GALA CHORUSES INC.
MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Last Updated: November 2026

This is a living document that will be reviewed and updated as needed.

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You can contact memberservices@galachoruses.org at any time with questions about membership policies.

Joining GALA Choruses

Any community chorus located that is committed to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community is eligible for membership in GALA Choruses. We accept choruses without discrimination by nonprofit status, organizational structure, number of singers, the gender identity and sexuality of members, annual budget, voicing, geographic location, or any other factors.

To apply for membership, a chorus leader must fill out, in full, the application form provided on the GALA Choruses website. The application will be reviewed by the Membership & Education Committee at their next meeting; meetings are typically held on a monthly basis. If the committee has any questions or concerns about the information provided in the application, they will contact the applicant to discuss next steps. Once a chorus has been approved for membership by majority vote from the committee, the Membership & Communications Manager will send an official welcome to the accepted chorus's leadership and lead them through the onboarding process. You must respond to this welcome and begin onboarding in order to be officially added to the membership list.

New member choruses are eligible for 12 months of complimentary membership, beginning the month of their application's acceptance. If the complimentary membership period ends before the end of the calendar year, a pro-rated membership rate will be charged for the remainder of the year. Each new member chorus is also eligible for one (1) complimentary delegate registration to the next annual Leadership Symposium.

When receiving a new membership application, GALA Choruses will assume that the individual completing the form and designating themselves as the main contact has proper authority from their group to pursue membership and liaison with our organization. If it is later determined that is not the case, GALA Choruses will require the chorus's proper leadership to resubmit a membership application and the chorus will not be eligible for any complimentary new member benefits that have already been used.

Rejoining

Any previous member chorus who voluntarily left the organization is eligible to re-apply for membership at any time. They will follow the same process described above for new choruses applying for membership. Returning members do not receive a complimentary first year membership or complimentary delegate registration for the annual Leadership Symposium.

Previous member choruses whose identity has changed significantly since their last membership period—including their name, leadership, and/or voicing—can request special consideration to be reviewed and approved as "new" members, with the relevant benefits. Approval will be granted on a case by case basis at the discretion of GALA Choruses.

Affiliated Choruses

We know that many community choruses are organized under a singular umbrella organization or start as offshoots of another chorus. If an existing member chorus has an affiliated chorus that also wants to be officially recognized as a member of GALA Choruses and able to access the benefits of membership, there are two options:

1. **Notify GALA Choruses that you are merging with each other for a single membership**. This will not require a separate application process for the affiliate group, but you will have to count your combined annual budget to calculate your annual membership dues; make sure to provide updated, combined data; and confirm what name you want your group to be listed as. Invoices, contact information and records for your group will be combined. For Festival, you would not be eligible to perform as independent choruses—only as a combined chorus.

2. **Have your affiliate group apply separately for membership**. Once they go through the application process and are accepted, they will be entitled to the same benefits as other new members and will be listed as their own organization on our membership list. Their membership dues will be calculated and invoiced separately from the existing member's chorus, and they will have their own contact information and records. You will be able to perform as distinct groups at Festival.

Membership Dues

The annual membership dues for each organization within the United States are determined by the size of its annual budget. Youth choruses will not be charged any annual dues. Choruses based in Canada pay a flat rate of $208 USD. Choruses in Latin America and any countries outside of the Americas pay a flat rate of $155 USD. All dues can be paid in full or over quarterly installments. All invoices and payments are within Integra. The cost structure of the membership dues is reviewed annually. Any changes made to the membership dues amounts or structure will be communicated at least 6 months before they take effect.

CHORUS TOTAL EXPENSES	CHORUS DUES
Up to $62,500	$250
$62,501 – $700,000	0.4% up to $1,800 maximum
$700,000+	$2,250

Member Expectations

All members are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Promote and uphold GALA Choruses' mission and values, and support its ongoing efforts and projects as applicable.
- Pay annual membership dues in full by the end of the calendar year.
    - If you have a case for financial hardship, please proactively contact GALA Choruses before the end of the year to discuss options to allow you to maintain your membership.
- Accurately report all requested data, reviewing and updating information on an annual basis.
- Stay in contact with the organization and reply to outreach, particularly communications about scheduling check-ins that allow you to provide direct feedback and potentially organize GALA Choruses staff and board visits to your chorus.

Members who violate the code of conduct will be notified in writing and may be subject to membership suspension or termination for serious and/or repeated violations.

Please note that GALA Choruses does not interfere with the internal matters of individual members.

Festival Participation

All choruses participating in Festival are required to be current members of GALA Choruses in order to register, except for invited international groups. Performing ensembles must be part of a member chorus.

Participating choruses are required to have registered and paid their dues up through March of the Festival year in order to participate, except for new members still within their complimentary first year of membership. For rejoined members of GALA Choruses who came back to active membership within three years or fewer of Festival, an additional fee will be charged at registration equivalent to your annual membership rate for that missed time period. An exception is made for rejoined members who would be attending Festival for the first time.

CHORUS TOTAL EXPENSES	FEE IF REJOINED 3 YEARS PRIOR	FEE IF REJOINED 2 YEARS PRIOR	FEE IF REJOINED 1 YEAR PRIOR
Up to $62,500	$250	$500	$750
$62,501 – $700,000	0.4% up to $1,800 maximum	0.8% up to $3,600 maximum	1.6% up to $5,400
$700,000+	$2,250	$4,500	$6,750
Canadian choruses	$208	$416	$624
Latin American choruses	$155	$310	$465

Members who rejoined before the previous Festival, and have been a member in good standing since then, are not charged the additional fee to register for the upcoming Festival.

Termination

A member chorus can terminate their membership at any time by providing written notice to memberservices@galachoruses.org stating their intention. Any outstanding invoices for already delivered services or products will still be valid. Unpaid membership dues will be adjusted to cover the time period leading up to the quarter that the notice is received; for example, if a chorus terminates membership on March 1st, their outstanding dues for that calendar year will be adjusted to cover three months of membership. Paid membership dues will not be refunded so membership will continue until the end of the period for which dues have been paid. A chorus who has previously terminated their membership is welcome to reapply for membership at any point.

When receiving a termination notice, GALA Choruses will assume that the individual sending the email has proper authority from their group to communicate that decision. If it is later determined that is not the case and the group does want to retain membership, GALA Choruses will require the chorus's proper leadership to resubmit a membership application and the chorus will not be eligible for any complimentary new member benefits that have already been used.

GALA Choruses may suspend or terminate a chorus's membership for nonpayment of dues and invoices; prolonged lack of communication with the organization; misrepresentation of authority when membership was granted; repeat and/or severe violations of the code of conduct; or actions harmful to the organization's mission or reputation. Choruses who have had their membership terminated will be notified in writing and can reapply once it's been two years since their termination. An exception may be made if there has been a change in chorus leadership since membership was terminated, determined through a conversation with the GALA Choruses' Executive Director and Board President.