

Membership and Voting

Background

In 2005 at the Extraordinary General Assembly, the membership voted on a yearly financial contribution as a requirement of membership for those members who were not Emerita. This was put forth as a way of facilitating the acquisition of grants by saying there was a 100% financial contribution from the membership. However, many grantors looked at our assets and saw others who had no such resources and chose them. That would be even more true today.

For 16 years The Membership Team and others have made a commitment to try to reach all members whose membership would lapse or discontinue as a result of non-financial contribution. We have been mostly successful. However there has been some miscommunication, some hurt, some distress as a result of this process.

We would still have an annual request for a financial contribution and we would hope that the membership would continue to support the movement financially but we feel it is important to look at the bigger picture of what it means to “contribute” to the Grail. We would hope members will contribute their time, their talents, their visions, and their prayers to the movement as well.

The other important change is that this definition clarifies what is the responsibility of those who vote.

This is the current definition

ARTICLE VII MEMBERS OF THE GRAIL

1. A Grail Member

- a. Consciously lives out her connectedness to the Grail mission*
- b. Contributes financially annually*
- c. Has voting privileges in those matters that require a vote as defined by our d. bylaws or policy*

2. An Emerita Member

a. Is member who has an established history in the Grail but can/may no longer respond to Grail responsibilities.

- *Is not required to contribute financially annually*
- *Selects for voting privileges*

We would propose a change to

A Grail Member

- a. Consciously lives out her connectedness to the Grail vision and mission.
 - b. Contributes to the Grail to the extent she has the capacity: her time, talents, her money and or prayers.
 - c. Has voting privileges **and responsibilities**
1. Those who select to vote will take the responsibility of making themselves aware of the issues brought to vote by following communications sent out nationally and regionally and by attending by meetings and forums when possible. In the case of elections, they would make themselves aware of the bios of those seeking election.

Emerita Members

- a . contributes as she is able
- b. selects for voting privileges and responsibilities

A number of questions may come to your mind.

How is this “enforceable”?

It isn't.

It would be on the honor of each Grail member to contribute as she is able.

It would be on the honor of each Grail member to vote responsibly.

What about our Emerita members?

To the extent they have the capacity, we welcome their contributions including their prayers.

To the extent they no longer have a capacity to contribute, we thank them for their contributions in the past

They remain as members.