

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: MEMBERSHIP: Membership is open to all individuals over 21 years of age regardless of gender, transgender status, gender identity or expression, race or color, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, citizenship, marital status, pregnancy, genetic information, predisposition or carrier status, or any other category protected by federal or state law.

1A. Membership Status

Membership is contingent on meeting and maintaining requirements, upholding the mission statement of the Guild, and upholding the standards set forth and expected as members of America's Finest City Leather Guild. Failing to adhere, may result in the revocation of membership as decided by a majority of the board.

Section 2: Types of Memberships:

Charter Member

Full Member

Associate Member

General Member

2A. Charter Membership:

1. Charter Membership are those that originated the Guild
2. Charter Members are Full Members and except for stipulated here, must follow the membership rules applied to Full Members as described in 2B.
3. Charter members may be granted special privileges as determined by the Guild.
4. Charter Members with two years consecutive membership, who are not currently members, may rejoin the Guild without having to Pledge.

2B. Full Membership:

Full membership will be limited to individuals who are able to meet the requirements of full members as specified in the Guild's Policies and Procedures.

Full Member status is obtained when the Pledge has:

1. Met the Pledge requirements as stated in the 'Pledge Protocols' in the Guild's Policies and Procedures.
2. Obtain a sponsor. For Full Membership the sponsor must be a board member.
3. Attend a minimum of 3 general meetings, the final of which your sponsor will introduce the pledge and they will speak about becoming a member.
4. Received a two-thirds vote of board members present
5. Paid Full Members dues as assessed for new members.

Full Members are entitled to one (1) vote and are eligible for appointment as committee chairs and members, to hold elected office and wear the colors of the Guild.

Good Standing: To retain good standing Full Members must:

1. Attend at least 2 general meetings each calendar year
2. Volunteer at 2 Guild events each calendar year
3. Attend a minimum of 2 other Guild Events per year
4. Be current in payment of dues

Leaves of Absence, for up to six months, may be granted by the Board without affecting member status.

Full Members who have lost good standing for failing to meet participation requirements will become Associate Members. They may regain Full Member status when their minimum participation requirements have been met.

Full Members in financial arrears, who otherwise qualify, will regain Full Member status upon the payment of dues owed.

2C. Associate Memberships:

1. Associate membership is intended to allow individuals who are not able to meet attendance requirements as a full member.
2. Associates are non-voting, dues-paying members who are not required to meet monthly attendance requirements. However, there are annual attendance and volunteer events requirements.
3. The application for Associate Membership must contain the signatures of five voting members in good standing.

Associate Member status is obtained when the Pledge has:

1. Met the Pledge requirements as stated in the 'Pledge Protocols' in the Guild's Policies and Procedures.
2. Obtain a sponsor. For Associate Membership the sponsor must be a Charter or Full member.
3. Attend a minimum of 3 general meetings, the final of which your sponsor will introduce the pledge and they will speak about becoming a member.
4. Received a two-thirds vote of voting members present
5. Paid Associate Members dues as assessed for new members.

Associate Members may:

1. Attend meetings and functions of the Guild.
2. Receive publications and mailings.
3. Wear the colors of the Guild.

4. Serve on committees as appointed by the Board of Directors.
5. Be identified on membership lists as an Associate Member.

Associate Members may not vote, hold office, chair committees, or attend Board of Director's meetings or closed session meetings of Full Members.

Good Standing: To retain good standing, Associate Members must:

5. Attend at least one general meeting each calendar year
6. Volunteer at one Guild event each calendar year
7. Attend a minimum of two other Guild Events per year
8. Be current in payment of dues

Leaves of Absence, for up to six months, may be granted by the Board without affecting member status.

Associate Members who have lost good standing for failing to meet participation requirements will become General Members. They may regain Associate Member status when their minimum participation requirements have been met.

Associate Members in financial arrears, who otherwise qualify, will regain Associate Member status upon the payment of dues owed.

2D. General Membership:

Member is designed for those that cannot make regular meetings or are maybe new and/or exploring the guild. There are no monthly attendance requirements for meetings, however there are annual attendance/volunteering requirements for events, socials, fundraisers, and other sponsored events.

General Membership

1. General Membership have no voting rights but are welcome to attend general meetings.
2. Attendance at events is encouraged, but general members must pay any entrance fees when they are not volunteering for the event.

General Member status is obtained when the Pledge has:

6. Met the Pledge requirements as stated in the 'Pledge Protocols' in the Guild's Policies and Procedures.
7. Obtain a sponsor. For General Membership the sponsor must be a Charter or Full member.
8. Attend a minimum of 2 general meetings within 1 year, the final of which your sponsor will introduce the pledge and they will speak about becoming a member.
9. Received a two-thirds vote of voting members present

General Members May:

1. Attend meetings and functions of the Guild that are no cost events.
2. Receive publications and mailings.
3. Wear the colors of the Guild.
4. Serve on committees as appointed by the Board of Directors.
5. Be identified on membership lists as an Associate Member.

General members may not vote hold office, chair committees or attend Board of Director's meetings or closed session meetings of Full Members.

Good Standing: To retain good standing, Associate Members must:

1. Attend at least 1 general meeting each calendar year
2. Volunteer at 3 Guild event each calendar year
3. Attend a minimum of 2 other Guild Events per year
4. Must host/co-host one social, fundraiser, education, or other event as approved by the board of directors.

2E. Honorary Membership:

The Board may grant Honorary Membership to any person or organization for note worthy or extraordinary service to the Leather community or the Guild. This classification is a lifetime designation. No membership dues are required. Honorary Members are allowed the same privileges and are subject to the same limitations of Associate Members.

2F. Voluntary Change in Member Status:

A Full Member has the option of changing his status to Associate Member at anytime. Full members who voluntarily become Associate Members may return to Full Member status without having to go through the pledge process again.

2G Other Classes of Membership:

The Board of Directors may create other member classifications as the needs of the Guild require.