

## Classifications and Eligibility

Membership classifications in the Society are active, reserve, and honorary.

**Active.** An active member shall be a woman who is employed as a professional educator at the time of her election or has been retired from an educational position.

1. An active member participates, as she is able, in chapter programs and projects, contributes to committee work, votes, shares in financing chapter activities and may hold office.
2. The word *employed* is defined as currently hired by an employer and/or paid a salary or fee for specific educational services.
3. The word *retired* is commonly defined as someone who has enough years as a professional educator to draw a pension/annuity.
4. In the selection of a member, the definition of *professional educator* is interpreted to include one-to-one instruction as well as group instruction.
5. A woman who is not presently employed as a professional educator or who left the profession before retirement is not eligible for invitation to active membership.
6. The chapter decides if the prospective member is classified as a professional educator.
7. Certification or licensure is not required.
8. A candidate elected for active or honorary membership at any level shall be initiated within a period of one year from the time of election.
9. An individual is not a member of the Society until she has been initiated. She is initiated only once.
10. A professional educator may be invited to membership regardless of where she lives or is employed unless a restriction is included in state organization bylaws.
11. Educators who express interest in becoming a member may be invited to chapter functions so that others may meet her and so that she may learn more about the organization. If the person is eligible to be invited, an invitation may be extended.
12. A member retired from educational work retains the rights and privileges of active membership.
13. The status of an active member cannot be changed to honorary.

**Reserve.** Reserve membership shall be granted only to a member who is unable to participate fully in the activities of the chapter because of physical disability and/or geographic location.

1. Retirement is not a reason for granting reserve membership.
2. Not having time to attend meetings is not a reason for granting reserve membership.
3. Reserve status shall be granted by a majority vote of the chapter.
4. A reserve member, so requesting, shall be restored to active membership.
5. Reserve members have all the privileges of membership except that of holding office and have no obligations except payment of dues and the scholarship fee.

**Honorary.** An honorary member shall be a woman not eligible for active membership who has rendered notable service to education or to women, and is elected to honorary membership in recognition of such service. Honorary membership can be granted at the chapter, state organization, or international level.

1. Honorary members may participate in all activities except that of holding office. Her attendance as a chapter honorary member at state organization or international events is as a guest.
2. Chapter honorary members are recommended and elected in accordance with chapter rules. The Recommendation for Membership (Form 11) is used.
3. Each chapter honorary member is presented with an honorary membership certificate. She may be given a keypin.
4. When initiated as a chapter honorary member, the initiate becomes an honorary member only at the chapter level.

5. An active member may not be granted honorary membership.
6. A retired educator is eligible for active, not honorary, membership.
7. An honorary member may not be initiated in absentia.
8. An honorary member may serve as parliamentarian.
9. The initiating unit of the Society pays to international a one-time honorary lifetime fee at the time of initiation. No annual dues or fees are paid to the chapter, state organization, or the international level.
10. An honorary member may transfer her membership.
11. An honorary member who becomes a professional educator and thus eligible for active membership accepts the obligations, responsibilities and honor of membership at all three levels including appropriate dues and fees

**Reinstatement.** A former member shall be reinstated to membership by the chapter receiving the request. There are no chapter or geographical restrictions on reinstatement. The chapter does not vote on the reinstatement and there is no reinstatement fee.

### **Termination of Membership.**

1. Membership is terminated for the following reasons:
  - a. Non-payment of dues and fees
  - b. Resignation
  - c. Death
2. Members are invited to detail the reasons for dropping membership in the Society. The chapter is encouraged to contact the member to explore alternatives to resignation.
3. The chapter treasurer completes *Report of Members Dropped* (Form 18-A).
4. Necrology reports (Form 2) are prepared by February 1 of each year.

**Transfer Process.** Any member in good standing may transfer from one chapter to another upon notifying Society Headquarters:

1. A *Request for Transfer* form is available on the Society Web site.
2. The receiving chapter does not vote on the transfer.
3. Society Headquarters sends an Official Notice of Transfer to the transferring member, to the presidents and treasurers of the sending and the receiving chapters, and to the state organization treasurers.
4. A member who moves to another area and who wishes to be active in the local chapter but retain membership in her original chapter (not transferring to the local chapter) may attend meetings of the local chapter, state organization and region, but there is no circumstance at present where a member may have dual membership in more than one chapter simultaneously