

# NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION INSTITUTE'S

## STICKY REUNION SITUATION

### NO MORE BENEFACTORS

OCTOBER 2023

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#### The Situation:

Our family reunion has been financially successful mainly because several older/financially secure family members happily paid more than their share of the reunion costs. Unfortunately, most of these family members are no longer with us, and we're concerned about our ability to successfully manage without them. We don't foresee others stepping up to fill their shoes anytime in the near future. Do you have any suggestions on what we can do to get our family members to become more responsible financially so that we can continue having great reunions?

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#### The Fix:



Doug Harris

I suggest you do what thousands of other families have done to cover costs for family reunions. Without going into detail, you have at least two options:

1. Assess family reunion dues for an amount that covers some or all costs. Be ready to give facts and figures about the amounts that have been covered in the past, and specifics about what you propose.
2. Conduct fundraisers to offset or cover costs. The list is endless. [CLICK HERE for a starter list of 21 great fundraising ideas.](#)

Whatever choice you make, know that it will not be a simple "one and done" process. You must first communicate the need for change and the reasons why. The first two sentences of the Sticky Reunion Situation you wrote would make a good opener. Then ask for input and suggestions from family members. Ask what they would be willing to do to help keep the reunion going. You can do a mail or phone survey or call a family meeting in person or virtually. However you do it, it is imperative that everyone feel part of the process—or at least has an opportunity to be part of it.