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2005-05-20 PCA Membership Category Revision Proposal

Pennsylvania Counseling Association

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Proposal

Membership Category Revision

Rationale: There are categories on the membership application (Professional and Associate) that are not clearly defined. This creates confusion when people submit applications. In addition, PCA does not have category for retired members. It seems respecting of diversity to include such a category, with a responding reduction in membership dues in recognition of the fact that our retired members may be living on fixed incomes.

Proposal: The membership committee proposes the following membership categories and descriptions, with dues amounts listed:

Professional Member: Individuals residing in Pennsylvania who hold a Master's degree or higher in Professional Counseling or a closely related profession--psychology, social work, medicine (psychiatry), nursing (psychiatric nursing) from a regionally accredited college or university. To be a professional member, one must also be employed as a professional counselor (or a practitioner of a closely related profession) or supervisor of counselors. If a professional member is between positions but job searching, they may maintain professional membership as long as they are seeking employment. Dues are \$60 and permit the person to vote on Association business and to hold office.

Associate Member: Individuals who hold a Master's degree or higher in Professional Counseling or a closely related profession--psychology, social work, medicine (psychiatry), nursing (psychiatric nursing) from a regionally accredited college or university. To be an associate member, one does not have to be employed as a professional counselor (or a practitioner of a closely related profession) or supervisor of counselors. In addition, associate members need not reside in Pennsylvania or be employed in the state of Pennsylvania. Dues are \$60 and permit the person to vote on Association business except as restricted by PCA bylaws. They are not eligible to hold office.

Student Member: Individuals who are attending an institution of higher education in the State of Pennsylvania as a graduate student preparing for [HYPERLINK "http://www.pacounseling.org/fact.html"](http://www.pacounseling.org/fact.html) [professional counseling](#) or a closely related profession--psychology, social work, medicine (psychiatry), nursing (psychiatric nursing); Student members have the same rights as Professional members; Student membership status shall not be extended beyond three years. Dues are set at \$25 and the signature of a faculty advisor is required.

Retired membership is open to persons who have held professional membership for the two years immediately preceding retirement. A retired member shall maintain all the privileges of Professional Membership and dues are set at \$25.00.