Frequently Asked Questions: New ACS Membership Packages, ACS Local Section, Division, and Chapter Leaders

Q. What is happening and why?

With the 2022 transition to the new ACS membership model aiming for a better member experience, the member termination process has been updated. Members who do not pay their dues are automatically moved to the Community Associate category. The Community Associate category does not provide “Member” status and does not include the right to vote. Dues categories and associated benefits are available at www.acs.org/membership.

Q. How will the total allotment for Local Sections and Divisions be impacted by the new membership model?

There will be no impact on the total allotments based on the new member model. In Spring of 2022, Council approved the resolution on the petition to amend the use of dues after which the Board authorized the creation of a quasi-endowment from proceeds in the ACS General Fund with an initial principal amount of $85 million, the annual payout from which will fund the pool to be allocated by the Divisional Activities Committee and Local Section Activities Committee to individual divisions and local sections according to their allotment policies. Further, the amount of funding made available for this purpose will be the standard payout (4% of 3 year rolling avg. market value) from this quasi-endowment or $3.2 million, whichever is greater.

Q. What impact will this change have on my Local Section or Division allotment?

A portion of local section and division allotments is based on a per capita distribution that is shared across all local sections and divisions. The per capita allotment is based on the year-end member count for the second preceding year. 2023 allotments will be based on member counts as of 12/31/2021 and will not be impacted by this change. Allotments for 2024 will reflect the revised member counts. However, as this change impacts all local sections and divisions, preliminary modeling indicates that change to the per capital allocations will be minor. LSAC and DAC will monitor the allotment forecasts and may recommend changes to ensure groups are not adversely impacted.

Q: How will Community Associates with the Basic Package affect Local Sections, Divisions, and Chapters (Component Groups)?

There will be no additional work placed on Component Groups to service non-paying Community Associates. The (free) Basic Package does NOT include automatic assignment to a Local Section or three free Division memberships (for the first year). Community Associates do not impact Council representation or funding allocations, which are tied to the number of members.
Community Associates, similar to non-members, can work directly with a Local Section or a Division to become an affiliate of a Local Section or Division, respectively, and pay whatever dues requirements are autonomously specified by the component. Similarly, Community Associates can interact with ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapters and pay the same dues rate as a non-member.

Q: What will happen to Component Group memberships if a member has either the Standard or Premium Package and does not renew their national membership?

Component Group memberships will terminate for Regular Members or Affiliates with either the Standard or Premium Packages if the individual does not renew their ACS [National] membership before or by their current expiration date. By not renewing into one of the two paid packages, those individuals will be automatically transferred to the Basic Package as a Community Associate where, as an associate, they are ineligible to receive the member rates afforded by ACS Local Sections and Divisions.

As stated above, Community Associates can work directly with a Local Section or a Division or other Component Group to become an affiliate member and pay the same dues rate as a non-member to maintain status.

Q: Is there a package to help Component Groups recruit and retain members?

The new packages provide tools and resources to ensure a vibrant and thriving ACS membership community for all. They have been specifically designed to increase value, choice, and retention. The reduced pricing for the Premium Package and the introduction of the Standard Package should be beneficial to the retention of paid members, which could potentially impact Component Groups accordingly. Members with either the Premium or Standard Packages will be assigned to Local Sections and offered three free memberships to Divisions for their first year. The reduced price of dues across the board and the half-priced option of the Standard Package could result in an increase in net new, non-student ACS members.

Q: Will members with the Basic Packages be allowed to serve either in elected or appointed positions?

No, Community Associates with the Basic Package are not allowed to serve as Councilors, on National committees, as National Officers, or as Local Section or Division Officers, and their affiliation at the National Level will not alter the number of Councilors appropriated nor count towards budget allocations.

Regular Members with either the Standard or Premium Packages are allowed to serve in an elected or appointed position and vote, the exceptions being Society Affiliates and Student Members. The changes to the membership packages do not affect or change the leadership rules for Student Members and Society Affiliates.

Undergraduate Student Members may hold an elective position other than Councilor or Alternate Councilor if the bylaws of the Local Section or Division permit.
Q: How is ACS promoting the new membership packages?

ACS will continue to advertise as it has always done with targeted paid ads, outreach activities, events, and engagement through programs, products, and services such as C&EN, SciFinder®, and Publications. These efforts will be focused on Regular Membership for both the Premium and Standard Packages.

The Standard Package will be an option on the new member application as well as on renewal forms and mailings. All existing members will also be made aware of the convenient new auto continuation rule. If they choose not to renew their membership, they will automatically become a Community Associate with the Basic Package.

The Basic Package will be offered as an option on the ACS membership webpage. It will also be offered to non-members via high traffic and engagement points within select ACS programs, product, and services.

Q: How are years of service accrued per package?

Community Associates with the Basic Package do not accrue years of service. For the purposes of ‘Years of Service’ calculations, individuals with the Standard and Premium Packages are treated identically: One year of service earned per year of dues.

If an individual downgrades to the Basic Package for any period, they will not accrue years of service during that time. If they choose to upgrade back to the Standard or Premium Package, they will resume accruing years of service where they left off.

Q: How will the new model and packages affect the monthly eRosters?

All eRoster files will be received in the same excel spreadsheet format as in previous years; the new membership model will not significantly affect the monthly delivery of eRosters. Community Associates are not assigned a Local Section, Student Chapter, or International Chapter and are not offered three free joins to Divisions, so those members will not be included in the eRoster. Members that do not renew, and therefore become Community Associates, will be reflected in the Monthly Activity Report along with lapsed members.

ACS will be proactively testing the impacts to eRosters starting in January 2022 and will make any necessary changes to ensure full transparency and the conveyance of all relevant and valuable information about members and their status as needed.

Q: Will contact information for Community Associates be provided?

Initially, the only contact information available to groups will be tied to lapsed members who have continued into the Basic Package, and therefore become Community Associates. That contact information will be included in the eRoster files, reported as lapsed members.

Community Associates that joined ACS in 2020-21 were not required to provide a zip code during their sign-up process. Starting in 2022, zip codes will become part of the registration process, and ACS will work to establish a good process for turning over and disseminating contact lists to Local Sections.
of new Community Associate joins.

**Q: Are Component Groups required to contact Community Associates?**

No, there are no requirements for any group to message Community Associates. In the future, contact based on member preferences, geographic location, and other appropriate factors will be permissible. More information will be provided in the coming months.

**Q: Are Community Associates permitted to attend Component Group events?**

As it pertains to events where registration is required, Community Associates should be treated in the same way as non-members.

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