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Dear Fellow Members:

I write this note to highlight an area of critical concern to all ASTS members (and perhaps lapsed or former members and to ask for your help. ASTS is critically behind in collecting current year dues. When I initially expressed interest in this job, I was told that ASTS had approximately 400 members. After examining the membership records, it appears as though roughly 100 individuals paid dues in 2017, and at this point in 2018, only 26% of that group have renewed (the percentage sounds slightly better than the actual number, but unfortunately, they are the same). Even our corporate support is down.

For a professional membership organization, our annual dues are astonishingly low. The membership tab on our website also makes dues payment very easy. In short, if you continue to support the mission of ASTS to work to enhance the public perception and increase the professionalism of CTE teachers and administrators, as I hope you do, there is no excuse for not paying the nominal fee to support the work.

The immediate result of our current financial situation is a lessened ability to effectively advocate for our organization and recruit new members. ASTS's two major opportunities for face-to-face contact with potential members are the ACTE conference in the late fall and the SkillsUSA national conference in June. Because of our straightened finances, we have already had to cancel our participation at ACTE due to the expense of travel and our inability to pay our affiliation fee to ACTE.

I know that there are more than 26 people out there who believe in the mission and vision of this unique organization. Please help.

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