

RPNC MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

A. Categories of Membership

Eligible nonprofits must:

- Remain in Good Standing with the Arkansas Secretary of State.
- Align with and actively support RPNC's mission and objectives.
- Operate statewide or show a significant impact within Arkansas.
- Be incorporated as a nonprofit in Arkansas and qualify under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3) or be a local chapter of a national nonprofit with an Arkansas office.

1. Membership Tiers

a. Pillar Members (Established Organizations)

Eligibility: At least 2 years in operation.

Initial Certification: Must hold at least a Silver Candid rating upon application.

Advancement Requirement: Must work to achieve Gold or Platinum Candid rating within the first year of membership.

Ongoing Commitment: Pursue higher Candid certifications continuously to maintain high transparency standards.

b. Pathfinder Members (Emerging Organizations)

Eligibility: Fewer than 2 years in operation.

Initial Certification: Must hold at least a Bronze Candid rating upon application.

Advancement Requirement: Must work to achieve Silver or Gold Candid rating within the first year.

Ongoing Commitment: Strive to advance to higher certification levels as the organization grows.

c. Provisional Members (Non 501(c)(3) Applicants)

Eligibility: Organizations that have not yet applied for 501(c)(3) status or that have applied for 501(c)(3) status but have not yet received IRS approval.

Membership Status: Temporary, pending IRS determination.

Transparency & Standards: Adhere to all RPNC standards, including Bronze-level transparency measures.

Post-Approval Expectation: Must obtain at least a Bronze Candid rating within the first year after 501(c)(3) approval.

2. Supporting Partners

Eligibility: Entities that support RPNC's mission via funding, resources, or advocacy, including:

a. Governmental Partners: Local, state, or federal agencies.

b. Corporate Partners: Businesses contributing sponsorships, services, or in-kind donations.

c. Wellness Partners: Wellness partners that address the unique mental, physical, and emotional needs across diverse sectors such as Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, and Chaplain Corps.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): All Governmental, Corporate and Wellness partners must enter an MOU with RPNC outlining partnership terms.

3. Individual RPNC Volunteers

Eligibility: Individuals, sixteen years or older, committed to supporting the mission of RPNC and its member organizations. Must be aligned with military, veteran, or first responder communities.

Status: Non-voting, service-based affiliation.

Commitment & Conduct: Uphold RPNC values of integrity, service, and accountability. Participate in approved projects and trainings.

Engagement Expectation: Maintain active participation in at least one service project or mission annually.

B. Selection, Rights, and Tenure

Voting Rights:

Pillar, Pathfinder, Provisional member organizations, and Wellness partner organizations have voting rights.

Supporting Partners serve as non-voting participants.

Membership Tenure: Ongoing unless terminated under Section F.

Access to Resources:

All members have access to RPNC's resources, trainings, and programs.

Tier Adjustment for Non-Compliance:

Organizations lacking the required Candid transparency certification may be reclassified to a lower tier until compliance is achieved. Future elevation is contingent upon meeting certification standards.

C. Conditions and Responsibilities of Membership

Members must:

- Adhere to RPNC's Code of Ethics, mission, and foundational policy statements.
- Contribute financial or in-kind resources to support RPNC's objectives.
- Provide annual updates on organizational status and leadership.
- Pay annual membership fee as determined by the Board.
- Participate in at least one RPNC committee yearly.
- Attend regular, special, and emergency business meetings as required.

D. Membership Application Procedures

1. Applicants must submit a completed application.
2. The RPNC Leadership reviews applications for compliance.
3. A determination must be made within seven business days
4. An invoice with a secured pay link will be sent to the Primary point of contact for payment. Username and password will be issued upon payment.

E. Dues

- Members must pay annual dues within one calendar year of joining.
- Dues support administrative expenses and member resources.

- In case of dissolution of RPNC, any remaining funds are disbursed to Pillar and Pathfinder Members, as determined by the Board.

F. Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by:

- Voluntary Resignation – Written notice to the Board.
- Board Action – A two-thirds (2/3) Board vote for:
- Repeated failure to meet membership conditions.
- Actions contrary to RPNC's mission.
- Non-Response – Automatic termination for failing to respond to a membership compliance inquiry within 30 days.

G. Meeting Attendance

A representative from each member organization must attend all regular and special meetings.