



Suzuki Association of the Americas, Inc.

2006 Annual Report

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Our Mission

The Suzuki Association of the Americas, Inc. aspires to improve the quality of life in the Americas through Suzuki education. We seek to create a learning community which embraces excellence and nurtures the human spirit.

Our Values

Integrity
Community
Excellence
Suzuki Legacy
Education
Music
Nurturing Environment

"One duty given us adults is to create an era when all children on earth are fostered with fine hearts as human beings, beautiful sensibility, fine ability as in speech, and the ability to tell what is correct. I doubt that there is another road to peace. May there be happiness for all children on earth."

—Shinichi Suzuki, Man and Talent

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Letter From The Chair

March, 2007

Dear Members and Friends:

The Annual Report compels me to happily fulfill my responsibility in assessing the life of our Association. Much of what is healthy about the SAA is apparent from the facts and figures found elsewhere in the Report. What is not apparent, and what all of us know, is that the SAA has steadily become more effective in fulfilling its mission. What follows are some impressions of how we have managed to grow and where we can continue to improve.

- 1) **Governance:** The SAA Board has spent a decade learning and sometimes struggling with guiding the Association using the Carver Policy Governance model. I believe that model has clarified the Board's relationship with the SAA staff and the SAA membership, and that we have adapted our uniquely personal and humane culture to the somewhat proscriptive strategies of that model. Now I know that may not mean much to many of our members, but for those of who are asked to serve by governing, it is crucial to have discovered a flexible and effective governance process. Since Board membership constantly turns over, we should be diligent about educating new members in this process.
- 2) **Preservation:** One of the cherished missions of the SAA is to preserve and celebrate the history and legacy of the Suzuki Method in the Americas. The Dryden String Quartet performance honoring John Kendall at the 2004 Conference and the Suzuki Heritage Night at the 2006 Conference were indicators of our dedication to that mission. The Suzuki Heritage Committee is an ongoing volunteer venture and many other more local efforts (e.g. the ASI digitization of the recordings of Dr. Suzuki teaching there) are being made to record our stories and memories.
- 3) **Professionalism:** I believe the standards we have developed for teachers and teacher-training have helped raise the level of excellence of our Suzuki teaching corps. From my various travels and activities on behalf of SAA, I have found that our teachers, especially the younger generation, appreciate the respect the tangible acknowledgement of SAA training garners. Our challenge now is to increase the number of well-trained teachers to meet the demand for Suzuki education that seems to have exploded in many locations in the Americas.
- 4) **Community:** In the past few years, the SAA has enhanced its traditional community-building mechanisms (the Journal, Institutes, Workshops, Leadership Retreats, and Conferences) by

developing its website, redesigning courses, and developing new learning supplements. I refer calls from parents looking for Suzuki teachers to the website; when I am advising students or parents on how to get started in the Suzuki Method, I use the website to locate the nearest upcoming Every Child Can course; I also like to browse the website to choose which of the latest helpful Suzuki products (e.g. The Parents as Partners DVD, Nurtured by Love, Conference videos, etc.) I want to purchase. Of course, nothing is more useful than talking to and seeing each other at our various gatherings. The SAA should remain committed to that close human contact, but when it is not possible, we should not shy away from using all the connectivity that technology offers.

- 5) **Generosity:** In the last two years, we have made great strides in expressing our collective financial generosity. In 2005, we raised over \$35,000 to help our Suzuki colleagues affected by the Katrina disaster, and the 2005 Annual Fund raised over \$40,000, the most ever. I believe that the Board and the Association are bringing a new level of commitment, confidence, and imagination to the vital task of raising the funds necessary to the execution of the Association's mission. I am particularly proud of the incentive CD "Celebration of Excellence" we produced for the 2005 Annual Fund Drive. As important as raising money is, it is even more important that our members volunteer to do the work of the Association. We are a rather large Association with a very small, dedicated, and able staff who rely on members to help organize and execute Conferences, to serve on committees, to write articles for the Journal, etc. Please continue this history of sharing and generosity by supporting the SAA with your financial resources, your time, and your expertise.

Thanks for choosing to be a member of this Association and thanks for taking the time to read this Annual Report. Especially heartfelt thanks for allowing me to serve you and the Association as a member of the Board. It has been a most meaningful and pleasant experience to join with you in the fulfillment and perpetuation of Doctor Suzuki's extraordinary vision.

Sincerely,

Paul Salerni
SAA Board Chair, 2005-2007



“Always with Excellence”

SAA’s 12th Conference

by Carol Ourada, 2006 Conference Coordinator

The SAA 12th conference held in Minneapolis offered to our community an enriching experience that was true to the theme of “Always with Excellence.” Excellence was woven through the array of illuminating master classes, inspiring keynote speakers, enticing exhibits, memorable performances and over 130 sessions.

“The keynote speaker’s message on life and teaching was powerful. I can use these ideas everyday in my studio!” exclaimed one young teacher. “This conference had so much to offer us veteran teachers!” “The parent sessions were amazing; the speakers really understood our experiences.” Many comments such as these portray the special character of SAA conferences. Following Dr. Suzuki’s vision of a learning community, the teacher, student and the parent are all nurtured with the human spirit in mind.

New to the conference were networking dinners and cross-instrument sessions grouped by topic. The resounding success of these gave call for more at the next conference. Heritage Night was a meaningful evening to cherish as those who worked closely with Dr. Suzuki shared stories, pictures and video clips. What a joy to reconnect with Dr. Suzuki’s legacy and get a glimpse of his personal side. With the launching of the Suzuki Heritage Project we look forward to seeing and hearing more about our Suzuki legacy in the future.

Plans for the 13th Conference are now underway. We encourage you to become a part of this 2008 conference, to be open to new

possibilities! We encourage you to consider the privilege of volunteering and the opportunities that participation offers, and most of all, plan on attending. We expect you will return home from Minneapolis revitalized and with renewed vision! Mark your calendar for May 22-26, 2008.

Highlights:

- Creating Community Awards: Yuko Honda, Frank Longay, Douglas Turpin, Stan Smith
- Suzuki Heritage Night and the launch of the Suzuki Heritage Project
- Shenandoah Valley Elementary School Honors Orchestra
- Gala Clinician’s Concert
- Guitar, Flute, Harp Ensemble performances
- Networking Dinners
- Keynote Speakers: Alice Joy Lewis, Brian Chung
- Parent Day Speaker: Mary Sheedy Kurchinka
- Suzuki Early Childhood Level One Teacher Training with Dorothy Jones
- Suzuki Youth Orchestras of the Americas, Marilyn Kesler and Robert Gillespie, directors
- International Ensembles Concert: Barcel Brios, Nevada School of the Arts Violin Ensemble, Rocky Mountain Strings
- Piano Concerto performed by Ryan Liu, with Blue Lake Faculty and Friends Orchestra, Marilyn Kesler, conductor
- Yasuko Nakamura, Australia, special speaker and violin sessions presenter-Suzuki style

Conference Sponsors

PLATINUM

Alfred Publishing
Kawai America
Shar Products
Sibelius
SmartMusic

GOLD

Eastman Strings
House of Note
The Potter Violin Shop Co
Robertson and Sons Violins
Thomastik-Infeld Strings/
Connolly & Co

SILVER

Howard Core Company
Johnson String Instrument
Lisle Violin Shop
Ruben Flores Guitars
Schmitt Music
Target
William Harris Lee & Co



Special Thanks to the SAA 2006 Conference Team

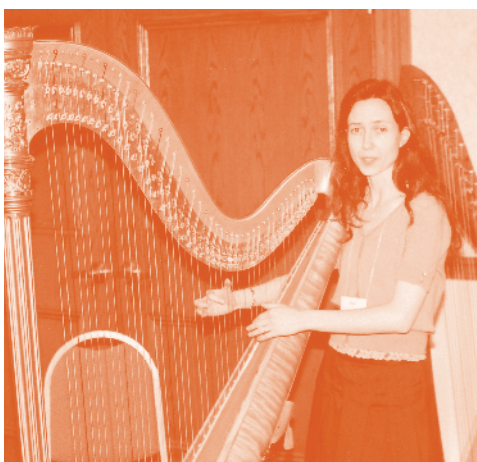
Conference Coordinator, Carol C Ourada (IL)
Assistant Conference Coordinator, Sally Gross (IL)
Violin, Deborah Moench (UT)
Violin Assistant, Lucy Shaw (TX)
Viola, Joanna S. Binford (KY)
Viola Assistant, Elizabeth Stuen-Walker (WA)
Cello, Nancy Hair (MA)
Cello Assistant, Barbara Balatero (WA)
Bass, Domenick John Fiore (CT)
Bass Assistant, Dan Swaim (AZ)
Guitar, Laura Knight (IL)
Guitar Assistant, Mychal Gendron (RI)
Piano, Fay Adams (TN) & Linda Gutterman (VA)
Piano Assistant, Gail Lange (ON)
Flute, Kelly Williamson (QC)
Flute Assistant, Noelle Perrin (NJ)
Recorder, Patrick J O'Malley (IL)
Recorder Assistant, Kathleen Schoen (AB)
Harp, Elinor H. Niemisto (MN)
Harp Assistant, Kathy Kienzle (MN) & Phala Tracy (MN)
Early Childhood Education (ECE), Wan Tsai Chen (AB)
Early Childhood Education (ECE) Assistant, Sharon Jones (ON)
Suzuki in the Schools, Winifred Crock (MO)
Chamber Music, Dr. Julia Hardie (TX)
Chamber Music Assistant, Dr. Susan Baer (AZ)
SYOA, Julie Maura (IL) & Ann Montzka-Smelter (IL)
International Ensemble Concert, Sandra Payton (WA)
International Ensemble Concert Assistant, Margaret Shimizu (CA)
Parents as Partners, Kathleen Spring (CO)
Special Needs, Linda Armstrong Rekas (MO)
Chapter, Elisabeth Taylor (MD) & Sasha Garver (CO)
Hospitality, Teresa Henrichs (TX)
Hospitality Assistant, Danette Schuh (TX)
Site Coordinator, Suzuki Association of Minnesota (SAM)

SAA 13th Conference "Expanding the Vision" May 23-26, 2008 Minneapolis, MN

Sally Gross, Coordinator
Christie Felsing, Asst. Coordinator

The 2008 SAA conference will broaden the quest for excellence into new geographical and pedagogical areas as we "Expand the Vision" that Dr. Suzuki shared with us.

Save the dates!



Donor Honor Roll

*All donors who made a gift to the SAA for the 2006 calendar year.
An astrisk (*) indicates a first-time donor.*

Jeannine Abshir
Gail Acosta
Elaine Adams
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Margaret Aderman
Ellie Albers LeRoux
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Teri Einfeldt
Ruth Einstein
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Katrina Lybbert*
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Donald Maclean*
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Doralee Madsen
David Madsen*
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Maria Mastropaolo
Amy Christine Mathis*
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Alan and Chris Mayne*
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Janelle McClure
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McDonald*
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Kathleen McHugh*
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Marguerite Miller
Sharon Miller
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 Anna Morehart*
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 Dorothy Neff
 Janet Newmann
 Mary Ellen Newsom
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 Caroline Orman
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 Beth Titterington
 Janice Todd
 Susan Torode*
 Arlette Townsend*
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 Education*
 Exxonmobil Foundation
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 Suzuki Association*
 Logos Foundation,
 The Chisholms
 PCS Administration Inc.*
 San Diego Music Camp*
 School of Southern IL
 Talent Education*
 Suzuki in the Berkshires*
 Suzuki Music Association
 of California
 Suzuki Violin at
 Westborough
 Vermont Suzuki Violins*



Why an Annual Fund?

by Diane Schroeder, Chair-Elect, SAA Board of Directors

Why is an Annual Fund so important for the Suzuki Association of the Americas? Many of us realize that the SAA could not exist if it weren't for regular Annual Fund gifts from members and friends. However, there are still questions each year about its importance. The question is frequently asked, "Where does the money go?" We hope to answer each year in the Journal and Annual Report.

The SAA Board has committed itself to take the lead in fund-raising, particularly through the Annual Fund Campaign. One of the Board's goals is to expand the base of giving and thereby increase donations to the Annual Fund and encourage other gifts for projects and special areas of need.

The SAA cannot be supported solely through membership fees. The Annual Fund guarantees income in many areas, including the everyday operation of the organization. The Annual Fund keeps the membership aware of the actions and needs of the SAA. Donations enable us to develop, adapt, expand and pursue new efforts that would be impossible were we to rely only on members' dues.

Many dreams have been fulfilled by the SAA. There is, of course, much more to do, both in an expansion of existing programs and in researching and implementing new ideas. Examples of initiatives that might be possible, given sufficient human and financial

support, include:

- A continuation of the development and implementation of a Suzuki in the Schools curriculum and training program so that access to an excellent Suzuki education will become possible for a broader sector of the population.
- The preservation of our history and archives for future generations.
- Continued development of the outreach programs to make teacher training more available and accessible throughout all the regions of our Association.
- Assistance for programs in isolated communities to enable them to participate effectively in the SAA's learning community.
- Continued development of new courses and course materials, including the Parent Education series and the new mini-Practicum.
- Implementation of new opportunities made possible by web technology.
- Turning into a reality many of the ideas and dreams that you, as an SAA member, may hold dear.

Through successful Annual Fund Campaigns, supported by our members and friends, the SAA's ultimate goal can be met in the coming years: to see that excellent Suzuki Education is widely sought and widely provided to the benefit of all the peoples of the Americas.

Suzuki Katrina Hurricane Fund

SAA teachers, families and friends were able to make a difference in the musical lives of families who were victims of Katrina. A total of \$31,349 was collected and distributed to Suzuki programs in the Gulf Coast area. Recipients of scholarship support were the New Orleans Suzuki Forum and its summer institute, the Centenary College Suzuki Program and the New Orleans Youth Symphony. Two harps and two guitars were purchased for use by area students who are studying under the direction of the New Orleans Suzuki Forum. Over 600 individual donors and several dozen schools and programs took part in the SAA Katrina Fund effort. In addition many other Suzuki teachers and families generously shared items they no longer needed; numerous instruments, music and other items were sent directly to programs in New Orleans.



Lifetime Giving Clubs

Bach Club

\$25,000 and above

Margery Aber Estate
Alberta Denk Estate

Tchaikovsky Club

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Johnson and Johnson
James and Jacqueline
Maurer
Diane Schroeder
Warner Bros. Publications
Western Illinois University
Suzuki Strings

Beethoven Club

\$5,000 - \$7,499

Gilda Barston
Pamela and Fred Brasch
Estella Cook
Jeff Cox and Bill Love
Engle Family Foundation
Fundación Puertorriqueña
Carl Kennel
Marilyn Montzka
Don Robertson
Wyeth Wayerst Laboratories

Brahms Club

\$7,500 - \$9,999

Corbett Foundation

Mozart Club

\$2500 - \$5000

Barbara Barber
Louise Behrend
Peter Bently
University of Hartford,
The Hartt School
Carol Dallinger
Pat D'Ercole
Jean Dexter
Kathleen Gilbert-Macmillan
and Stuart Macmillan
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Daphne Hughes
The Chisholms Logos
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Dee Martz
Paula Mills
Deborah Moench
William and Doris Preucil
Ellen Shertzer

Todd Foote Sprague
Suzuki Assn. of South
Florida
Carol Tarr
Mary Vari

Schumann Club

\$1000 - \$2499

Alfred Ross Foundation
Eleanor Allen
Marilyn Andersen
Deanna Badgett
Joanne and Charles Bath
Lamar Blum
Cleo Brimhall
Jennifer Burton
Tanya and Gerald Carey
Enid and Nelson Cleary
Ronda Cole
John M Connolly & Co
Sheila, Matthew and
Melissa Cox
Carol Cross
D'Addario & Company,
Inc. /D'Addario
Diane Egli
Christie Felsing
Beverly Fest
Ellis Hershman Heritage
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Houston Area Suzuki
Strings Association
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Amy Lynn, Inc.
Louise A. MacCallum
and Michael
Joanne Martin
Hariett Mogge
Northern Ohio Talent
Education
Dalton Potter
Satoko Robert
May Ing Ruehle
Rebecca Sandrok

Barbara Schneiderman
Selmer Company
Stephen Sheppard
Suzuki Tal Ed Society
(Calgary) (Can
Gwendoline Thornblade
Carol Waldvogel
Catherine Walker
Karin Warner

Suzuki Club

\$500 - \$999

Fay Adams
Margaret M. Aderman
Ellie Albers LeRoux
Pamela Amidon
Tobi & Bruce Andrews
Geri Arnold
Susan Ashby
Wendy Azrak
Baroque Violin Shop
Carolyn Barrett
Judy Blank
Janet Bogart
Kathy Brow
Sarah Bylander-Montzka
Suzuki Association of No.
California c/o
Heartstrings Studio c/o
Carmen Wise
HASSA c/o Mary Bell
Linda Case
J. Michael Cavitt
CodaBow International
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Daniel Swaim
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Shoji Tabuchi
Irene Tan
Holly Thistle
Mary Tomme
Alice Vierra
Barbara Wampner
Philip Warren
Bruce Weaver
Western Springs Suzuki Talent
Education Travel

Membership in the SAA's Lifetime Giving Club is determined by the cumulative total of all donations made to the SAA by a donor during his/her lifetime (or since the SAA launched ongoing development efforts in August 1994). An asterisk (*) indicates a first-time donor.

2006 Events, Grants and Scholarships

Suzuki Summer Institutes/Workshops

U.S. – 60
Canada – 12

SAA Teacher Scholarship support

U.S. and Canada \$12,175

Latin American Festivals & Teacher Training Events

Lima, Peru
Santiago, Chile
Santa Maria, Brazil
Bogotá, Colombia
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Guanajuato, Mexico
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Grants and Scholarships

Latin America \$15,760
ISA and Affiliates \$35,491



2006 Creating Learning Community Awards

2006- Presented at the 12th Conference in Minneapolis, MN

A Model of Effective Leadership in the Suzuki Community
Stan Smith

Treasured Voice for Dr. Suzuki in the Americas
Yuko Honda

Establishment of the Parkway Schools Suzuki String Orchestra Program
Douglas Turpin

Suzuki Vision and Leadership
Longay Conservatory of Guitar, Frank Longay

Chapter Affiliates

Suzuki Association of the Greater Washington Area
North Texas Suzuki Association
Suzuki Association of Colorado
Suzuki Association of Utah
Suzuki Association of Minnesota
Suzuki Music Schools of Massachusetts
Greater Philadelphia Suzuki Association



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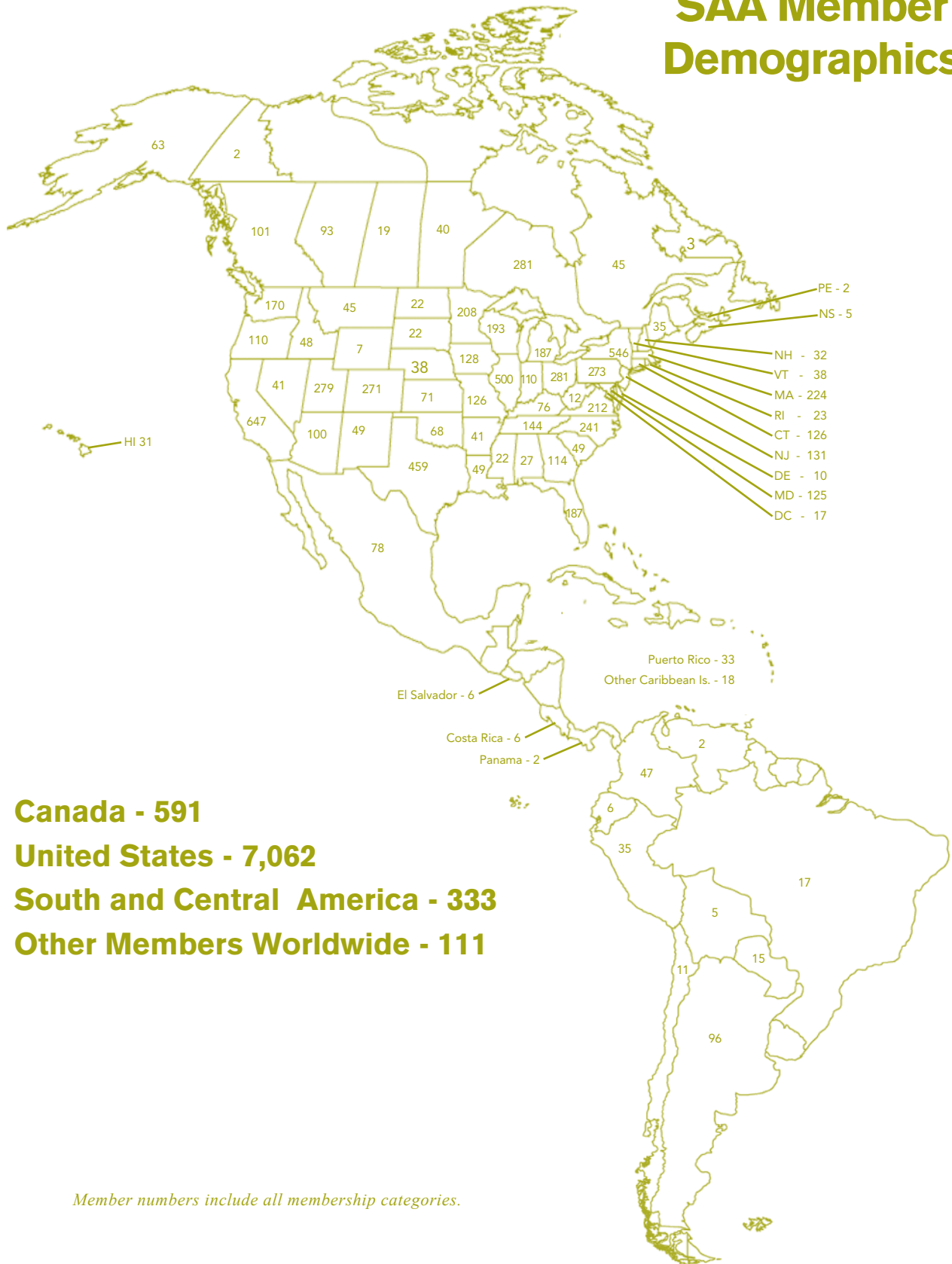
Financials

	2006	2005
Support and Revenue		
Contribution	79,325	24,439
Membership Dues	408,689	406,320
Conferences	263,628	-
Retreat	-	21,543
Course Registration and Fees	104,690	93,135
Institutes	30,131	32,529
Publications	23,593	20,014
Advertising	86,224	99,831
Net Investment Return	27,040	34,289
Miscellaneous Income	8,348	7,396
Total Support and Revenue	1,031,668	739,496
Expenses		
Program	796,220	582,265
General Administrative	112,247	69,779
Membership Development	49,656	47,463
International Suzuki Association	34,200	34,200
Total Expenses	992,323	733,707
Change in Net Assets		
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	848,569	842,780
Net Assets, End of Year	887,914	848,569

From audited financials.
Based on fiscal years ending July 31.



SAA Member Demographics



Member numbers include all membership categories.

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Expanding Our Vision

*SAA's 13th Conference
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