

LCMGA Membership Committee Notes on Revision to By-Laws, Article III (2018)

Changes to Article III of the LCMGA By-Laws are derived from a review of the membership categories undertaken by the Membership Committee comprised of Diane Primont, Sharon Busby, and Becky Stiles. The goals of making these changes include:

- Recognition and encouragement of members who recertify;
- Compassion for those who cannot meet recertification for age, health, caregiving, family or other personal reasons, especially those who have a sustained record as volunteers, and encourage their continued involvement in MG volunteer opportunities.

The important changes are highlighted below.

Article III Section 1 revises our membership categories to

1. Reflect current practice:

All members (excluding Honorary members) must have completed the MG Training Program and submitted the OSU Conditions for Volunteer Service. This change was made to be consistent with a Memorandum of Agreement between OSU and OMGA that restricts membership in good standing this way.

Active members are also called Certified Master Gardeners and must complete recertification requirements each year. Again, this change makes the LCMGA Active member definition consistent with the Memorandum of Agreement between OSU and OMGA. Over the last several years, members have been made aware of the new recertification requirements. Yearly recertification is made an explicit requirement for Active membership.

2. Retain members who are not able to recertify:

An Associate member category has been added. These members are encouraged to volunteer and be as involved in LCMGA as they are able. Associate members may elect to recertify. The Committee was made aware of some members who no longer live in Lincoln County full-time, as well as some who feel they can no longer volunteer as much, (and so cannot complete recertification) but want to remain involved with LCMGA. By offering this membership category, LCMGA may retain their involvement.

3. Be consistent with new membership category:

Lifetime membership may be awarded to either Active or Associate members. The Committee did not want to place restrictions on the Board's awarding of life membership.

Article III Section 2 makes a major change in awarding Active membership to Apprentices. Active membership will be awarded only after completing the program and certification requirements. The Committee reasoned that Apprentices are too busy that first year to make informed voting decisions on LCMGA matters. According to the Memorandum of Agreement, Apprentices cannot become members of LCMGA until they have completed certification requirements.

Diane Primont, Chair
Membership Committee