

Abort, Retry, Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



January 2008

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XXV Issue 1



!!!IMPORTANT!!!

***** NOTE *****
Confirmed
2008 meeting
dates will be on

January 26
February 23
March 22
April 26
May 24

**** * * * ***

MEETING PLACE
will be the Glenside
Public Library

SEE YOU
THERE!!

CODLinuxfest
http://
www.codlug.info/

The next meeting will be
Saturday, January 26, 2008
Our next presenter: Terry Moye,
demonstrating tax preparation software.

The QWERTY Keyboard and Microsoft Office 2007
By Bob Schneider
Editor, The PC Keyboard
Spring Hill Teaching Computer Club, FL
<http://www.shtcc.net>
[drbob1012.new\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:drbob1012.new(at)hotmail.com)

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Back in the mid 1800's, when the first practical typewriter was built, inventor C.L. Sholes arranged the keys in the QWERTY layout for a practical reason. He had to separate the most common letters to prevent the hammers from jamming. So many people knew that layout, that although it was no longer necessary, it was maintained with the advent of electric typewriters. A much better (in terms of ease-of-learning and speed-of-typing) is the Dvorak keyboard layout developed in the 1920's. It puts the most commonly used keys under your eight "home" fingers. Once millions of people started with computers using the old QWERTY layout, better alternatives were doomed. Changing to a new keyboard layout involves the most difficult of human learning tasks. The technical term from memory researchers is "proactive interference." That means an old memory (such as an old cell phone number you used before) interferes with your ability to learn a new memory (your new cell number). In layman's terms the most difficult task is to unlearn something you know well in order to learn something new. That is why we standardize some procedures, such as operating a standard

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transmission in a car. You will never find a car with the brake on the left pedal and the clutch on the right pedal, and you already know the gear-shift sequence and location. Airplane pilots will always find the altimeter in the middle of their visual field.

I've been a fan of and using Microsoft Windows for some time, starting with Windows 2.0 in 1989. There are surely many people who have been using it longer than I have, although I have not yet met one. For most of those years, Microsoft advertised the strength and beauty of following the Windows format. Using its standard Graphical User Interface (GUI), all programs would have the same look and feel. Learn one program and you could quickly learn to navigate around in any similar software. Microsoft required that look and feel, with common menu items, before it allowed a program to have the Windows logo. That was a giant advance from the haphazard layout and menu systems of early DOS programs. As a college professor and software teacher, the advantages for student learning and computer novices were quite obvious.

Now we have Office 2007. I suspect that if Corel (Word Perfect) had released that office suite, Microsoft would have denied them the right to use the Windows logo. The common Windows GUI was thrown out in Word and Excel. Traditional menu items were removed, unfamiliar icons and menus appeared, and familiar processes were moved to obscure places. The better you were at using earlier versions, the more you will have to first unlearn to use Office 2007. The brake pedal is on the left, first gear is on the right, and the altimeter is hidden behind the co-pilot. I am a power user of Microsoft Office. Actually, I used to be a power user. Now I must constantly go to the help menu (sorry, it is not a menu any more) to find the location of even the most basic procedures. I know how to do them; I just don't know where they are. It is time consuming and frustrating. There are some really nice features in Office 2007. One of them, unfortunately, is not "make it like the earlier versions."

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DROWNING IN CATALOGS? PUT A STOP TO THEM

Submitted by Larry Bothe

I just saw the information presented below in today's edition of the Kim Komando weekly newsletter. I think everybody ought to know about this catalog opt-out site, <http://www.catalogchoice.org>. I registered and found it easy to use. It is most efficient if you have the catalog you want to stop in front of you so you have your customer number, but it works without it based on name and address alone. Of course, I don't know if the catalogs will really stop, but I think Kim Komando checks things out pretty thoroughly before she puts them in her newsletter.

If you're like me, you don't shop by catalog anymore. Rather, the Internet has replaced catalogs. But your mailbox could be brimming with catalogs. You probably don't like receiving all these unwanted catalogs. Besides, it is a waste of resources.

So, do what I did. Register at Catalog Choice. It will help you stop unwanted catalogs. You just enter your information and select the catalogs you no longer wish to receive. That way, you don't need to contact the catalogs individually to stop the mailings. It's the smart thing to do!

Happy New Year to Everyone!
from the CAEUG Board

LampPost 91
January 20, 2008
by John Spizzirri



The Business Software Alliance (BSA <http://www.bsa.org>) uses the law to go after software pirates. By and large the “pirates” never see the inside of a courtroom. Instead, they just pay the BSA. The membership of the BSA include Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com/>), Adobe (<http://www.adobe.com/>), Symantec (<http://www.symantec.com/>), Autodesk Inc. (<http://www.autodesk.com/>), Apple Inc. (<http://www.apple.com/>), and McAfee Inc. (<http://www.mcafee.com/>). Does the BSA distribute the money it collects from “pirates” to its membership (less expenses)? NO! is the answer from an AP Hitech article published in the TDN.com newspaper in Washington State; <http://www.tdn.com/articles/2007/11/26/ap/hitech/d8t4ruh00.txt> . The article, written by Brian Bergstein, details how BSA hounds small business about “piracy” even though the problem is more likely to be poor record keeping or failure to delete software on hand-me-down computers. Going after the wrong people has created a niche business for educators. International Association of Information Technology Asset Managers (<http://www.iaitam.org/>) and Scott & Scott (<http://www.bsadefense.com>) help businesses “keep legal” and out of the sights of the BSA. The other result of going after the wrong people is backlash. Some of the people that have paid the BSA for “piracy” have vowed never to use software from the BSA member companies again. What will they use? Open source software like Linux (<http://www.linux.org/>) and OpenOffice (<http://www.openoffice.org/>).

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES <http://www.cesweb.org/>) just ended. The Burning States web site (<http://theburningstates.blogspot.com/2008/01/new-from-taser-torture-and-tunes-at.html>) reported that Taser International (<http://www.taser.com/>) introduced a Taser / MP3 player at the CES. I guess this product is for the police officer that must listen to music while ‘neutralizing’ a suspect.

53% of IT business decision-makers see no reason to upgrade to Vista. That is according to a survey by Computer Business Review at http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=0F6BDB34-B944-43C7-A6F3-B7F5C2748160 . ZDNet reported a different survey of IT professionals that revealed that 48% had not deployed Vista, yet, 48% were considering a switch to a different OS (operating system). That story is at <http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/software/0,39044164,62034821,00.htm> .

Jason Brooks, a writer for eWeek Magazine, wrote in the December issue that XP is better than Vista “based on the conversations” he had “with readers and with eWEEK’s Corporate Partners”. The story is at http://blogs.eweek.com/brooks/content/windows/vista_vs_xp_showdown.html .

InfoWorld has started a campaign to have users demand that Windows XP be saved from retirement (http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/01/14/02FE-save-xp-drive_1.html). XP will be eliminated from the MS product line on June 30, 2008 (this date has already been set back from December 31, 2007). The InfoWorld campaign was to have business leaders sign a petition to MS to delay the retirement indefinitely. Paul Thurrott, writer for WindowsITPro, considers anyone who signs the petition a ‘Luddite’. Thurrott really believes that Vista is an upgrade to XP instead of a cosmetic change in the GUI that requires additional hardware. His article is at <http://www.windowsitpro.com/Article/ArticleID/98078/98078.html> .

Paul Thurrott goes on in the same article to show the betrayal of the consumer by MS. According to Thurrott, MS was to do away with Plus Packs when Vista was released. Plus Packs were additional software that MS should have included with Windows but chose to charge the consumer. To quote Thurrott, "...the company has sort of reversed course." Thurrott is such an MS cheer leader that he does not see a rip off when it stares him in the face.

Do you have a J. C. Penney (<http://www.jcpenney.com/>) credit card? According to a Yahoo news report (http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080118/ap_on_hi_te/penney_data_breach) GE Money (<http://www.gemoney.com/>) 'lost' a computer tape that had information about 650,000 J. C. Penney (and other retailer) credit card customers including Social Security Numbers. You may want to contact J. C. Penney about your data at

<https://www.onlinecreditcenter6.com/consumergen2/login.do?subActionId=1000&clientId=jcpenney&accountType=generic&landingpg=9400> . You may receive or already have received a letter from GE Money about this incident offering free credit monitoring. The San Francisco Chronicle

(<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/06/15/MNG77QG0G11.DTL&hw=identity+theft&sn=007&sc=287>) reported that "8.4 million victims of identity fraud in 2006." That number is about three percent of the population of the U.S.

Privacy International (<http://www.privacyinternational.org/>) reported that many countries do not protect individual privacy. The United States is on their list with the U.K., Russia and China as leading the world in surveillance and privacy invasions. I first read about Privacy International in a Computer Business Report On Line article here

http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=F026A8EE-C2D2-4B1C-908B-937D303EF404 . Privacy International considers a national ID card an invasion of privacy.

The Department of Homeland Security released its 'final rule' on the REAL ID. The final rule is 284 pages long and is available here http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1172765386179.shtm and on the CD of the Month. The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC <http://epic.org/>) has previously reported that the REAL ID plan is flawed from a civil rights standpoint as well as a funding standpoint. REAL ID requires states to fund the requirements. When all states adopt the REAL ID, then any third rate government bureaucrat will be able to access ID data on anyone in the U. S. If that bureaucrat thinks they are not being paid enough money, they could sell data to any number of criminals. If the bureaucrat is not criminally minded but loses a laptop with your data on it, the result is the same. Companies have a vested interest in protecting their customer's data. How can we expect the government to protect data when no interest in protection exists? Here is a story about how your government protects you;

<http://www.lewrockwell.com/fischer/fischer33.html> . REAL ID is not a good idea.

An Indiana county set a rule in 2005 requiring voters to show a picture ID to vote. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU <http://www.aclu.org/>) in conjunction with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP <http://www.naacp.org/>) filed suit on behalf of William Crawford, a Democratic legislator, against the Marion County Board of Elections. The Indiana Democratic Party also filed suit against Indiana's Secretary of State. Both cases were heard together. The Electronic Privacy Information Center filed an amicus brief in the case. The details of the case are here <http://epic.org/privacy/voting/crawford/> . I was taught that voting is done by SECRET ballot. In various cities reports of voting 'irregularities' has shown that when ballots are not secret, political parties or government agents intimidate citizens.

MS bought the Norwegian enterprise search firm, Fast Search and Transfer (FAST <http://www.fastsearch.com/>) in a bid to go after the Google (<http://www.google.com/>) revenue

stream. The story is at

http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=ADF1B5F0-8837-4D81-8E60-713D24AE71EC .

Intel (<http://www.intel.com/>) has withdrawn its support from the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC <http://laptop.org/>) initiative. OLPC has withdrawn its support for Classmate PC (<http://www.classmatepc.com/>) The OLPC distributes XO laptops (<http://www.laptopmag.com/Features/Hands-On-with-One-Laptop-Per-Child-XO-Laptop.htm>) that use the Advanced Micro Devices (AMD <http://www.amd.com/us-en/>) processor. The story is at http://www.cbronline.com/article_news.asp?guid=9E5CCB71-E74A-4E22-8168-7F95E5AF661E . Both these projects are good. I question them only because the beneficiaries of both programs are entirely overseas. I guess that OLPC and Intel expect the government to 'give' laptops to American youngsters.

FEMA (<http://www.fema.gov/>) and the Army Corp of Engineers (<http://www.usace.army.mil/>) are being sued by the victims of Katrina to the tune of three quadrillion dollars. That figure was reported by Mark Mythos in his webcast of January 11th (a downloadable MP3 is at <http://www.markmythos.com/dailyweb.htm>). I found the written report of the lawsuits at MSNBC (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22571349/>). Someone on a blog self identified as Jack from northeastern Illinois did the math and found that three quadrillion pennies would reach from here to Saturn (<http://www.oldamericancentury.org/bb/index.php?showtopic=18129&st=0&p=118546&#entry118546>). Jack also said at the current GDP (Gross Domestic Product http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_Domestic_Product) it would take 3,000 years to produce that much money.

America On Line (AOL <http://www.aol.com/>) became owner of Netscape (<http://browser.netscape.com/>) some years back. The thought at the time was that AOL would make Netscape the browser that the AOL environment would be based on. AOL stunned everyone by keeping Internet Explorer (IE) as the AOL environment. This was a blow to Netscape which was the largest competitor to IE at the time and a very successful company. Netscape was based on the Mozilla (<http://www.mozilla.org/>) browser. AOL, essentially, bought a successful company and mismanaged it into a liability. AOL is giving Netscape back to Mozilla. I find it hard to understand AOL's purchase of Netscape followed by its burying of Netscape. It looks like AOL had too much money and too little business acumen. The story is at <http://www.zdnetindia.com/index.php?action=article&prodid=15990&chid=164&Ref=Languages%20and%20tools> .

With the winter storms come ice dams. A resource from the University of Illinois has help about ice dams and storms <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/winter/home.html> .

Here is some information about the upcoming elections.

The Presidential Primary Election season is here. A calendar of primaries and caucuses is here <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/primarycal.html> .

The numbers as they are as of this writing are here <http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P08/> .

This is a summary:

Delegate counts as of 01-10-08

Democrats - 2025 of 4049 necessary

Obama 38

Clinton 36

Edwards 18

Republicans - 1191 of 2380 necessary
Romney 66
Huckabee 26
McCain 38
Thompson 8
Paul 6
Giuliani 1
Hunter 1

What about delegates? Democrats have 2 kinds; pledged and super delegates. 3253 are pledged by selection (election) at the state or local levels. The delegates are awarded proportionally to the amount of votes that a candidate gets in the primary provided they get a minimum amount. If a candidate does not receive at least 15% of the vote they get no delegates. Pledged is somewhat of a misnomer because delegates are not actually required to vote for the candidate they are pledged to. The candidates are allowed (by the party) to review the delegates and delete anyone who they consider disloyal to them. Super delegates are made up of Democratic members of Congress, Governors, national committee members, and party leaders (such as past Democratic Presidents and Vice Presidents. Super delegates can vote for anyone.

The Republicans also have 2 kinds of delegates; pledged and unpledged. 1917 are pledged by selection (election) at the state and local levels. Delegates are awarded by rules decided by each state party. Some states use a winner take all, while other states use a proportional system. There is no minimum percentage required as with the Democrats all though that decision is left to each state's party. Unpledged delegates usually are elected except for national party members and party chairs. Unpledged delegates are not required to vote for a particular candidate.

The number of delegates for each party is different because the parties make the rules for themselves. The delegate system is similar to the Electoral College (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Electoral_College) in that individual voters vote for a Presidential candidate, but in actuality are electing electors to cast a vote for the state. All states except Maine and Nebraska use a winner take all method of dividing the electoral votes. Thus, if a candidate gets a plurality or a majority of the popular vote in a particular state, all the electors for that state are supposed to vote for that candidate. This creates a situation where states that have large metropolitan populations tend to have electoral votes that reflect that population alone. For instance, in Illinois, the electoral votes went to John Kerry in the last presidential election. Only three areas (Chicago, Springfield, and East St. Louis) of Illinois voted a majority for Kerry while the rest of Illinois voted a majority to Bush.

A more detailed explanation of the primary process is here <http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2008/> .

Conventions

Democrats will meet in Denver, Colorado, from August 25-28.

Republicans will meet in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, from September 1-4.

Specific information about your local elections is available here:

Illinois State Board of Elections <http://www.elections.il.gov/>

Cook County Board of Elections <http://www.voterinfonet.com/sub/elections.asp>

DuPage County Board of Elections <http://www.dupageelections.com/main.asp>

Kane County Board of Elections <http://www.kanecountyelections.org/>

The line up of candidates (in alphabetical order):

Democrat Party

Joe Biden <http://www.joebiden.com/> Dropped out
Hillary Clinton <http://www.hillaryclinton.com/splash/>
Christopher John Dodd <http://chrisdodd.com/> Dropped out
John Edwards <http://johnedwards.com/splash/>
Mike Gravel <http://www.gravel2008.us/>
Dennis J. Kucinich <http://www.dennis4president.com/>
Barack Obama <http://www.barackobama.com/>
William "Bill" B. Richardson III <http://www.richardsonforpresident.com/> Dropped out

For US Senator

Richard J. Durbin <http://www.dickdurbin.com/>

Green Party

Cynthia McKinney <http://www.runcynthiarun.org/>
Kent Philip Mesplay http://www.vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=56516
Jared A. Ball No web site
Howie Hawkins <http://www.hawkinsforsenate.org/>

Republican Party

Rudy Giuliani <http://www.joinrudy2008.com/>
Mike Huckabee <http://www.mikehuckabee.com/>
John McCain <http://www.johnmccain.com/>
Duncan Hunter <http://www.gohunter08.com/>
Ron Paul <http://www.ronpaul2008.com/>
Mitt Romney <http://www.mittromney.com/>
Tom Tancredo http://www.vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=17030 Dropped out
Fred Thompson <http://www.fred08.com/>
James Creighton Mitchell Jr. <http://www.mitchell4president08.com/>
Alan Keyes <http://www.alankeyes.com/>

For US Senator

Steve Sauerberg <http://www.sauerbergforussenate.com/>
Andy Martin <http://www.andyforussenator.com/>
Mike Psak <http://www.psak4ussenate.com/>

The 14th U.S. Congressional district, where some of our members live, has a peculiar situation. J. Dennis Hastert has retired and resigned. The seat must be filled by a new candidate in the next term (next year) and shortly (in March). I am not sure why the governor is not filling the seat with an interim appointment. Two elections are being held. The first on February 5th for the primary and the second on March 8th for filling the seat for the rest of the term. Here are the candidates:

Democrats

Bill Foster <http://foster08.com/>
John Laesch <http://www.john08.com/> took 40% of the vote against Hastert 2 years ago
Joe Serra <http://www.democrats.org/page/dashboard/public/gHysd>
Jotham Stein <http://www.votestein.com/>

Republicans

Kevin Burns Dropped out

Michael J. Dilger http://www.vote-smart.org/bio.php?can_id=101643
Chris Lauzen <http://www.lauzen2008.com/>
Jim Oberweis <http://www.jimoberweis.com/>

Here is an article from the other side of the election issue;
<http://www.strike-the-root.com/81/turecek/turecek1.html> .

Between you, me and The Lamp Post that's all for this month.

January 2008 CD of the Month

ARI - This month's newsletter
ATFcleaner - A temp file cleaner
AutoRun - Program for CD ROM installs
AutoRunExpress - Run CDs automatically when inserted into a PC
AVSDVDplayer - Program for watching DVD movies
Burn4Free - Program to write CDs and DVDs
Cliprex - DVD Player Professional software is the free solution for playing DVDs on the PC
Dial-a-fix - collection of 'known fixes' that really knock out some serious Windows problems
DrWebCureit - A portable anti-virus and anti-malware scanner
DVDFab - fast and easy-to-use DVD copy software
EBasic - A version of the BASIC programming language.
ExamDiff - A tool for visual file comparison
FireFox - Latest upgrade to the best browser on the planet
FreeBasic - A version of the BASIC programming language.
FreeUndelete - Undeletes files accidentally deleted
HiJackThis - A utility that generates an in-depth report of registry and file settings
Irfanview - Upgrade to a useful graphic file viewer
JustBasic - A version of the BASIC programming language.
LGTips - Compilation of Lockergnome tips
LS_CDrun - Create autorun shells, autorun interfaces and presentations for your CD/DVDs
MBRWiz - A tool designed to directly modify the MBR
MiniCdGui - A single/multiple page menu/interface maker for your media contents or presentations
nLite - A GUI for permanent Windows component removal by your choice
OldTimeRadio - Old radio programs
PhotoCDBrowser - A program for creation and viewing of archives in TIFF, JPEG, PCX, TGA, EPS formats
QuickMenuBuilder - Create custom, executable menus
Recuva - Windows utility to restore files that have been accidentally deleted
RJTextEd - A web development tool and a Unicode text editor
UndeletePlus - A quick and effective way to restore accidentally deleted files
Plus much more

Meeting dates confirmed for 2008. Room (A+B) for the following Saturdays.

**January 26, 2008 ::: February 23, 2008 ::: March 22, 2008 :::
::: April 26, 2008 ::: May 24, 2008**

CAEUG OFFICERS

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Reminder:
You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using **Adobe's Pagemaker Version 7.0** for Windows.

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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.

Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences
Such as:

1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

SIG meets before regular meeting from **9:05 to 9:45**

MEMBERS HELPLINE

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline.

Beginner Helpline Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems . . . Dick Fergus

Hardware problems, Win 9x, 2K, XP & Linux . .
. John Spizzirri

CD OF THE MONTH FORMAT: Is now available in **two (2)** flavors. The **Basic CD** will be packed with the standard items, while the **CD of the Month** will have NEW and updated items.

NEW Money Saving Offer for CD of the Month

Pre Order + Prepay = SAVE \$\$

The club will offer the CD of the Month on a pre order, prepaid basis. The charge will be \$70.00 a year for 9 months. This is \$20 annual savings over buying them for \$9 each month. Lynn Johnson, the treasurer, will keep track of anyone placing a 9-month order.

MAIL Request - There will be a \$2.00 mailing charge per CD

Meeting Location and Special Accommodations

The Glenside Public Library is located at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The Library is located on Fullerton between Bloomingdale Road (stop light intersection) and Schmale Road (stop light intersection) on the south side of Fullerton. Fullerton is parallel to North Avenue (Route 64) and Army Trail Road. North Ave. is south and Army Trail is north of Fullerton. Please park away from the building. Thank you.

The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and / or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president, Mike Goldberg at MikeGold60137@yahoo.com, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made for them.

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

FIRST CLASS MAIL

*** ! ** ! ** Notice Date information ** ! ** ! ***

The next **REGULAR** meeting will be held at the **Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights**
starting 9:45am on
Saturday January 26, 2008

CONFIRMED Future Meeting dates for 2008 at Glenside Public Library:
January 26, 2008 :: February 23, 2008 :: March 22, 2008 :: April 26, 2008 :: May 24, 2008

Next presenter on January 26

Our next presenter: Terry Moye, demonstrating tax preparation software.

See page one for more information

Hope to see you there!

CAEUG website has a new home.
Remember to change your bookmark to the
new address to
<http://www.caeug.net>

Membership Costs.....

	First Yr.	Renewal
• Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00
• Family	\$30.00	\$25.00
• Corporate	\$30.00	\$25.00
• Associate	\$20.00	\$15.00