

Estate Planning Council of Central Texas

Dues, Guest Fees, and Membership Policy

Adopted July 28, 2022

The Board of Directors ("Board") of the Estate Planning Council of Central Texas ("Council") desires to implement the following policies regarding dues and membership. These policies are not amendments to the Council's Amended and Restated Bylaws ("Bylaws") but serve to supplement such Bylaws with additional detail.

I. Dues Policy

In order to establish consistency from year to year, the Board agrees to adhere to the following policies regarding dues.

- a. **Dues for the 2022 – 2023 Program Year will be \$500** and \$520 for those members who pay by credit card.
- b. If a member chooses to pay dues using a credit card, any fee charged to the Council shall be billed to the member. Such fees may be rounded up for simplicity so long as the fee charged is disclosed.
- c. Dues should **increase at a suggested rate of 2% to 10% annually**, as voted on by the Board each summer.
- d. Dues will be the **same amount for all members**.
- e. Dues will be charged annually, **no early or timely payment discount** will be given, and dues will **not be prorated** based on the time of the year that a member is joining.

II. Guest Fees

In order to establish consistency from year to year, the Board agrees to adhere to the following policies regarding guest fees.

- a. Section 6.01 of the Bylaws permits members to bring guests and nonmembers to attend meetings. Each guest or nonmember may only attend twice in a program year.
- b. **The guest fee (per meeting or social) for the 2022 – 2023 Program Year will be \$75**, and \$78 for guests who pay by credit card.
- c. Guest fees will be set in \$5 increments and will always be more than one-eighth of annual dues. Credit card fees will be handled in the same manner as the credit card fees for dues.

III. Membership Policy

Individuals who would like to join the Council are eligible for membership under Section 2.01(a) or Section 2.01(b) of the Bylaws. Section 2.01(a) admits certain individuals who are CPAs, attorneys, financial advisors, life insurance professionals, trust officers, and retired members of the Council. Section 2.01(b) of the Bylaws reads:

At the discretion of the Board, the following individuals may also become members of the Council:

- (1) individuals licensed as attorneys or CPAs in another state, and
- (2) individuals not engaged in the financial services industry who possess substantial experience from which the membership could benefit, for example: planned giving officers, executives of charitable organizations, appraisers, court or governmental employees, educators, and other individuals whose business involves frequent contact with members of the Council. Individuals admitted under this paragraph shall be referred to as "other" members. Once admitted in the "other" category, the individual shall be eligible for annual membership renewal so long as his or her employment remains substantially unchanged.

Applicants desiring the Board's consideration under Section 2.01(b) are frequent points of discussion for the Board. The Board wishes to streamline decisions in this regard and agrees to adhere to the following policies regarding members admitted under Section 2.01(b) ("Other Members"):

- a. The total number Other Members **may not comprise more than 10% of the total membership** in any given membership year. The number of total members used for such calculation will be the largest number of total members in any one of the previous three membership years.
- b. The following professionals will gain "automatic" admittance as Other Members on a first-come, first-served basis:
 - (1) Any Member **previously admitted by vote of the Board** for as long as such member pays annual dues. If any member previously admitted by the Board fails to pay dues before the second meeting (an August social shall be considered a meeting for such purposes) of the following membership year, such individual must reapply and be reconsidered for membership pursuant to this policy.
 - (2) Any **planned giving** professional.
 - (3) Any executive of a **non-profit corporation**.

- (4) Any employee, owner, member, partner, or shareholder of a **business appraisal company or firm.**
 - (5) Any **educator, court employee (including judges), or governmental employee.**
 - (6) Any employee, owner, member, partner, or shareholder of an **organization that accepts court appointments as guardian of the person.**
- c. Individuals who do not qualify under any of the delineated categories for automatic admittance as Other Members may be voted on by the Board.