

Musings on “Who Pays for What and to Whom is it Paid?”

ACPE Task Force, Summer of 2014

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From my back porch I can smell the freshness of northeast Georgia following a rain shower. Blue jays and red birds are chirping melodies from the branches of the willow trees. It's a very good Sunday afternoon in late June.

I have been pondering how I might collaborate with you and your perspectives since I accepted an invitation from President David Johnson to serve on Task Force of the ACPE Board of Directors. This particular task force has been formed **“to examine the business relationship between centers, regions, and the national office to include an examination of fees, fee structures, inter-relatedness of regions for equitable financial responsibilities.”** It is to report to the Board of Directors at the November 2014 meeting of the Board.

It is four months before the report deadline. So, I wonder how this Task Force can receive helpful information from Centers (franchises), members (dues paying persons), and regions (where much of the work of the Association is done) for the report that is to be made to the Board.

The best I can imagine is to nudge along a conversation with the “stake holders.” And, so, I'm **asking you to converse with me** with whatever information you deem helpful to the process.

For starters, I have been mulling over the question of “who pays for what and to whom is it paid?” I think the answer to that question will vary from region to region.

For instance, in the Southeast Region, we receive no revenue from the dues paying members of the ACPE, Inc. All of the member dues are paid to the ACPE, Inc.

We receive \$175 annually from “center fees,” but those fees do not cover the costs of the meetings of the accreditation committee. We receive fees from SESs who seek a certification review, but those fees do not cover the costs of the certification committee. We receive fees from those who wish to participate in the continuing education conference, but we are most fortunate if we break even.

The only way this region stays afloat financially is the revenue from our “**student registration fees**.” Presently, those fees are \$90 per student per unit payable at the beginning of each unit. The ebb and flow of every financial year is dependent upon the number of student units certified by our ACPE Supervisors who have covenanted to share a portion of the student tuition fee with the S. E. Region.

Whether this region's fee structure is “equitable” with other regions is to be determined from your responses. Whether or not it make better business sense to invoice each franchise with one billing annually (and then, proportions be allotted to the respective regions) is yet to be decided. Equally important in this discussion will be the tasks to be assumed by regional bodies; e.g., will certification become a regional function? will accreditation become a national function? will peer reviews remain a regional task? Will there be nine or lesser number of regions?

Please know that my intention is to be collaborative and cooperative. Give me your information and I will re-present it on this task force. Blessings and peace, and thank! Jap