

FAQ for Membership Status Change

August 2015

Developed for the membership at the direction of the Board of Directors by Mark Shour, Iowa State University Extension and Andrew Thostenson, NDSU Extension

1. **Question:** Why is AAPSE making changes to its membership categories?

Answer: To make the categories consistent with changes within the organization and to help grow our organization.

2. **Question:** Will there be an 'International' membership category any longer?

Answer: No, former international members would be encouraged to become full members.

3. **Question:** What category is best for students or for those considering AAPSE membership?

Answer: Associate members. Although an associate member cannot vote on AAPSE matters, the person can participate in committees, benefit from networking with other AAPSE members, and 'test-drive' the organization for a few years.

4. **Question:** How long can a person be an Associate member?

Answer: Each term for an associate member is two years, and this can be renewed once. So the maximum time for an associate member is four years.

5. **Question:** What are the benefits of Full members?

Answer: Full members have full voting privileges, can serve on committees, and can run for an elected office within AAPSE.

6. **Question:** If I move to a new job that is not directly related to pesticide safety certification and training, can I maintain my full membership in AAPSE?

Answer: Yes. Under the new scheme, everyone who wants to be a full member can pay the dues and maintain their membership.

7. **Question:** I'm getting close to retirement, but I want to continue networking with AAPSE members and staying active in pesticide safety issues. Will I be able to maintain my AAPSE membership?

Answer: Yes. Any AAPSE member who is retiring from the workforce in one way or another, can pay full member dues and stay active in our organization.

8. **Question:** What is a Life Member?

Answer: This is an honorary status. The AAPSE Board of Directors recognizes that a retiring person's contribution to the association is so important that they are designated as a Life Member. A Life Member never has to pay dues and they can vote and serve in elected positions, thus they have all the rights of a full member.

9. **Question:** What about dues – are we voting on whether or not dues will be increased?

Answer: No. The AAPSE Board of Directors has tabled the issue of dues for now.

10. **Question:** Does this vote have any impact on dues?

Answer: Potentially. If the membership votes to accept the by-law changes, more revenue could be generated by full member status, which has a bearing on the operating budget of AAPSE.

11. **Question:** Will AAPSE members have a chance to comment on the issue of dues being increased?

Answer: Yes. Each AAPSE member will be given the opportunity of providing feedback to their Regional Representatives on the issue of whether or not to raise dues.

12. **Question:** Will AAPSE hold a vote to increase dues?

Answer: No. According to the by-laws, the AAPSE Board of Directors makes the decision on dues based on input from the membership.