



NAEYC Membership in These Tough Times

Not a day goes by that we do not hear about how the current economy is affecting our family, friends, and neighbors. Furloughs, lay offs, reduction of hours... These are not easy times for any of us.

At NCAeYC we have lost close to 1,000 members over the past few years. The loss can be attributed to members moving out of state. Other members may have had their membership paid for by employers, who are not able to do so now under their current budget constraints. And yes, there are our colleagues who, in this current economy paying \$55, \$70 or \$110 (the cost for student, regular, or comprehensive membership respectively) to be a NAEYC/NCAeYC member may seem more like a luxury than a necessity.

Below are some ideas on how you can create a "membership dues savings plan" that will hopefully be easy on you, your family and your pocketbook.

Affording Membership Dues: Making It Happen

Step 1: The first thing that you need to do is be committed to saving up for NAEYC membership. Get a jar, container, an old piggy bank. Put it where you will see it everyday. The vessel will be a visual reminder that you are saving up for something important: Your NAEYC membership.

Step 2: Make a deposit in your Membership Bank everyday, or at least every week. It does not have to be a large deposit. The amount is not important. What is important is putting something in your Bank everyday.

NAEYC Membership- The \$1 A Day Way

"A penny saved is a penny earned." All of us have heard this saying sometime in our life. This concept can help you save up the money to pay for your NAEYC membership dues. All you would need to do is faithfully put \$1 in your Membership Bank everyday.

Every night before you go to bed, deposit \$1 into your NAEYC Membership Bank. It can be a dollar bill or 4 quarters, or any other combination of coins. How you do it is not important- making the deposit faithfully, everyday is what is important.

If done faithfully everyday, in a little over two months (70 days, or 10 weeks) you will be rewarded for your "saving training" because you will have enough money to pay for Regular Membership, which is currently \$70.

In a little over three months (110 days) you will be able to afford a Comprehensive Membership in full!

After one year you will have \$352 saved up. This will be enough to pay for Comprehensive Membership as well as conference registration to the NCAeYC Annual Study conference, which NCAeYC hosts each year. The best part is that you will have

money left over! The balance can be “rolled over” and put towards membership renewal, or you can use your membership 20% discount to purchase a NAEYC publication. Or you can use the money to help with your travel and/or hotel costs needed to attend the NCAeYC Annual Study Conference.

An apple a day may keep the doctor away. But a \$1 a day will help you pay for your NAEYC membership, and then some!

Other Creative Savings Plans

Here are some other ways to fill up your NAEYC Membership Bank.

1. Put a quarter in the bank everyday. In one year, you will have \$88 saved up, that is more than enough to cover the \$70 regular member dues.
2. Every Sunday, place a \$1 in the NAEYC Membership Bank. In one year you will have enough money (\$52) to pay for Student Membership. If you are already a member, you might interested in helping out a student with a student scholarship.
3. When paying for things with cash, only use bills. Don't use your coins. At the end of the week, put all your change from the week in the Membership Bank. This could possibly be a weekly deposit of anywhere from \$1 to \$3 a week. This could yield approximately anywhere from \$25 to \$75 saved within 6 months.
4. Put the “new” heads and tail coins in your Membership Bank. Deposit your state quarters. When you come across a territorial quarter, make a membership dues deposit. Do the same thing with the new Jefferson, bison, or a Lewis and Clark nickels. Each clink and clank of a coin will put you closer to paying for your membership dues.

These creative ways to save may not seem like much but as we have seen, every penny saved puts you closer to you being a NAEYC member.

Did you know that a regular (\$70) membership is equivalent to:

- 14 trips to Starbucks
- 2 movie dates with popcorn and drinks
- 10 fast food meals
- One bottle of nice perfume
- 3 meals out on the town
- 2 pedicures at a salon
- 1 massage

Be creative! Ask for membership from your friends and family as a birthday or holiday present! Ask the families you work with to “gift” you membership as an end-of-the-year gift or a teacher appreciation gift!

