

Frequently Asked Questions: New ACS Membership Packages ACS 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 technical 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 Technical 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 Technical 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 Technical Divisions.

As stated above, Community Associates can work directly with a Local Section or a Technical 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 Technical 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: What communications are sent to Community Associates?

Weekly email delivery of ACS Matters newsletter and C&EN Essential newsletter.

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: Do Community Associates earn years of service?

No. Only ACS member status earns a year of service—one year of member-status earns one year of service credit to be used when calculating retired and emeritus status. Time as a community associate does not provide any years of service.

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 Technical 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: Who has access to eRosters?

Access to eRosters is limited to current officers and requires approval from the local section, division, or international chapter Chair. Contact olsa@acs.org for more information or to request access to your roster.

Q: What does RI and TD/TN mean in the Activity Report?

If/when the Community Associate upgrades from their basic member package later to a paid package, this will appear as Reinstated "RI". When a lapsed member transitions to the Community Associate category, this is a termination of the member's business package and will appear as Terminations "TD" for Divisions or "TN" for LS and ICSC.

Q: There are quite a few persons listed as "terminate national" in the list, and the termination date for most of them is a day in April 2022. What is the reason for this listing? For example, have they not yet paid their dues for 2022, or have they explicitly stated they wish to end their membership in ACS? Were these people meant to be reclassified as "society affiliates"?

On that date and moving ahead, members who do not renew their membership are being transitioned into the new Community Associate category 60 days after their payment was due. The Community Associate category does not provide "Member" status and does not include the right to vote. It does, however, provide a vastly improved and streamlined experience for restoring a small handful of benefits for these individuals, and provides ACS a means to keep in contact for much longer. We have a simplified upgrade process that lets them self-serve to reactivate their memberships and receive a complete 12-month term.

Again, the members that were shifted to associate status were not active, not in good standing, and on their way to termination so this swap allows us to maintain contact with them moving forward. We anticipate providing all local sections with the contact information for all Community Associates

(including these and others) in the coming months which will also allow you to keep in contact with those that otherwise would have disappeared for years to come. This larger than usual drop is unique from transitioning all of those members that had lapsed from April 2021 until January 2022. Moving ahead, all monthly changes will revert to normal levels.

Q: What type of reporting is there for Subdivisions?

The Subdivision e-roster reports are available in the same format(s) as the Division e-roster reports.

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: When can Component Group Leaders access the Community Associate report?

The Community Associate report will be available in August 2022.

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: What communication strategy should my Local Section/Division/International Chapter apply to ensure success in having Community Associates upgrade their membership?

A rising tide floats all boats and we jointly are working on ways to ensure that community associates want to become ACS members which adds them to everyone's rosters. Best practices revolve around focusing on the opportunity and benefits that membership provides and ensuring a clear demarcation of public from member-only events where the community associates are not able to access without upgrading. Additionally, person encouragement works wonders and if you personally observe a community associate on your roster that you have a connection to, encourage him/her to get involved with ACS through becoming a member.

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.

Q: Where does a Postdoc fall in the membership grouping? Are these treated as Regular Members or as Student Members?

Postdocs have been treated as regular members in the past. There are no plans for this to change, however the ACS Committee on Membership Affairs continues to review the placement of this important constituency. ACS also does now offer the ability for graduate students to purchase 3-years of membership at the graduate student rate so it's entirely possible to purchase those years of membership before starting a fellowship and have that membership cover a good portion of a postdoctoral career.

For more information, please contact componentsupport@acs.org