



IV. Membership Application Information

1. Who Is Eligible for Membership?

From the TMA Constitution and Bylaws, Article III, Sections 1-4:

Sec. 1. This association shall be composed of duly and constitutionally chartered county medical societies and the members thereof.

Sec. 2. Those eligible for membership in the association are physicians holding the degree of Doctor of Medicine and/or Doctor of Osteopathy, and full-time students pursuing a course of study in a Texas medical school recognized by the Texas Medical Board that leads to the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy. Deans of these medical schools and presidents of health science centers of which these medical schools are component schools also shall be eligible for membership in the association provided they hold doctoral degrees.

Sec. 3. All members shall subscribe to the Principles of Medical Ethics of the American Medical Association and shall not hold themselves out as practitioners of sectarian medicine.

Sec. 4. All physician members shall be licensed to practice medicine in Texas; a temporary license, certificate, or permit shall not be deemed adequate. The exceptions to this licensure requirement for membership are:

- (1) House staff physicians serving in training programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education who hold institutional permits from the Texas Medical Board.
- (2) Physicians who are military medical officers, employees of governmental entities, and those with academic and administrative appointments in medical schools who are not required to register under the Medical Practice Act of Texas, and who are residents of the State of Texas.
- (3) Physicians who are fully retired from the practice of medicine.

All physician members shall be licensed to practice medicine in Texas; a temporary license, certificate, or permit shall not be deemed adequate.

2. Dues Classifications and Amounts

The association membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, both dates inclusive. Association or component county society secretaries or treasurers collect dues and forward them monthly to the association office. The TMA House of Delegates sets annual membership dues.

Below are TMA's annual dues classifications and amounts. See the individual classifications for details on requirements, and application procedures.

A. Active

Physicians in the active practice of medicine. TMA active membership dues + county medical society dues.

B. First Year in Practice

Physicians in their first year of active practice after completion of residency. One-half TMA active membership dues + county medical society dues.

C. Retired (formerly Inactive)

Physicians who have retired from the active practice of medicine. Please contact TMA Membership Operations for questions regarding retired status.

D. Leave of Absence

Members granted leave of absence membership status pay annual dues of \$30.

E. Affiliate

Physician members who leave the state to practice but wish to retain membership in TMA. Affiliate members pay one-half of annual dues charged to active members.

F. Associate

Physicians who currently are members in a state and county society adjacent to where they are applying. Associate members pay one-half of annual dues charged to active members.

G. Military

Physicians serving in the armed forces of the United States of America within the geographical jurisdiction of a component county medical society. \$50 + county medical society dues.

H. Resident

Physicians serving internships, residencies and fellowships in hospitals located within the geographical boundaries of a county society, who are not in private practice. \$20 + county medical society dues.

I. Student

Full-time students pursuing a course of study in a Texas medical school recognized by the Texas Medical Board leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy. Medical student membership is complimentary.

J. Membership in a Contiguous Society

A component medical society may grant permission for a physician under its jurisdiction to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society.

The association membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, both dates inclusive. Association or component county society secretaries or treasurers collect dues and forward them monthly to the association office. TMA House of Delegates sets annual membership dues.

3. Processing Membership Applications

The following pages give detailed instructions for processing new applications. Copies of forms are in the Application Forms section starting on page 60. After the applicant has been approved for membership, please send a copy of his or her application to the TMA Membership Department. The application must be signed by a county society officer indicating the date the physician was accepted for membership. Dues for the current year should accompany the application.

A. Active Membership

The acceptance of the privileges of Active membership carries with it the obligation to assume the duties of any office to which the member may be elected or appointed by the county medical society and the Texas Medical Association.

Requirements

Active members must be licensed by the Texas Medical Board, with the exception of military medical officers, employees of governmental entities, and those with academic and administrative appointments in medical schools who are not registered to practice under the Medical Practice Act of Texas, and who are for the time bona fide residents of the State of Texas.

Application Procedures

- a. The applicant completes an **Active Membership Application (See page 61.)**
- b. The applicant forwards the completed application along with the appropriate dues for the county society and TMA.
- c. County medical societies are urged to forward TEXPAC contributions to TMA immediately upon receipt in order to comply with state regulations pertaining to political contributions.
- d. The county medical society secretary or staff may circulate the name of the applicant to society members along with the procedure by which written objections may be directed to the county society board of censors and the date by which such objections must be received.
- e. The county medical society secretary or staff verifies the information on the application.
- f. If no objections are received from members of the county society, the secretary forwards the application to the board of censors for review.
 1. The board of censors has 120 days to review, sign, and forward the application to the county society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
 2. An extension of time, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted to the board of censors by the executive board for good cause.
- g. After review, the county society board of censors forwards the application to the county medical society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval or disapproval** of membership.
- h. Within 90 days of receipt of the application and board of censors recommendation for **approval** of membership, or at the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) shall declare the applicant a member.
- i. Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **disapproval** of membership, or at the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive

While this document explains the policies and procedures for accepting a new member, you should remember that physician applicants are eager to be members and begin receiving benefits. Your expediency would be appreciated and helps ensure the first impression of the organization is positive.

board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) may vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.

1. When the recommendation of the board of censors is disapproval of an application for membership, the applicant may request a hearing before the executive board. If the applicant requests no hearing or after completion of the hearing, the executive board shall vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 2. When an application for membership has been denied on the basis of investigations that disclose unethical or unprofessional practices, the secretary of the component county medical society shall report promptly to the TMA Board of Councilors the name of the physician thus denied membership.
 3. If an application for membership is denied, based upon professional incompetence or misconduct, the secretary of the component county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas Medical Board within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.
- j. If no action is taken on a completed application within these specified periods of time, the applicant may appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors.
- k. After the application is approved, the CMS forwards a copy of the approved application to the TMA Membership Department along with TMA membership dues (if they have not already been forwarded).

NOTE: Physicians refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the TMA Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society. See Membership in a Contiguous Society in this section for more information.

Reapplication for Former Members

Physicians who have not been a member of TMA for more than one year are considered former members and will need to reapply by filling out the Active Membership Application.

B. First Year in Practice

This dues category is for physicians in their first year of practice after completion of residency. Physicians elected to this category pay one-half of TMA active membership dues plus county medical society dues. This applicant completes an **Active Membership Application. (See page 61.)**

Circulation of applicants' names is at the discretion of the local county medical society, and is **not** required for TMA membership.



C. Retired Membership

Four membership categories are available to physicians who retire or reach a comparative point of inactivity. They are:

1. **Retired (formerly Inactive)**
2. **Honorary**
3. **Life**
4. **Emeritus**

Physicians elected to these categories become exempt from state and local dues.

The following pages describe the four exempt categories and instructions for initiating their applications

1) Retired (Formerly Inactive) Membership

Requirements

- a. The member must have paid full TMA membership dues for the year prior to being nominated to an exempt category.
- b. The member must be retired from the active practice of medicine.
- c. Retired physicians moving to Texas from another state where they were a member in good standing at the time of retirement may also apply for Retired Membership, without fulfilling requirement “A” above.

Application Procedures

- a. The county medical society secretary completes a **Nomination for Retired Membership Application (See page 63.)**
- b. The county medical society approves the application and forwards it to the TMA Membership Department.
- c. The county medical society and the member are notified of the change in TMA membership status.

NOTE: Retired members are not counted when determining the number of delegate seats allocated to a county society in the TMA House of Delegates.

Retired Physicians Moving to Texas

Physicians moving to Texas from another state who wish to apply for Retired membership must complete an Active membership application and be approved by the county medical society to which they are applying. Please note on the application that the member is being accepted as a Retired member. No dues will be required from the member.

Furthermore, it is not necessary to submit a Retired membership nomination form for the member, and the nomination need not be approved by the TMA Board of Councilors.

Reapplication Exception for Retired Members

Physicians who are retired members and those who are fully retired

from the practice of medicine and who relocate from the jurisdiction of one county medical society to another shall be granted the option of reapplying to the new society or retaining membership in the original society.

2) Honorary Membership

Requirements

The physician member must:

- a. Practice less than 50 percent of the time.
- b. Have rendered outstanding service to the federation of medicine.
- c. Have made a noteworthy contribution to scientific medicine.
- d. Have paid full TMA membership dues for the year prior to being nominated to an exempt category if elected at TexMed, TMA's annual session of the House of Delegates (April/May), and for the year in which he or she is elected if approval is at TMA Fall Conference.

Nomination Procedures

- a. The county medical society secretary completes a **Nomination for Honorary Membership Application (See page 65.)**
- b. The county medical society approves the application.
- c. The county medical society forwards the approved application to the TMA Membership Department by April 1 to be considered at TexMed.
- d. The House of Delegates votes on the application at TexMed (April/May).
- e. The county medical society and the member are notified of the election results shortly after the vote.
- f. Physicians who are not approved for an exempt category at TexMed must pay full dues within 30 days after notification of election results.

3) Life Membership

Requirements

The physician member must have:

- a. Paid full TMA membership dues for the year prior to being nominated to an exempt category.
- b. Been a dues-paying member of organized medicine for 35 years or more, of which 25 years must have been dues-paying years in TMA and its component societies.
- c. Reached a point of comparative inactivity as determined by the county medical society.

Nomination Procedures

- a. The county medical society secretary completes a **Nomination for Life Membership Application (See page 67.)**
- b. The county medical society approves the application.
- c. The county medical society forwards the approved application to the TMA Membership Department.
- d. The county medical society and the member are notified of the change in TMA membership status.

4) Emeritus Membership

There is no application to complete for a change to Emeritus status.

Requirements

The physician member must have rendered exceptional and distinguished service to scientific or organized medicine, or both, to be elected to emeritus status.

Nomination Procedures

- a. The county medical society approves the status change.
- b. The physician forwards his or her **curriculum vitae** to the TMA Board of Councilors, where it is held for one year.
- c. The TMA House of Delegates votes on the status change.

D. Leave of Absence

Requirements

County medical societies may grant a leave of absence for a period of one or more years for:

Associate membership is available to physicians who currently are members in a state and county society adjacent to where they are applying.

- a. Physician members who leave the active practice of medicine due to:
 1. Further training in an approved internship or an approved residency,
 2. Service as a missionary outside the geographical limits of the United States,
 3. Temporary service in the U.S. Armed Forces,
 4. Temporary civilian service outside the geographical limits of the United States,
 5. Illness,
 6. Sabbatical, or
 7. Family leave;
- b. Physician members who are temporarily out of state on sabbatical leave or who accept nonclinical or administrative positions that do not require a transfer of licensure to practice (one-year leave of absence); and
- c. Resident physician members and fellows or graduating medical student members who are accepted to an out-of-state graduate training program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or its equivalent (leave of absence for the period of the training program).

While on leave, these members may hold direct membership in the association; county medical society membership may be continued at the discretion of the member. The privilege of direct membership in the association shall terminate six months after the date of termination of the training unless sooner terminated by acceptance for membership by a county society.

Application Procedures

- a. The physician or medical student notifies the county medical society of the impending change, either by written notice or by completing a **Leave of Absence Membership Application (See page 69.)**

- b. The county medical society approves the status change to Leave of Absence membership.
- c. The county medical society forwards the change of status notification and the appropriate dues to the TMA Membership Department.

E. Affiliate Membership

Affiliate membership is available to physician members who leave the state to practice but wish to retain membership in the Texas Medical Association. Members have six months from the date they leave Texas to complete the requirements for Affiliate membership. Affiliate members do not retain membership in a local county medical society.

Requirements

- a. Active, Military, and Resident members whose dues are paid and who leave the state may permanently apply for Affiliate membership in TMA.
- b. Members must be licensed by the Texas Medical Board and must present proof of such each year at dues billing.

Application Procedures

To initiate Affiliate membership for a physician, the TMA Membership Department must receive:

- a. A completed **Member Record Change Form (See page 71.)** indicating the physician's new out-of-state address,
- b. A copy of the physician's current Texas medical license, and
- c. TMA dues (if member is not paid for current dues year).

F. Associate Membership

Associate membership is available to physicians who currently are members in a state and county society adjacent to where they are applying. For example, a physician in Texarkana, Ark., who is a member of the Arkansas State Medical Association and Miller County Medical Society may join the Bowie County Medical Society in Texarkana, Texas.

For Associate membership applicants, use the Active Membership Application in this section. Be sure the appropriate block is checked indicating the type of membership requested.

Requirements

- a. Associate members must be licensed by the Texas Medical Board.
- b. Physicians may apply for Associate membership in a county medical society adjacent to the state society in which they are members.

Application Procedures

- a. The applicant completes an **Active Membership Application (See page 61.)**
- b. The applicant forwards the completed application along with the appropriate dues for the county society and TMA.
- c. County medical societies are urged to forward TEXPAC contributions to TMA immediately upon receipt in order to comply with state regulations pertaining to political contributions.

- d. The county medical society secretary or staff circulate the name of the applicant to society members along with the procedure by which written objections may be directed to the county society Board of Censors and the date by which such objections must be received.
- e. The county medical society secretary or staff verify the information on the application.
- f. If no objections are received from members of the county society, the secretary forwards the application to the board of censors for review.
 - 1. The board of censors has 120 days to review, sign, and forward the application to the county society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
 - 2. An extension of time, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted to the board of censors by the executive board for good cause.
- g. After review, the county society board of censors forwards the application to the county medical society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
- h. Within 90 days of receipt of the application and board of censors recommendation for **approval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) shall declare the applicant a member.
- i. Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **disapproval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) may vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 - 1. When the recommendation of the board of censors is disapproval of an application for membership, the applicant may request a hearing before the executive board. If the applicant requests no hearing or after completion of the hearing, the executive board shall vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 - 2. When an application for membership has been denied on the basis of investigations that disclose unethical or unprofessional practices, the secretary of the component county medical society shall report promptly to the board of councilors the name of the physician thus denied membership.
 - 3. If an application for membership is denied based upon professional incompetence or misconduct, the secretary of the component county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas Medical Board within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.
- j. If no action is taken on a completed application within these specified periods of time, the applicant may appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors.
- k. After the application is approved, the CMS forwards a copy of the approved application to the TMA Membership Department along with TMA membership dues (if they have not already been forwarded).

NOTE: Associate members are not counted when determining the number of delegate seats allocated to a county society in the TMA House of Delegates.

G. Military Membership

Military physicians who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces may join the county society where they are stationed.

For Military membership applicants, use the Active Membership Application in this section. Be sure the appropriate block is checked indicating the type of membership requested.

Physicians refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society. See Membership in a Contiguous Society in this section for more information.

Requirements

Military members must serve in the U.S. Armed Forces within the geographical jurisdiction of the component county medical society.

Application Procedures

- a. The applicant completes an **Active Membership Application (See page 61.)**
- b. The applicant forwards the completed application to the county medical society along with the appropriate dues for the county society and TMA.
- c. The county medical society secretary or staff verify the information on the application.
- d. After the county society has verified the application, the society notifies the applicant that the application is complete. The applicant then may apply for member benefits.
- e. The application is forwarded to the county society board of censors for review.
 1. The board of censors has 120 days to review, sign, and forward the application to the county society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
 2. An extension of time, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted to the board of censors by the executive board for good cause.
- f. After review, the county society board of censors forwards the application to the county medical society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
- g. Within 90 days of receipt of the application and board of censors recommendation for **approval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) shall declare the applicant a member.

Physicians refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society.

Resident membership is for physicians who are serving internships, residencies, or fellowships in hospitals located within the geographical boundaries of a county society, who are not in private practice.

- h. Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **disapproval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) may vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
1. When the recommendation of the board of censors is **disapproval** of an application for membership, the applicant may request a hearing before the executive board. If the applicant requests no hearing or after completion of the hearing, the executive board shall vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
2. When an application for membership has been denied on the basis of investigations which disclose unethical or unprofessional practices, the secretary of the component county medical society shall report promptly to the TMA Board of Councilors the name of the physician thus denied membership.
3. If an application for membership is denied based upon professional incompetence or misconduct, the secretary of the component county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas Medical Board within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.
 - i. If no action is taken on the application within these specified periods of time, the applicant may appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors.
 - j. After the application is approved, the CMS forwards a copy of the approved application to the TMA Membership Department along with TMA membership dues (if they have not already been forwarded).

NOTE: Military members are not counted when determining the number of delegate seats allocated to a county society in the TMA House of Delegates.

H. Resident Membership

Resident membership is for physicians who are serving internships, residencies, or fellowships in hospitals located within the geographical boundaries of a county society, who are not in private practice. Resident membership shall cease with the completion of the internship, residency, or fellowship.

For Resident membership applicants, use the Active Membership Application in this section. Be sure the appropriate block is checked indicating the type of membership requested.

Requirements

- a. Resident members must be licensed by the Texas Medical Board.
- b. Resident members must not be in private practice.

Application Procedures

- a. The applicant completes an **Active Membership Application (See page 61.)**
- b. The applicant forwards the completed application along with the appropriate dues for the county society and TMA.

- c. County medical societies are urged to forward TEXPAC contributions to TMA immediately upon receipt in order to comply with state regulations pertaining to political contributions.
- d. The county medical society secretary or staff may circulate the name of the applicant to society members along with the procedure by which written objections may be directed to the county society board of censors and the date by which such objections must be received.
Circulation of applicant's names is at the discretion of the local county medical society, and is not required for TMA membership.
- e. The county medical society secretary or staff verify the information on the application.
- f. If no objections are received from members of the county society, the secretary forwards the application to the board of censors for review.
 - 1. The board of censors has 120 days to review, sign, and forward the application to the county society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for **approval** or **disapproval** of membership.
 - 2. An extension of time, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted to the board of censors by the executive board for good cause.
- g. After review, the county society board of censors forwards the application to the county medical society executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation for approval or disapproval of membership.
- h. Within 90 days of receipt of the application and board of censors recommendation for **approval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) shall declare the applicant a member.
- i. Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **disapproval** of membership, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) may vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 - 1. When the recommendation of the board of censors is **disapproval** of an application for membership, the applicant may request a hearing before the executive board. If the applicant requests no hearing or after completion of the hearing, the executive board shall vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 - 2. When an application for membership has been denied on the basis of investigations that disclose unethical or unprofessional practices, the secretary of the component county medical society shall report promptly to the TMA Board of Councilors the name of the physician thus denied membership.
 - 3. If an application for membership is denied, based upon professional incompetence or misconduct, the secretary of the component county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas Medical Board within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.

- j. If no action is taken on a completed application within these specified periods of time, the applicant may appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors.
- k. After the application is approved, the CMS forwards a copy of the approved application to the TMA Membership Department along with TMA membership dues (if they have not already been forwarded).

NOTE: Physicians refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society. See Membership in a Contiguous Society in this section for more information.

I. Student Membership

Student membership is for students who are pursuing a course of study in a medical school in Texas that is approved by the Texas Medical Board. Students shall be eligible for student membership in the county society in which the medical school is located. Student membership shall cease upon termination of student status.

Requirements

Student members must be full-time students pursuing a course of study that leads to the degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy.

Application Procedures

- a. The applicant completes a **Medical Student Application (See page 73.)**
- b. The applicant forwards the completed application along with TEXPAC contributions (if applicable) to TMA.
- c. TMA processes the application and sends it to the county medical society for approval.
- d. After the application is approved, the CMS forwards a copy of the approved application to the TMA Membership Department.

J. Membership in a Contiguous Society

A component medical society may grant permission for a physician under its jurisdiction to apply for membership in contiguous county medical society.

Any applicant refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the TMA Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous component county medical society.

Permission for a physician to apply in a contiguous component county medical society, and consideration of that application by the contiguous society, shall be denied only for a violation of the constitution and bylaws of TMA or a component county medical society, a violation of the American Medical Association Principles of Medical Ethics, criminal conduct, or unprofessional conduct likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public.

Student membership is for students who are pursuing a course of study in a medical school in Texas that is approved by the Texas Medical Board. Students shall be eligible for student membership in the county society in which the medical school is located.

Should a request for permission to apply for membership in a contiguous component county medical society be denied, the physician shall have the right of appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors, which, on a majority vote, may permit the physician to apply for membership in a contiguous component county society.

4. Transfer Procedures

Regardless of membership classification, a physician who relocates from the jurisdiction of one county society to another shall notify the current county society, the new county society, or the TMA Membership Department. Once the TMA Membership Department is notified of the physician's relocation, the member will be transferred to the new county society.

Then:

- A. The Membership Department will inform the original society and the society to which the member has transferred.
 - 1. TMA forwards a transfer notification and a copy of the member's current application to the society to which the member has transferred.
 - 2. The new society collects any additional information needed from the member.
 - 3. Membership benefits of the association continue, those from the original society cease, and those of the society to which the member has transferred begin.
 - 4. TMA will notify the physician of the transfer from the old society to the new society with the new society contact information.
- B. The secretary at the new society will inform the physician of any local requirements and meeting dates, and collect dues if not already paid for the current year.
- C. Upon receipt of the notification of transfer and current application, the secretary completes any required verification then forwards the completed form(s) to the county society's board of censors for review.
 - 1. The board of censors has 90 days to review, sign, and forward a transfer notification and current application and any additional information needed by the county, to the county society executive board (or society officers if there is no executive board) with a recommendation of **approval** or **disapproval**. If after 90 days the association has not been informed of disapproval, the physician's membership will remain with the new society. The physician will also be informed of the 90-day time frame.
 - 2. A request for an extension of time, not to exceed 90 days, may be granted to the board of censors by the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) for good cause. If an extension is required, TMA should be notified.
- D. Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **approval** of a transfer notification and current application, or next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) shall declare the applicant a member of the society.

Regardless of membership classification, a physician who relocates from the jurisdiction of one county society to another shall notify the current county society, the new county society, or the TMA Membership Department. Once the TMA Membership Department is notified of the physician's relocation, the member will be transferred to the new county society.



- E.** Within 90 days of receipt of the report of the board of censors with a recommendation for **disapproval** of a transfer notification and current application, or the next regularly scheduled meeting, whichever comes first, the executive board (or other society officers if there is no executive board) may vote to deny or approve the notification and current application.
1. When the recommendation of the board of censors is disapproval of a transfer notification and current application for membership, the applicant may request a hearing before the executive board. If the applicant requests no hearing, or after completion of the hearing, the executive board shall vote to deny or accept the applicant for membership.
 2. When a transfer notification and current application for membership have been denied on the basis of investigations which disclose unethical or unprofessional practices, the secretary of the component county medical society shall report promptly to the TMA Board of Councilors the name of the physician thus denied membership.
 3. If a transfer notification and current application for membership are denied, based upon professional incompetence or misconduct, the secretary of the component county medical society must report such a professional review action to the National Practitioner Data Bank through the Texas Medical Board within 15 days of the date that all due process rights have been exhausted.
- F.** If no action is taken on a transfer notification and current application within these specified periods of time, the applicant may appeal to the TMA Board of Councilors.
- G.** After the transfer notification and current application are approved, a copy of the signature form is forwarded to the TMA Membership Department.

NOTE: Physicians refused membership in a county society under Section 1.16 of the Bylaws shall have the right to request, from said county society, permission to apply for membership in a contiguous county medical society. See Membership in a Contiguous Society in this section for more information.

Reapplication Exception for Retired Members

Physicians who are retired members and those who are fully retired from the practice of medicine and who relocate from the jurisdiction of one county medical society to another shall be granted the option of reapplying to the new society or retaining membership in the original society.

5. Locum Tenens

County medical societies are encouraged to retain as Active members those physicians performing locum tenens outside of Texas. Locum tenens is by definition temporary, and the desire to retain membership indicates intent to return to Texas. Dues for physicians performing locum tenens are the same as TMA Active membership dues.