

March 1, 1977

Dr. Wm. M. Arnett
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Dear Brother Bill:

Your last letter caught me away from Marion in a Bible Conference, hence the delay in reply. Concerning the matter of Membership Dues, there is little question in my mind that the Society has operated on a fiscal year basis with the Annual Meeting date in November as the reference point. All of the past minutes and the file cards seem to support that idea, although there is nothing in the Constitution that I can find or in past Minutes to officially support it in writing. Maybe, it is there and I have not found it.

In our discussion following the Buffalo meeting, it was my understanding that since there was quite a little confusion about dues and which year it was for, we should go to the Calendar year idea. We have no Minute on it but that was my understanding of the direction I was to give in the letter to all members. It was included therefore, in my January letter to all members, although only in a parenthetical note. For record keeping, it is much more convenient to put a one year date, rather than to cover a small part of the old calendar year in on a new fiscal year. It is possible that this will be even more confusing, so it may be that I have been in error in following only an oral directive (as I understood it) rather than to have an official Minute on it. Please feel free to speak to the point at our next annual meeting if it is still a confusing matter then. I have made a note of it for our next Executive Meeting in April in Denver at the CHA.

I believe your interpretation concerning the Journal to be sent TO NEW MEMBERS is correct. I think there may have been some who got a Journal of 1976 in this transition period who might not have been entitled to it either on a fiscal year or a calendar year basis. Here again, I have probably been too flexible and generous to the few whose memberships were pending from early November. It does take the membership committee from 45 - 60 days to act on the memberships, apparently. That is about the time thus far I have noted. Brother Peisker passed the word along to me that upon the reception of new members a letter of welcome should be sent plus an issue of the current Journal. There is a sense in which the current issue of the Journal is 1976 until the 1977 issue is printed. When I became a member in 1970 Brother Carter or Dr. Dayton, I don't remember which, sent me a Journal and later the same year I got the new one, so I had two

my first year of membership. I am not certain if I was entitled to two or not, but I certainly appreciated them. Therefore, I would not at all object if you went ahead and gave the new members a copy of the 1976 Journal. I have no authority to tell you this from any action that is recorded precisely, but past practice has apparently, in some cases, been as stated. It also, could have been an honest error in my case. I look on our organization as a service organization and the results of our scholarship should be shared (without breaking ourselves) as much as possible.

I really appreciate your checking on these points for I need the benefit of the experience of those who have long been associated with the Society. There are many other areas that we hang a bit loosely and maybe that is fine, unless we get ourselves in a bind. Wisdom would direct us to get things in order before the pinch occurs and we also need to use such diligence as best supports our doctrines and teachings.

I shall follow through on these angles and perhaps we shall have better guidelines in the future, rather than flexible practice or tradition of the past. (We do have about 2500 copies of the 1976 Journal stacked in my basement presently. Maybe that is why I am so generous - unconsciously).

God bless you and those 100 men studying John Wesley's Theology.

In Gospel love,

Wayne E. Caldwell