

Life Memberships and Extended Service Awards

PURPOSE

An Honorary Texas Life Membership is one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an individual by the Texas PTA for outstanding contributions to the well-being of children and youth. Honorary life memberships are also conferred by the National PTA.

Since 1909 the Texas PTA has made available the Honorary Texas Life Membership as one of the highest honors that may be presented to individuals for outstanding service to children and youth. Life Memberships may be conferred at any time by local, council, area or state PTAs, individuals or interest groups. Recipients need not be members of a PTA but should be persons who have contributed significantly to the development of the work of the PTA.

Life Memberships are honorary memberships and carry with them neither the right to vote nor to hold office. However, a Texas Life Member may enroll as a member of a local unit by paying the national and local portions of dues in one PTA. National Life Members enrolling in a PTA as National Life Members are not exempt from payment of state and national dues. If they are both a National and Texas PTA life member, they should enroll as a Texas Life Member. The Texas PTA reserves the right to revoke the Texas Life Membership of any member who has been convicted of a felonious crime. The member will be notified by mail and asked to return the Life Membership certificate, card and pin to the Texas PTA.

In order for the recipient to participate actively in PTA, the new Honorary Texas Life Member must enroll in a local unit by paying the National PTA and local portions of the dues, and his name must be included on the membership list sent to the Texas PTA Office. A local unit, when remitting state and national portions of dues to the Texas PTA Office, should list only those life members who have paid the local and national portions of dues for the current year. Do not list every person who has received a life membership from the unit.

In 1987, the Texas PTA Board of Directors developed the criteria for awarding a Texas PTA Extended Service Award to those people who have continued to give outstanding service to the Texas PTA. This award may be presented at any time by a local, council, area or state PTA. The recipient must have been actively involved in the Texas PTA for ten (10) years and be a Texas Life Member.

The awarding of an Honorary Texas Life Membership certificate or Extended Service Award certificate serves two purposes: (1) it honors an individual; and (2) the funds that are sent in payment for the membership are used in the extension of PTA work such as leadership training, area conferences and workshops. The ideal time for presenting an Honorary Texas Life Membership certificate or Extended Service Award (ESA) certificate (pinettes are available for an additional charge and optional for each) is at the February meeting – Founders Day – which celebrates the PTA's beginning on Feb. 17, 1897. Funds accumulated from Honorary Texas Life Memberships and Extended Service Awards become a part of the extension fund. The extension fund is the bulk of the monies available for area PTA work.

Requests for an Honorary Texas Life Membership or ESA should be sent to the Texas PTA Office, 408 West 11th St., Austin, Texas 78701-2113 and should give the complete name and address of the recipient, the name and address to whom the life membership is to be sent, and the date the presentation is to be made. The order should be accompanied by a remittance of \$35 payable to the Texas PTA for Life Member and \$50 for ESA. A certificate and a card, signed by the Texas PTA president, is then issued and sent according to the directions accompanying the order. If it is the wish of the local PTA to present a piece of life membership jewelry or ESA jewelry, the current cost of the desired jewelry should be included. Please check with the Texas PTA Office for current pricing information. An application for the Texas PTA Honorary Life Membership and ESA are in the Texas PTA Handbook and on the web at www.txpta.org.