



Member Benefits

Last Updated December 2025

Policy

Purpose: To guide the Association on member benefits matters.

1. The following services will be provided to members:
 - a. The Association provides a legal consultation service to members for professional purposes.
 - i. The member could have a one-time consultation with an appointed attorney regarding any type of dispute with his/her school board or administration to determine whether he/she (the teacher) has a case to pursue.
 - ii. The consultation service will not be used in place of professional liability insurance, which has a cap of \$1,000 per case.
 - b. Post career opportunities on the Careers page of the ATAT website.
 - c. Professional Liability insurance.
 - d. Maintain an up-to-date website and social media presence for member use.
 - e. Lobbyist working for agriculture science teachers' interests in Austin
 - f. Legislative updates concerning agricultural science
 - g. ATAT Membership Online (online member directory)
 - h. Access to the VATAT Credit Union
 - i. Monthly ATAT Publication
 - j. FFA 15% discount at Wyndham Hotels nationwide
 - k. Annual ATAT Awards and Recognition
 - i. Awards will include tenure awards given at five-year intervals, beginning at five years of tenure.
 - ii. Honorary life memberships will be given to retiring members with at least 25 years of ATAT tenure.
 - iii. Awards will include recognition of three outstanding teachers at varying levels of experience.
 - iv. Other awards include
 1. Outstanding School Administrator Award
 2. Outstanding Chapter Advocate Award
 3. Outstanding Publication Award
 4. Outstanding Audio Broadcast Award
 5. Outstanding Television Station Award
 6. Outstanding Chapter Publicity
 - l. ATAT Scholarships for active members' children
 - m. Special ATAT events at the annual ATAT Professional Development Conference
 - n. ATAT Professional Development Conference is included with ATAT Membership
 - o. The \$20/\$10 Life Insurance Plan is named the Kenneth Hughes \$20/\$10 Life Insurance Plan.
 - i. Teachers may join the plan between July 1 and November 1 each year. If a member discontinues his/her membership but later chooses to re-enter, he/she may do so by paying \$20 for each death that occurred since he/she left the program.

- ii. If an insurance program member leaves the profession and later returns, he/she may re-enter the program as a new member if his/her membership was current when he/she left.
 - iii. The interest earned on the escrow account of the life insurance plan will be used to defray the expenses of mailing and printing material for the plan.
 - p. Use of the Agricultural Education Ford Texas FFA Leadership Center
 - q. Professional New Teacher Mentoring Program
 - r. ATAT Crisis Fund
2. The Executive Director will speak to students or pre-student teaching blocks to promote ATAT membership and benefits.
 3. The committee will investigate new services to offer to members.

Policy: Member Suggestions for New Benefits

Purpose:

To provide a clear process for members to recommend new benefits or services to enhance the value of ATAT membership.

Policy Statement:

The Association encourages all members to actively participate in the improvement and expansion of member services. Members may propose new benefits at any time, including professional services, discounts, programs, recognitions, or resources that support agriculture science educators.

Submission Process:

Members may submit suggestions for new benefits through any of the following approved methods:

- a. **Email Submission:** Sent directly to the ATAT office or Membership Benefits Chair (chair posted on ATAT website)
- b. **In-Person Submission:** Provide during scheduled feedback sessions at the annual ATAT Professional Development Conference or through area meetings.

Review Process:

All submitted suggestions will be forwarded to the Membership Benefits Committee. The Committee will review proposals as part of its ongoing responsibility to investigate and evaluate potential new benefits. Recommendations for adoption will be presented to the Executive Director and Board as appropriate.

4. The Association maintains a close liaison with the officials of the VATAT Credit Union and promotes Credit Union benefits to members.
5. The ATAT website will be utilized to post potential scholarship opportunities for ATAT members and their children, including the ATAT Scholarship.
6. The committee will review the scholarship application and guidelines and make any necessary updates and/or changes.
 - a. The Agriculture Teachers Association offers the ATAT Scholarship to members' children upon their graduation from high school. Scholarships are awarded to all eligible applicants if

ATAT membership requirements are met and the applicant meets all scholarship requirements listed.

- b. The applicant must be a graduating senior and the son/stepson or daughter/stepdaughter in good standing with the ATAT and meet the following requirements.
- c. Active Members: must have been a member for the past four consecutive years.
- d. Associate members: before becoming an associate member, they were an active member for three consecutive years and have maintained associate membership.
- e. Retired members: Honorary Life member (a member for 25 years+ before retiring).
- f. Required information to be completed online:
 - 1. Application
 - 2. Essay: Minimum 100-word essay
- g. Application and supporting materials must be submitted online on or before April 1. Late applications will NOT be accepted. Once you submit your application, the ATAT will send a confirmation email letting you know it was received.
- h. Proof of Enrollment: Scholarship recipients must submit a scholarship acceptance agreement form along with proof of college enrollment for the fall semester (i.e., tuition statement, schedule, etc.) via email by August 24 to the ATAT office to receive scholarship funds. Scholarship payment will be mailed to the College or Educational Institution you will be attending.
- i. The scholarship may be used for other educational needs, if not needed for tuition.
- j. Recipients may defer their scholarship payment for a maximum of two years.

7. The Association scholarship account will be invested by the investment committee to ensure optimal return and security.

8. ATAT Student Teacher Scholarship:

- i. Any Texas University that produces Ag Ed student teachers is allotted a \$500 scholarship. Any University program that produces 10 or more student teachers could receive two \$500 scholarships.
- ii. Recipients should be chosen by the University
- iii. Scholarship recipients must be present at the ATAT conference during the opening session to receive the award.

9. Any scholarship activity such as the fun run, golf tournament, archery tournament, etc., will have the funds raised put into the youth fund after expenses are paid.

10. Legacy Endowment funds may be used to supplement the Scholarship Fund depending on the decisions of the Budget and Investment Committee.

11. The Membership Services Coordinator will coordinate the acceptance of applications and distribution of scholarship funds to recipients according to scholarship guidelines.

12. Any deviations from the scholarship guidelines by the applicant will be approved by the current members of the Education and Scholarship Committee.

13. A Hall of Fame for Agricultural Science teachers will be established. Members will qualify if they are eligible for honorary membership and can be inducted one year after retirement. A donation of \$1000 must be made with the letter of nomination.

14. The Association scholarship account will be invested by the investment committee to ensure optimal return and security.

Operational Protocols

1. Promote membership by recognizing membership tenure at general sessions and area meetings.
 - a. Acquire and present tenure awards at the discretion of the Executive Director
 - b. Recognize retiring teachers who are ATAT members.
2. Work with the membership committee on organizing Family Night, including door prizes.
3. Explore the option of having text alerts that remind members of deadlines and notices pertaining to members, i.e., deadlines, ATAT Scholarship for members' children, etc.
4. Develop methods to promote awareness that the ATAT Conference program satisfies the required CEUs for maintaining teacher certifications.
5. Give information to teacher trainers to promote membership.
6. Staff will provide information on the PAC and Crisis Fund before the conference so that teachers will know what they are and when they can contribute.
7. It will be up to the discretion of this committee, in conjunction with the Budget Committee, to recommend an appropriate increase in the scholarship amount per university based upon the previous year's fundraising. The student teacher scholarship should be renewed annually.
8. A list of the current ATAT Scholarship recipients should be posted on the ATAT website.