



AGN – NORTH AMERICA

Membership (from the Bylaws)

2.1 Qualifications for Membership. Member firms consist of any firm (including partnerships, professional corporations, limited liability companies or other formal forms of practice) engaged in the rendering of professional services, as defined from time to time by the Board of Directors. A firm who chooses to apply for membership shall submit an application to the Board of Directors in the form prescribed by the Board and the required entry fee as prescribed in paragraph 3.1 and shall certify that it meets the qualifications for membership. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall notify each applicant of the action taken on its application and if the action is favorable, shall notify the applicant of the first year's dues payment due pursuant to paragraph 3.2. If the action is not favorable, the entry fee shall be refunded to the applicant. Upon payment of the required dues to the Board of Directors, the applicant shall become a member entitled to all rights and privileges of membership.

2.1.1 Ownership of a member firm must be in accordance with the current regulations of the AICPA, state board and in the case of members outside the US, the appropriate jurisdictions in which they practice.

2.1.2 All CPA active owners shall be members of a national professional organization of the jurisdictions in which they practice, such as The American Institute of CPAs or Institute of Chartered Accountants.

2.1.3 The Board of Directors may establish other criteria at any time.

Firm Size (from the Board Policies)

The Association will generally consider North American firms with a minimum of \$5 million in revenues for membership. If a prospective firm's revenues are less than the minimum, the Executive Committee will decide, upon consideration of other criteria such as location, expertise, niches, etc., whether the firm should be encouraged to submit an application.

Associate Membership

Associate membership may be offered to professional service firms other than accounting firms.

Admittance of New Members

The search for new members will concentrate on targeted geographic areas not in conflict with existing members. However, in the event of any existing member firm conflicts, the Executive Committee will consult with affected member firms.

Upon the receipt of an application for membership, a preliminary circularization of the Directors shall be made to determine whether to proceed. Upon 80% of Board members' approval to proceed, the prospective member firm shall be visited and evaluated as to qualifications for membership. If the visitation team unanimously agrees that the firm should be recommended, the visitation team shall submit a letter of recommendation together with a ballot to the Executive Committee members for their vote, which must be unanimous. This vote shall normally be conducted by e-mail. If the visitation team agrees to not recommend the firm, no letter or ballot to the Executive Committee is necessary. If the visitation team is not able to reach a unanimous recommendation for admittance, the application shall be turned over to the Executive Committee for its consideration and final decision.

Geographic Expansion of Members

While no formal policy regarding geographic overlap of member firms has been established, the Board encourages communication between members where geographic overlap will result from expansion and has directed that the Executive Committee should act as a forum for firms to discuss issues that may arise. Should a firm decide to open an office in a location where another firm has an office, the expanding firm's Board member is responsible for contacting the existing firm's Board member in advance to inform them of the move, as well as for informing the Executive Director, who will inform the Executive Committee.