

Membership in APS: A Sign of Professionalism

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The Constitution of APS stipulates that the objective of the society is "to promote the increase and diffusion of all aspects of knowledge relating to plant diseases and their control." Eligibility for membership is open to "any person interested in the study and control of plant diseases." Categories of membership are regular, student, group, emeritus, patron, and sustaining associate.

Except for endorsement of an application for membership by a member of APS, one might conclude

that our founders took for granted that high ethical and professional standards existed and need not be a primary goal of APS. I doubt that ethics, responsibility, scientific freedom, and professionalism were of less concern to plant pathologists in 1909 than they are today. It is interesting to note, however, that professional registries, such as the upcoming American Registry of Professional Plant Pathologists, establish standards for certification and include a code of ethics. Membership in APS does not automatically confer knowledge or understanding of plant pathology, but it does provide an opportunity for professional growth and development through the many services offered.

Membership and active participation in APS are essential for professional development and growth as a plant pathologist. The program of the annual meeting is planned and conducted under the sponsorship of subject matter committees composed of outstanding plant pathologists. In addition to paper and poster sessions, discussion sessions and symposia are presented to provide diverse and exciting learning experiences. Six divisions of APS sponsor independent programs, and a number of chapters provide further opportunities for professional growth within the divisions.

Although APS offers a wealth of services to plant pathologists and other agricultural scientists, perhaps the most important aspect of membership is the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Society. APS is the catalyst that sparks evaluation, discussion, and action on all aspects of plant pathology. Those interested in particular areas of

research, extension, or teaching will find ready access to colleagues with similar professional interests. Young scientists will find participation in APS activities an essential part of attaining their full potential in plant pathology.

APS is involved in international, national, and regional plant pathology. APS is a charter member of the International Society for Plant Pathology. Through this organization, activities of plant pathologists throughout the world are coordinated. We have excellent exchange with our near neighbors. The annual APS meeting has, on occasion, been held in both Mexico and Canada. Also, the Caribbean Division exerts an important influence on plant pathology in Latin America. The national and regional aspects of the Society are readily apparent in the committee structure and the six divisions. In short, APS is involved in all aspects of plant pathology, whether local, regional, national, or international.

Professionalism requires that each of us extends his or her knowledge level at the same rate of growth as our science. The major sources of this knowledge base in plant pathology are APS publications. A part of the membership service is an opportunity to select *Phytopathology* or *PLANT DISEASE* or both. In addition, a wide variety of nonjournal publications are published by APS to support the professional development of its members and to aid plant pathologists and others in the conduct of their jobs.

APS is a dynamic organization and welcomes new members. Every member has the opportunity and right to participate in all affairs of the Society. For instance, the new standing committee on Integrated Pest Management provides a focus for present and future members concerned with this type of activity. Although APS is comprised of diverse interests and activities, its strength is in its membership. Collectively speaking through its officers and Council, APS can be heard on important issues that concern plant pathology and agriculture. As chairman of the Membership Committee, I invite you to complete and submit an application for membership in APS. If you are a subscriber to an APS journal, additional services will be available to you as a member at reduced or little added cost.

APS has just developed a new membership brochure and membership application form. The brochure provides information on APS and membership options. APS Council authorized a campaign to attract new members to be activated January 1, 1982. If you are not a member of APS, you may qualify for this special membership offer. To learn more about the benefits, fill out the form below and mail it to: The American Phytopathological Society, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55121.