What happens when an elected officer fails to pay their ACS national membership dues?

If a Member does not pay dues, ACS Membership shall notify them of the delinquent dues and provide a deadline of no more than 60 days after that to correct such delinquency. Should they not correct the delinquency in a timely manner, they will automatically be resigned from their position. Any elected officer including Councilor or Alternate Councilor vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in one of the following manners: (1) in a predetermined order of succession as provided in the bylaws of the Local Section or Division from among Alternate Councilors and/or unsuccessful candidates for these positions; (2) by means of a special election, or (3) at the time of the next annual election. If the third option is used, the vacancy may be filled under the next annual election by appointment by the governing body of the Local Section or Division. Please see Standing Rule IV, Sec. 16, f. For further questions, contact secretary@acs.org.

Can Local Sections pay the ACS national membership dues of an elected officer?

It is recommended that Local Sections not pay dues of a Councilor, members of its governing board, or other individuals in a position to exercise control or influence of the Section. There may be special circumstances the Local Sections may pay the dues of the members that are currently covered under the Waiver program Dues Categories & Discounts - American Chemical Society (acs.org) e.g., those in financial distress.
What is a Community Associate?

The ACS Global Community is comprised of Members, Society Affiliates and Community Associates. A Community Associate has the Basic Package, which entitles them to a limited set of benefits at no-cost. Community Associates are not considered ACS Members (or Society Affiliates) and are precluded from certain privileges afforded to Members as outlined in the ACS Bylaws. An individual may choose to join ACS as a Community Associate and can also be transitioned to a Community Associate should they not renew their membership.

Members pay dues under the Premium or Standard Packages. Members have benefits which include access to C&E News and ACS Career Services, eligibility to become a member of Divisions and their Local Section, to apply for Member-only awards, grants, and fellowships, to serve in elected offices at local and national levels, and to vote in elections to name a few. For a complete list of benefits see www.acs.org/membership.

A Community Associate can become a Member if they have a degree, certification or significant work history in a STEM field or as a teacher of chemical science. If they do not have those prerequisites, a Community Associate can also become a Society Affiliate, in either case paying for the Premium or Standard Packages applies.

Are Community Associates assigned to Local Sections?

Community Associates are not assigned to Local Sections when joining ACS. As Community Associates are not Members of ACS, they may not participate as Members of Local Sections. However, Local Sections are welcome to invite Community Associates to participate in Section Activities as they would other non and former members.

How can Local Sections contact Community Associates in their local area to invite them to participate in activities?

A Community Associate eRoster report is distributed to Local Sections along with monthly rosters and is available for download by the officers of the Local Section. This report will indicate who is a new Community Associate and who are past ACS Members who have chosen not to renew and became Community Associates. You are encouraged to e-mail these individuals to invite them to participate and/or join ACS as a member to become automatically assigned to your Local Section with full access.

Can a Community Associate become a Local Section Affiliate and how?

Yes, a Community Associate may become a Local Section Affiliate, if allowed in the Section’s bylaws, and as long as Local Section Affiliates dues are paid.

Can a Community Associate volunteer for section activities and/or hold office?

Community Associates cannot hold any elected Local Section position, but otherwise can be involved – same as a Society Affiliate – if allowed by the host/organizing party/Section/Division.

Are Community Associates covered by insurance if they engage in Section activities?

ACS maintains a comprehensive business policy, which includes general liability coverage that protects ACS against liability claims arising from negligent acts by ACS, or its agents, that result in bodily injury or property damage, e.g., arising out of events. This coverage is not an accident policy. It will not pay anyone who is injured regardless of how the injury was caused or who is at fault. It pays ONLY when the Society, or someone acting on its behalf, is negligent and the damage stems from that negligence.

If a component group is hosting an activity, we recommend participants sign a waiver and release of liability. Samples can be found in the Legal Resource Manual. Please contact ACS Legal at ACSLegal@acs.org for a quick review.

What happens when a member fails to pay dues?

A Member becomes a Community Associate after 60 days of unpaid dues and are removed from the Member Roster and newly listed in the monthly Community Associate eRoster.