

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society

Membership Policies

Membership Classes

The Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society (GCOS) establishes: four membership classes: active, student, life and honorary; two membership types: individual and family; and defines herein membership in good standing.

Membership Classes

Active Membership

Any person may join GCOS as an active member upon the payment of one year's dues, as established by the Board from time to time.

Student Membership

Full-time students, through high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels of college, may receive one year of membership, without charge and without voting privileges. Subsequent student membership may be a) paid at a student rate, or b) earned in lieu of a payment based on a minimum number of hours volunteered at GCOS events or participating in GCOS activities. The rules for earned membership rates and minimum efforts on behalf of GCOS shall be determined by the Board, and may vary from time to time. Paid and earned student members shall have voting privileges.

Life Membership

The Board may nominate any person as a life member in recognition of outstanding service to GCOS during a period of active membership. Life Members may be elected by a majority of the voting members present at any regular meeting. A life member may vote on any matter for which an active member can vote, and is not required to pay dues. Life members shall have an indefinite membership which terminates at death or resignation.

Honorary Membership

The Board may nominate as an honorary member any person who is not a GCOS member in recognition of outstanding service to GCOS. Honorary members may be elected by a majority of the voting members present at any regular meeting. An honorary member is not a voting member and is not required to pay annual dues. Honorary members shall have an appointment of one year. Honorary members without a break in membership status may be extended for additional one year terms by a majority vote of the Board.

Membership Types

Individual and Family Memberships

The Board shall set dues to permit individual and family memberships. Family members may include up to two adults and any number of children under the age of 18, all living at the same address. A family membership shall have up to two votes, which may not include any person under the age of 18 as a voting member unless that person has independent membership as a student.

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Membership in Good Standing

Members in good standing are those who meet the standards established below:

A. Payment of dues

Dues for the following membership (calendar) year are due in full by December 31st of the prior year. Former active members who have lapsed will not have voting rights until reinstated by paying dues. Members who renew after February 28th may not be included in the membership roster. A lapsed member who renews will be considered a continuous member, rather than a new member, for up to one year. For the purpose of new member benefits, special offers or incentive programs, the Board may require more than a year of absence to be eligible for new membership rates and benefits.

B. Appropriate conduct

Members uphold the Code of Ethical Behavior and the Values of GCOS. The Board shall have the authority to dismiss any member or officer for:

- a) unethical, improper, illegal, dishonest or disruptive conduct related to GCOS purposes;
- b) dysfunctional or inappropriate behavior that is deleterious to GCOSs' ability to attract and retain members, or organize and present its educational and public programs; and
- c) any other matter that may bring GCOS into disrepute because of the person's membership.

Dismissal process: Any member against whom such an allegation is made to the Board shall be notified in writing of the time and date of a hearing, and the matter under consideration for which the Board will consider membership revocation. The member may make a written statement to the Board, or with the Board's permission, may make an in-person statement to the Board. The Board will make a determination within ten days, and notify the former member by mail. A unanimous vote of the Board is required for dismissal from membership. The Board shall have full discretion to determine whether or not to refund any portion of the dismissed member's dues.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on September 18, 2012