

Anniversary Date FAQs

What is an Anniversary Date?

Until September, 2010, all memberships for ASA, CSSA, and SSSA were valid on a calendar year basis (January 1 – December 31), regardless of when a member joined or renewed. Starting in September, all three Societies are switching to an “anniversary date” basis for membership. This is similar to joining a health club or subscribing to your local newspaper – it begins when you join/subscribe and typically goes for one year.

Why are the Societies making this change?

We are making this change for several reasons. First, and most importantly, this change provides new members with a full 12 months of membership. Previously, if someone joined in the middle of the year (say July 1), they would only receive membership through December 31. This was a drawback with new members joining in the summer/early fall for our Annual Meetings. With this change, we can create more value and goodwill for the Societies. In addition, we have received feedback from our undergraduate advisors that the calendar year system is difficult to work around with the academic calendar – limiting some student memberships.

I am ready to join – what does this mean for me?

As a new member, your membership will be effective on the 1st day of the month you join and last for 12 months (some of which may include your 30 day grace period).

I am already a member – how does this affect my membership?

As of the start of the 2011 membership year, all current members with a membership date of January 1 – December 31 now have an anniversary date of January 1. If you renew your membership by the end of December (end of January if you need the grace period), your membership year remains the same. If you renew after January 30, your membership year will change to the month in which you renew. You still receive 12 months of membership (which may include part of your grace period). Then, when it is time to renew next year, you’ll receive your membership renewal at a later time than those with a January membership year.

If I renew early, will I lose months of membership?

Not at all. Your membership renewal will start when your current membership year is completed.

When will I be able to access my benefits?

As a new member, you will be able to access all of your benefits on the day you join (for those that join online) and through the 30 day grace period at the end of your membership year. As a renewing member, should you renew before your membership expires (or within the 30 day grace period), you will continue to access your benefits. If you are unable to renew your membership within your membership year and it lapses, you will be able to access your member benefits on the day you renew (online renewals only).

I subscribe to a journal – how will my subscription change?

Subscriptions begin/renew on the member's anniversary date. Electronic subscriptions are effective immediate. Print copy subscriptions will begin with the next published issue and run through the grace period – ensuring that you receive the full year of journals (but they may not start in January). If you would like a complete volume and you joined/renewed outside of the typical “calendar” year, you will be able to purchase back issues through the store, at a very reasonable rate.

Are there other benefits that may be impacted by the anniversary date?

If you are a member, even if you have not renewed (and are within the 30 day grace period), you may be eligible to vote (depending on your Society memberships, member type, etc.), register for the Annual Meeting at member rates, submit an abstract, submit articles (the member/non-member rate is determined at acceptance), and nominate/be nominated for awards (this may be award-specific).

I am a student – how does this affect my eligibility?

Graduate students may hold the graduate student membership for 7 years (assuming they are still students) and undergraduate students may hold the undergraduate student membership for five years (again, assuming they are still students). Within the seven or five years, students may extend their membership one additional year after graduation, to assist with the transition to active membership. The anniversary date change does not affect this membership extension.