

# **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. Dues for the following year are due in full by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year. New members who join during the year may pay prorated initial dues, such dues prorated by quarters.

#### **Student Membership**

Full-time students, through high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels, may receive one year of membership, without charge and without voting privileges. Subsequent student membership may be a) paid at a discounted 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 discounted 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.

### **Membership in Good Standing**

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

#### **A. Payment of dues**

Active members who are delinquent as of March 31<sup>st</sup> in paying GCOS membership dues forfeit their voting rights until dues are paid in full. If dues are delinquent on April 1st, the organization deems that the person has voluntarily resigned membership, and all membership rights and privileges are revoked without further action being necessary. A delinquent member may be reinstated by paying full dues. A delinquent member may not rejoin as a new member unless at least one year has passed since the member became delinquent. To facilitate continuation of members, GCOS will notify members who are delinquent by two months.

#### **B. Appropriate conduct**

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 GCOS's 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.