

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

These guidelines, along with the Club By-Laws, the Articles of Organization, and the Application Form in your handbook, outline what is expected of Provisional Members and Proposers, clarify meeting requirements, and show how existing members may change membership categories.

Provisionals:

1. We welcome new members. New members (other than those joining as Affiliates from other GCA clubs) spend their first year as Provisionals, allowing them time to learn about and become involved in Club activities.
2. Provisional candidates should have a residence and maintain a garden in the Buzzards Bay area.
3. New Provisionals are automatically placed on the Greenhouse Committee and one other committee determined by the President based on the Provisional Member's interests and Club needs. Provisionals are also expected to actively participate in major Club projects, such as flower shows and plant sales.
4. Like Active Members, Provisionals are required to attend at least one (1) greenhouse session each month and attend at least four (4) member meetings per year. These are minimum requirements; new members should be aware that most Active Members are more extensively involved and find that deeper involvement leads to greater enjoyment of the Club.
5. There are no Leaves of Absence or delayed starts for Provisional Members.

Proposing Candidates:

1. A Proposer should ensure that her candidate is known to members of the Membership Committee.
2. The Proposer has the responsibility for ensuring that her candidate is fully aware of what is expected as a member and must help the candidate fulfill her requirements. The proposer is expected to support the First Vice President and a designated member of the Membership Committee to ensure each new member is welcomed and fully informed of the Club's projects and committees and is encouraged to fully participate in Club activities during her first year.
3. Refusing an invitation to become a Provisional Member does not preclude a subsequent proposal and consideration, although new paperwork will be required. A candidate may be proposed up to 3 times.

Member Status:

1. Active Members who are qualified may switch categories upon written request to the Membership Committee and approval by the Board of Directors, space permitting.
2. Non-active members (including members who join the Club as Affiliates from other GCA clubs) may switch to Active Membership, on a priority basis, upon application and approval by the Membership Committee.
3. Members who resign in good standing may be readmitted as space permits upon notification and approval of the Membership Committee and Board of Directors.

Categories:

1. Active and Associate Members must have a residence and maintain a garden in the Buzzard Bay area.
2. Active Members must serve on at least two committees each year, one of which must be a Heartbeat Committee, unless otherwise approved by the President.
3. Active Members who require a lesser role and who have been a member with five years in good standing (including the Provisional year) may apply to the Membership Committee for Affiliate status. Transfers from other GCA clubs are also Affiliate members. All Affiliates are encouraged to take an active role on committees and Club projects.

Member Meetings:

1. All Active and Provisional Members must attend at least four (4) meetings a year.
2. Working at the Plant Sale, a flower show or on a community project does not count as a meeting. Those are considered to be GCBB projects. Trips do not count unless they are specifically noted as a regular meeting.

Orientation:

1. The First Vice President and a designated member of the Membership Committee will orient new members (Provisionals and Affiliates) to the work of committees and Club special projects. They will encourage committee chairs to talk one-on-one with new members and invite them to meetings and to work on projects.

They also will make new members aware of the resources of the GCA, the advantages of using its website, and opportunities to participate on a zone and national level.

2. The First Vice President and Membership designee will appoint a Mentor for each new Affiliate member who joins from another GCA club. The Mentors will have the same responsibilities as Proposers (see Proposer Guidelines).