

ANNOUNCEMENT: Credit Card Fee Change

The Board of Trustees spent considerable time on the Assembly budget and future financial needs at the November 2019 meeting. We are facing increasing capital spending requirements for buildings, trees, roads, and our inadequate information technology office system. This year we had to replace the Assembly building roof sooner than anticipated due to storm damage last summer. The \$31,740 project was paid for with a loan from the Preservation Fund which will be repaid over the next five years.

Faced with the difficult decision to budget a \$5.00 fee increase for the 2020 season the Board also sought cost savings opportunities, including the elimination of credit card company processing fees. Last year the CSA paid over \$5,000 in fees for use of credit cards at the CSA office.

The Board voted unanimously that those who opt for the convenience of using a credit card at the CSA office will have the credit card processing fee added to their total charge. Of course, we will continue to offer check and cash payment options with no added charge. With the CSA closed this summer, the Board delayed enacting this change until the 2021 season. It is common practice for non-profits to recoup these fees so they can put the money towards the benefit of community with programs, lessons, capital improvements, etc.

We appreciate the generosity of our community in making contributions during this unusual COVID-19 summer. But as we turn to what we hope will be a full 2021 season, the CSA office staff will use a new credit card machine that automatically calculates the credit card fee while processing the payment.

Thank you for your understanding of the need for this change.