

PINA

MEMBERSHIP



PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE OF NORTH AMERICA

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A. OVERVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

Comprised of both individuals and regional hub organizations, PINA was established to support its members' development as permaculture professionals and permaculture organizations. In turn, PINA's individual members provide the lifeblood of the organization, while its regional hub members engender a permaculture communications network that spans the continent. PINA highly encourages its members to actively:

- Avail themselves of PINA's membership benefits
- Participate on PINA boards, panels, committees, subcommittees and other teams
- Offer ideas and preferences on surveys and queries about PINA plans and policy.

B. MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

PINA's administrative office maintains various types of information and offers diverse services to PDC graduates, candidates for the professional diploma, accredited teachers, designers and other diplomates, course organizers, field advisors, and regional hub organizations. PINA is phasing in these services over time as the organization emerges.

PINA's services to its members include:

- Providing staff to respond to inquiries and extend support
- Assisting candidates to move through the diploma process
- Maintaining a roster of PINA-certified PDC graduates
- Maintaining rosters for PINA-recognized advanced course graduates
- Maintaining a registry of PINA diploma holders
- Promoting workshops and courses through a web-based calendar, including PDCs, advanced courses and continuing education
- Providing instructor biographies to potential students
- Maintaining a record of curriculum for courses offered by PINA's instructors
- Recruiting, encouraging, and connecting people to establish regional hub organizations
- Providing information about the regional hubs
- Establishing relationships with organizations extending beyond individual regions that offer special educational opportunities to permaculture students
- Screening prospective members, both individuals and organizations
- Providing other general networking services
- Offering surveys and opportunities for members to voice their preferences and ideas
- Maintaining a website that assists in providing all of these services.

PINA offers additional membership benefits to regional hub organizations:

- Participating in PINA's diploma process, including nominating field advisors for the region
- Nominating a representative to PINA's Board of Directors on a rotating basis
- Accepting donations from nonprofit groups, with PINA serving as a flow-through organization
- Responding to hub organizational needs by adjusting annual dues or securing support funding.

As PINA matures, it may undertake additional services and projects to support permaculture excellence in North America, such as research, publishing, peer review, conflict resolution, reviews of instructors and permaculture service providers, professional association services, public information, encouragement of internships and apprenticeships, and more.

C. MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND DUES

Graduates of PINA-recognized permaculture design courses are encouraged to join PINA to further their professional development. In addition, all PINA professional diplomates and all accredited regional hubs are expected to maintain an active membership in PINA and to support the organization through annual dues.

PINA offers three levels of membership; dues are commensurate with the benefits provided:

- PDC Graduates, including diploma candidates \$ 30.00 per year
- Professional Diplomates \$ 60.00 per year
- Regional Hub Organizations \$120.00 per year
(Hub dues are negotiable, as described below)

Dues span a one-year period, beginning on the date that PINA accepts the member. PINA’s administrative office notifies each member 60 days prior to the membership renewal date.

D. MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE POLICY

As per its bylaws, PINA’s membership policy prohibits discrimination based on existential conditions such as gender, race, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religious heritage. In the nature of its mission, however, PINA must discriminate on the basis of professional ethics, education, and practice, and may also take into consideration questions of geographic location and economic scale and impact.

PINA is the exclusive arbiter of its own process and decisions, and PINA’s Board of Directors holds final authority on the acceptance of any new member.

E. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

1. INDIVIDUALS

a. A new or experienced permaculturist submits a membership application form to the PINA’s administrative office with payment.

- The application may be filed online or by mail.
- Payment may be made by check, money order or online.
- For international transactions, online payment only.

[This section is under development.]

2. SENIOR PERMACULTURISTS

Senior permaculturists are invited to join PINA and be granted PINA’s professional diploma to acknowledge long-term accomplishment in the field. These individuals are asked to submit a membership application, a brief summary of their work, and diplomate-level membership dues to PINA’s administrative office within 30 days of invitation. For complete details, please see PINA’s Diploma Program documents.

3. REGIONAL HUBS

PINA’s Outreach Committee works closely with regional hub organizations — which are in various stages of emergence — to support them in becoming firmly established, and to mentor them in PINA’s decision-making and diploma processes. Applications for regional hub status describe the geographic or projected area of service, and the organization’s plans to realize its aims.

Within six months of acceptance, the regional hub nominates at least one qualified candidate to serve as a field advisor in its service area, and nominates a second field advisor within 18 months. PINA’s Outreach Committee may assist in recruiting field advisors.

PINA offers a sample organizational template from Cascadia Permaculture Institute at its website to aid in filing documents for non-profit incorporation, state charters and taxpayer identification, including articles of incorporation, by-laws, a list of directors and officers, registered office and mailing address, and a summary of activities, programs, and projected development.

F. EXCEPTIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

1. REGIONAL HUB FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

PINA’s Board of Directors may adjust or waive dues for regional hubs on a case-by-case basis.

2. LAPSED MEMBERSHIP

If a membership lapses despite a renewal reminder from PINA’s administrative office, the member will forfeit all benefits and be deleted from PINA’s website listings after a 30-day grace period. Upon payment of dues, the member may request a reinstatement.

3. ETHICAL ISSUES

This section will be informed by a broad discussion among the PINA community.

G. PINA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Comprised of PINA members, this committee designs and implements benefits for members of the organization, including individuals, diplomates and regional hubs. The group administers all aspects of PINA’s membership programs, and also offers recommendations regarding membership structure, procedures, benefits, dues and related issues to PINA’s board of directors and to other committees as needed.

To ensure that applicants for membership meet PINA’s professional and ethical standards, the membership committee refers to recommendations by the professional standards committee.