



# Association of American Editorial Cartoonists

4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 201  
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May 11, 1999

Dr. Alan Blum  
5115 Loch Lomond  
Houston, TX 77096

Dear Dr. Blum:

Thank you for your interest in the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC). Founded in 1957 to promote and stimulate public interest in the art of editorial cartooning and to create close association among editorial cartoonists, membership in the AAEC is open to full or part-time editorial cartoonists working in North America whose work appears regularly in newspapers or other publications.

Today, there are over 200 full and part-time editorial cartoonists across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Each works relatively independently from other cartoonists and the AAEC provides a valuable opportunity to meet and exchange information of professional interest with other cartoonists.

An annual AAEC convention featuring programs addressing the varied elements of editorial cartooning, workshops on the art and humor of cartoons, discussions on domestic and foreign policy, and addresses by national politicians is a highlight of AAEC membership. The convention also includes an exhibition of works accompanied by a portfolio review where experienced members evaluate the work of aspiring professionals (non-members are welcome to attend). The next convention is scheduled for June 15-20, 1999 at the Marriott Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee (detailed information will be available soon).

In addition, the AAEC publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Notebook*, which contains features about the art and history of cartooning as well as news about jobs and awards. Enclosed for your review is a recent issue.

If you have any questions or we may be of assistance, please contact the AAEC headquarters office at 919/787-5181.

Best regards,

Lesa Bossone

# Guide to Membership Qualifications



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There are five membership categories in the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. The qualifications are based solely on the amount of work, and the nature of employment. NOT ABILITY OR TALENT. The specific membership qualifications are outlined below. Please keep in mind that it is up to the Board of Directors of the AAEC to interpret the qualifications as they pertain to your specific membership application.

### Regular Membership

Any person of United States, Canada, or Mexico residence employed by a newspaper or other regular periodical or who is syndicated for regular distribution to newspapers or who publishes editorial cartoons on a regular basis.

### Associate Membership

Any person of professional interest in editorial cartooning who does not meet the qualifications of Regular membership may be eligible.

### Retired Membership

Any cartoonist who has worked as a political cartoonist for at least 20 years, or has reached the age of 65, or by appeal to the Board and is a resident of the United States, Canada, or Mexico.

### Student Membership

Any student of a college or university in the United States, Canada, or Mexico who produces editorial cartoons on a regular basis for a regular college newspaper.

### Notebook Subscription

Anyone who does not qualify for any membership category may subscribe to the quarterly publication and attend the annual conventions at the non-member rate. Notebook subscriptions are \$40 annually.

### Factors used by the Board of Directors to determine membership qualifications:

**Circulation:** How widely are your cartoons distributed?

**Number of times published:** How often are you published? Are you published on a regular basis, or an occasional basis?

**Employment:** Do you derive most of your living from editorial cartooning? Are you employed full-time or part-time? Do you have other duties at the newspaper unrelated to cartooning? Are you employed in another profession unrelated to cartooning?

**Publication:** Is your publication a newspaper, magazine, or other regular periodical? Is your publication a trade or professional periodical?