SUWC Courtesy Membership Process

Courtesy Membership Process:
The Bylaws of the Stanford University Women's Club (SUWC)
automatically confer eligibility for membership in SUWC on women who are active or emerita faculty, senior administrators, fellows, scholars, or visiting scholars, and on spouses, partners, widows, former wives, and relatives thereof. SUWC also provides a process by which women who do not meet the membership criteria above can apply for a Courtesy Membership. This section outlines the steps of that process and the relevant considerations for Board approval. Courtesy memberships are limited.

Eligibility for Courtesy Membership: SUWC welcomes applications for courtesy memberships from women who (1) embody the spirit of the SUWC, which is to promote friendships and community among women who share common interests related to Stanford University; and (2) people who live in the general area around Stanford. In addition, a demonstrated interest in or connection with Stanford University, in the present or the past (such as being a Stanford alumnus (alumna), a Stanford volunteer, or a former lecturer at Stanford), is highly valued.

Application Process: Any Member (except Courtesy Members) may nominate up to one person per academic year for a Courtesy Membership if the person meets the eligibility requirements above. A member who wishes to nominate a person is their "Sponsor" and helps that person obtain and complete a Courtesy Member Application Form. After the Applicant fills out the form, the Sponsor sends an email to the current Past President that includes (1) a copy of the Applicant's completed Courtesy Member Application Form; and (2) a "Sponsor Statement" detailing how the Sponsor knows the Applicant and how/why she believes the Applicant will make a positive contribution to SUWC. After reviewing a nomination for completeness, the Past President forwards it to the Current President(s) for Board review. The Board reviews and votes upon all existing Courtesy Membership Applications at a fall Board meeting. Following that Board meeting, the Past President notifies Sponsors and Applicants of the Board's decision.

Application Form Availability: The Courtesy Member Application Form is available on the website as a PDF for all members, which can be forwarded to applicants. The Application requires the applicant to provide relevant contact information and brief statements about their background, and interests, as well as details about specific contributions they believe they can make to SUWC and its membership activities. The Form includes a checklist section asking Applicants to check the specific club activities and volunteer tasks they plan to participate in.

Limits on Courtesy Memberships:
New Courtesy Memberships are reviewed and approved by the Board once a year in the fall, and the number is limited to 5 per calendar year. In rare circumstances, the Board may make exceptions. Once approved, Courtesy Members may remain members as long as they renew and pay dues annually. Courtesy Members are accorded the same rights and obligations as Members, except that Courtesy Members are not eligible to nominate persons for a Courtesy Membership.