FAQ for Membership Status Change

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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.