through MDA (see synopsis of discussion & motion below)
- 15-Jan Submitted nomination for Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award to Kathy Davis, Area 3 DEP Coordinator

CPEU Fee Charge - Synopsis

It came to MDA's attention last fall that several states are charging a fee to process CPEU applications. Discussion of this issue at the September 26, 2008 meeting was tabled until a committee could be formed to discuss it and make a cohesive presentation to the board. Present at a conference call to discuss this issue on January 14, 2009 were Brent Fountain, Laurel Lambert, Jacinda Roach, and Rebecca Kelly. Charging a fee was viewed as a cost of doing business, and is a practice of several allied health professions within the state. We considered the following as benefits of this practice to MDA: capability of reporting continuing professional education efforts within the state (especially to the state licensure board & for MDA's records), ability to inform dietitians within the state of continuing professional education activities (via advertising on MDA website & mailing list), fund-raising activities to support scholarships.

We concluded that MDA should charge a full fee to non-MDA members, a 25% discounted fee to members of MDA, and no fee for MDA or its District Affiliate CPEU activities. We agree to enforce an application deadline of 4 weeks prior to the activity (this is already in place, but not enforced). Therefore, we propose a late fee charge in all cases, including MDA & its District Affiliates.

We favor the following fee structure:

- \$30 to review a single continuing education activity for 1-5 credits
- \$60 to review of a single continuing education activity for 6-10 credits
- \$80 to review of a single continuing education activity for 11 or more credits
- \$20 additional charge for extension of a continuing education activity approval or for each repeat of the same activity within a 1-year period
- \$10 per session for journal clubs and study groups
- \$20 late fee for requests after the 4-week deadline (no exemptions or discounts)

We ask MDA to establish a foundation or tax-exempt account for these funds. We also support the idea of MDA selling its mailing list, selectively, for the promotion of continuing education activities, with the proceeds to be held in the same tax-exempt account. Currently, MDA makes its mailing list available without any charge. Another idea that surfaced in the discussion was the possibility of a car license plate for RDs, again with the proceeds to go into this tax-exempt fund.

Motion: MDA will charge a fee, as stated above, for approval of CPEU activities beginning June 1, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Kelly