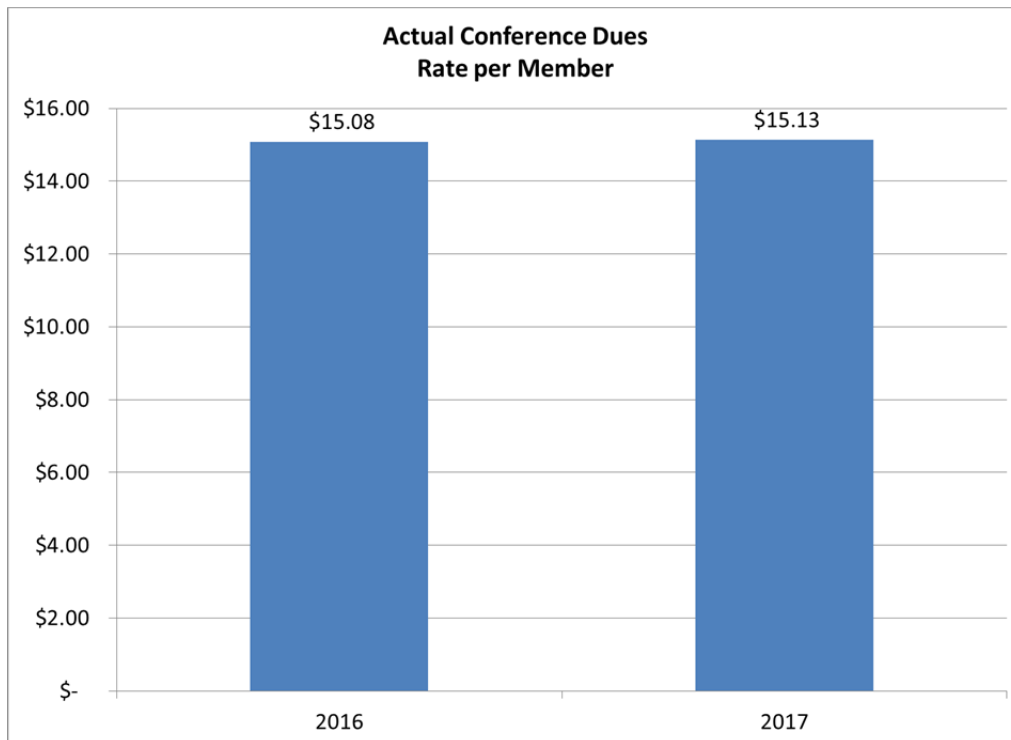

YEAR 2017 FELLOWSHIP DUES

The following update is interpretive information only from a Council report. (ADAPTED FROM Business Manager Report: Mission Council Meeting of December 22, 2016).

- A. **FELLOWSHIP DUES POLICY.** According to Maine Conference fellowship dues policy, the Conference increases/decreases its annual fellowship dues rate according to a COLA. Conference policy pegs the fellowship dues rate to the Social Security Administration’s latest automatic COLA. The actual COLA driven rate adjustment plus any additional amount approved at the Annual Meeting then becomes the Maine Conference fellowship dues rate for the ensuing calendar year.
- B. **BUDGET ESTIMATES VS. ACTUAL.** Readers of the 2017 Conference Budget recall that the estimated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the fellowship dues rate was about **2%**. The variables are now in place for an actual Conference fellowship dues rate for the ensuing calendar year. Because the Social Security Administration has published a COLA of **0.3%**¹, the 2016 fellowship dues rate will increase by \$5, from \$15.08 per member to \$15.13 per member in calendar 2017.



- C. **ACTUAL COLA MAY REDUCE 2017 INCOME.** COLA of 0.3% (versus the Conference’s 2.0% estimated in the 2017 budget) resulted from slower-than-anticipated price inflation, as measured by the year-over-year change in the 3rd quarter’s **Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)**². *This may result in a negative income variance of about \$3,095 in calendar 2017 - all else equal.*

¹ <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/colasummary.html>. “Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA).” Cited November 14, 2016.

² For more on the CPI-W, please see: <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/#news>. October 18, 2016. The CPI-W is published by the U.S. Department of Labor’s (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics.