
GAC Policies & Procedures for Membership

TO BE VOTED ON AT THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2025 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Revised June 2025

**Revised October 2016 — for presentation at General Membership meeting, Friday
October 14th — to be voted on Friday November 11th.**

Voted and approved November 11, 2016

The Membership Committee operates under the authority of Article VII, Section 7.2 of the Bylaws and is in charge of maintaining the membership list of the GAC and overseeing the admission of new members. The membership is maintained in computerized form with lists printed and made available upon approval of the Executive Committee.

Limit on member Numbers (Cap)

Club membership is "capped" at 6,000 members (not counting Lifetime & Clergy members).

"Turned 21". A child listed on a family membership who turned 21 the current year must have his/her own membership in the following year. In other words, a child may remain on family membership only until the end of the year in which they turn 21. In this case the child can sign up for his/her own membership for automatic acceptance and without going on the Wait List and without payment of an Initiation Fee. The parent(s) must have held Family membership for at least one year; otherwise the 21 year old will be placed on the Wait List.

Armed Services. A member on active duty will have all membership fees waived and will maintain his/her membership in good standing until their active duty is completed.

Hardship. Any member who is experiencing temporary financial hardship may apply for relief for the current year as determined by the **Executive Committee upon the** recommendation of the Membership Committee.

Period of Membership

Membership is active for the Calendar year - Jan1 to Dec 31st.

Period of Closed Membership

Membership will close as of September 30th 1st and remain closed until after **of March 1st April 1st** of the following year. Applications will continue to be accepted but (except for qualified "Newly Arrived") no admissions, renewals or reinstatements will be made.

Membership Applications and Wait List

Application is a two-part process.

1. Prospective members complete the online Application Form at www.GaelicAmericanClub.com.

2. Print, complete and sign the Heritage Affirmation Form. Have two sponsors sign it and mail or place it in the Membership Drop Slot.

Members are expected to keep their online profile up to date; adding children, changing email addresses, etc. by ~~going to www.GaelicAmericanClub.com~~, contacting the membership committee with the information.

Sponsorship

Two members (may not be spouses) in good standing are required to sign each prospective member's Heritage Affirmation Form. One sponsor is required for "Newly Arrived" members. Signing this certifies that each sponsor has conducted reasonable due diligence to verify the Irish birth or descent of the applicant(s) and if, knowingly or negligently, sponsors a person of non-Irish birth or descent, then that sponsor's membership can be revoked or be subject to other penalties imposed by the GAC Executive Committee. No member may sponsor more than four applicants per calendar year.

Approved Applications

After review applicants are notified of their qualification for membership by email and their names are placed on the Wait List. This list of qualified applicants is posted on the website at www.GaelicAmericanClub.com

Wait List

Applications to be placed on the Wait List are accepted all year round but **invitations to join** (for qualified candidates) are issued only after a count of lapsed memberships has been determined. This usually happens annually in ~~March and~~ April and new members can be admitted up to ~~the end of~~ September 1st (subject to the Cap). Applicants are accepted strictly in order of application date (except for "Newly Arrived" and "Turned 21").

Meet and Greet

New members may be invited to attend a Meet and Greet session at which they will be welcomed by members of the GAC Executive Committee as well as by representatives of club activities.

Annual Renewal

Annual renewal notices are emailed to all eligible members on January 1st. Renewal forms are mailed to those members who have requested it and to those who do not use email. Renewals are due January 1st and payment must be received no later than the last day of February to maintain membership; if in arrears the member will no longer be in good standing and membership will have lapsed.

Change of Membership Status

Members may ~~go online to~~ change status e.g Upgrade or Downgrade between types of membership ~~or, if preferred,~~ by contacting the membership Committee to do so on their behalf.

Death of a Member

A current member may retain her/his membership in the event of a death of a qualifying spouse.

However, if the membership is allowed to lapse, and he/she does not meet qualifications for membership, he/she is no longer eligible. Under extraordinary circumstances the Membership Committee may bring to the Executive Committee recommendations for reinstating a membership in question.

Divorce

Primary members may maintain the membership and change their status to Family 1, Senior 1, or Individual.

In order to maintain membership, divorced spouses must provide proof of Irish heritage, (Completed Heritage form).

Member Reinstatement

Any former member may have his or her lapsed membership **reinstated within 3 years of prior membership** upon payment of all current dues, fees and assessments **and those that were due during the most recent year of lapsed membership** together with a reinstatement fee [see attached Schedule of Dues & Fees]. The dues owed during the time of lapsed membership will be determined by the last membership type held when the member was in good standing (Family 2 Adults, Family 1 Adult, Individual or Senior, **Senior 2, Individual+Senior**). The classification of membership may not be changed and eligibility for status as a senior member will require uninterrupted membership, without lapse or reinstatement, for the three **immediately** previous years.

Individuals who are more than 3 calendar years from previous membership will be required to go back onto the waitlist if they wish to become members again.

Dues and Fees: [See attached Schedule of Dues and Fees]

Dues, Scrip, and Assessment are paid annually. Initiation Fees are paid once only for new members.

Initiation Fee: New members are charged an initiation fee. This fee is waived in the case of dependents on family memberships who have just turned 21; "Newly Arrived" native Irish immigrants; or members of the clergy.

Dues: For operational expenses and support of club activities

Scrip: GAC Scrip represents contributions from members convertible into purchases at the club. It may be used only to purchase food and drink at the Club or tickets to qualified GAC events and may not be transferred or otherwise redeemed for any other purpose, including gift cards. Scrip is redeemable from April 1st – the last day of February. Unredeemed scrip is forfeit as of March 1st

Expansion Assessment: This is levied on each membership (except Senior, Lifetime and Clergy) and will continue until the mortgage funding for the recent expansion of the club premises is paid off.

Membership Cards

Members in good standing are allotted an electronic Door/Scrip dual function card that allows

access to the club during hours of operation and also contains Scrip for spending at the club. Lost cards will be replaced for a fee of \$10. Non-working cards will be replaced free of charge. Cards are retained by members from year to year and any card discarded by a member will be treated as Lost. Membership cards may not be topped up with additional Scrip but GAC Gift Cards are available in any denomination at the bar.

Duties

The Membership Committee will adopt procedures to facilitate all required functions of membership including:

Distribute renewal reminders by January 1st.

Post a notice in the January and February newsletter that membership renewal closes on the last day of February; send email reminders as appropriate.

Record all dues, initiation fees, scrip and assessments collected and turn them over to the Financial Secretary for verification and processing.

Keep records of unredeemed scrip and wipe all cards after March 1st. Refill cards for active members on April 1st (except for Lifetime and Clergy members).

Make membership cards for new members and replace cards for existing members when appropriate.

Disable Door/Scrip cards for non-renewed members.

Remind the Executive Committee that any change in membership dues, fees or assessments must be proposed at the ~~October~~ **September** general membership meeting and voted on at the ~~November~~ **October** meeting.

Provide a list of active members, as of September 30th, to the Election Committee.

Provide a list of members signed up to receive the monthly newsletter, Scéala.

Provide a list of active members to the Fáilte Welcoming Committee.

Add new members email addresses to the weekly eBulletin distribution list.

Maintain the Wait List and post the names of qualified prospective members conspicuously at the GAC at least ten (10) days prior to the monthly meeting at which the vote to accept the new members is scheduled.

The reason for these changes are to adjust general items that help make the Membership Committee's job easier.