

 Beginning in September 2022, the NJEA has established a new tier of membership for active members applying for disability retirement (Tiers 1-3) or Long-Term Disability (Tier 4 or 5).

The NJEA Constitution has been amended to read:

Article III – Membership

Section 9. Disability Retirement Members

Active members, upon applying for disability retirement or Tier 4 or 5 Long Term Disability, may continue to enjoy all rights and services, including the right to vote, but not to be elected to office, by payment of the annual dues as a disability retirement member.

In addition, any active member applying for disability retirement membership must be verified by the Director of NJEA Research and Economic Services at the time of application, as well as before the beginning of any new membership year in which the member applies for continuous membership within this category.

Eligibility for membership within this category will cease when

- (1) The member is granted disability retirement or long-term disability (as defined by Tier 4 and 5) by the State of New Jersey, or
- (2) The member is denied disability retirement or long-term disability (as defined by Tier 4 and 5) by the State of New Jersey, including appropriate appeals, or
- (3) The member returns to regular employment.

The NJEA Bylaws have been amended to read:

1. Dues

(h) Disability Retirement Members

The dues for any active member qualifying for Disability Retirement Membership as outlined in the NJEA Constitution shall be: (1) Three hundred fifty (\$350) dollars for Professional members, and (2) Two hundred (\$200) dollars for ESP members.

This shall be a flat-rate for the full membership year and shall not be pro-rated or refundable.



PLEASE NOTE: For a member to access this tier of membership, the following steps must be taken:

1. The UniServ Field Rep must email the member's name and local association to the Research and Economic Services Health Benefits specialist for their UniServ zone.
2. The Research field team member will email the member's information and other relevant details to the Director of Research and Economic Service. Verifying documents include:
 - a. a copy or screenshot of the member's completed/ filed disability retirement/LTD application along with a statement from the member (or a relevant local leader) indicating that they are no longer working;
 - or
 - b. an email from a Pension Consultant or Research Division professional staff person verifying that the member has applied for state disability retirement or LTD and that the person is no longer working.
3. Upon verification of eligibility, the Director of Research will email the confirmation to the NJEA Membership Roles and Records Specialist who will communicate directly with the member to acquire appropriate payment and update the member record.



Please share this information with your local association presidents and membership chairs. Questions regarding this advisory may be directed to the Manager of Membership.