

Stratford Recreation Association (SRA)

Here are a few common questions (and answers) about SRA Membership. The SRA By-law reference is in parenthesis).

What is the Stratford Recreation Association (SRA)?

SRA is a non-profit, community association incorporated in Fairfax County in Virginia for the sole purpose of sharing ownership and developing, operating, and maintaining the swimming pool and other recreational facilities held as common property for the benefit of members. (Article I.)

Who is a SRA member?

An SRA member is a person or couple who own a share of the SRA Corporation.

Who can buy a share of the SRA?

A person who lives in and/or owns a house in the SRA membership area (Article II), pays the membership share and the initiation fee and is approved by the SRA Board (Article II) can buy a share of SRA. The SRA Board has held that a person or persons owning more than one house in the SRA membership area can own more than one membership, but the Board reserves the right to change this Board Policy, which is not explicit in the SRA By-Laws. Also, the SRA Board has held that a person or persons renting a house in the SRA membership can apply for an SRA membership and can apply for and own an SRA membership as long as they are renting a house in the SRA membership area, but the Board again reserves the right to change this policy which is not explicit in the SRA By-Laws, but is based on the Board's interpretation in light of the best interests of the membership. (Article II).

What is the SRA membership area?

The SRA membership area was originally Stratford Landing and Stratford on the Potomac, but the Board of Directors has expanded the membership area over the years to include areas of new house development off Riverside Road (Riverside/Lakeshire), both sides of Riverside Road, the Williamsburg Manor community, the new house cul-de-sac developments along Collingwood (Mack/Stacey) and Elkin (Lombardy/Pilgrim Court), and both Sides of Vernon View (Fort Hunt Estates and Potomac Valley and River Bend Estates) (Article II).

How much does a share cost?

A share in the corporation costs **\$540** (par value of \$400; premium of \$140). There is also a **\$100** initiation fee when joining the association (Article III).

Is the number of memberships restricted?

Yes. County zoning restricted the total number of memberships in SRA to **425** based on the size of the parking areas, toilet facilities, and other factors. County health ordinances for community pools also restrict the number of people who can be in the swimming facility at any one time. This number is based on the size of the swimming pool (sq ft) divided by a factor of 17 sq. ft. (approximately **220**) (Article II).

Is there a waiting list for membership in the SRA?

Yes. There is a waiting list for membership in the SRA. A waiting list is formed once all 425 memberships are sold. An application for active membership must be filed with the SRA Business Manager before an applicant can be added to the waiting list. Placement on the waiting list is based on

“first come, first served” except for certain circumstances (see provision for sale of the SRA share of an inactive member)(Article II, Section 10).

Is there more than one membership type in SRA?

Yes. There are three types of memberships that have been defined over the years and identified in the SRA by-laws.

An **active member** is one of **425** who own a share of the Corporation and who pay annual dues and other assessments. They share in all rights and obligations of membership as described in the SRA By-Laws or in other policies issued by the Board of Directors (Article II, Section 4a).

An **inactive member** is one of up to **70** previous active members who have chosen to go inactive. They retain a share of the Corporation but they do not pay annual dues and other assessments and do not share in the rights and obligations of the Corporation except in matters relating to their inactive status. This type of membership is no longer available as a result of SRA By=Law changes enacted in 2002. (Article II).

A **temporary active member** is a person or couple who temporarily leases the membership of an active member by agreeing to pay annual dues and other fees as set by the SRA Board. An active member can lease their membership when they are renting their house in the membership area or have decided to not be active (commonly referred to as the “empty nester membership”). The temporary membership is offered first to the renter of the active member’s house. If the renter agrees to take the temporary membership, the lease is in effect until the renter no longer wants it. If the renter does not agree to take the temporary membership or the owner is an “empty nester,, the temporary membership is offered to persons on the waiting list for active membership in the order of the waiting list until someone agrees to take the temporary membership. Temporary members, who are on the waiting list, hold the temporary membership for only one year (season). The number of temporary memberships varies each year. A temporary member holds all except voting privileges of active membership for the duration of the membership.(Article II, Section 4c). However, all temporary members are invited to membership meetings.

Can a person or couple living outside the membership area own a share of the Corporation and remain an active member?

Yes, a person can continue to own a membership in SRA provided they still own a house in the membership area. Until December 2001, an active member who left the membership area and sold their house in the membership area could retain their active membership. A change in the SRA By-laws in December 2001 changed this policy. When an active member leaves the membership area and sells their house, they must surrender their membership share in the SRA. This change in the By-laws was not applied retroactively and so there are still a few active members who live outside the membership area and do not own a house in the SRA membership area(Article II).

How does an active member sell their share in the SRA?

An active member cannot sell their share. However, they can surrender their share at any time by writing to the SRA Business Manager. Once the SRA Business Manager receives the request, the membership can be offered first to the buyer of the active member’s house if the active member is selling their house. If the house is not being sold, then the membership is offered to the first person on the waiting list (Article II, Section 8 and Section 9a).

How does an inactive member sell their share in the SRA?

An inactive member cannot sell their share. However, they can apply to surrender their share at any time in writing to the SRA Business Manager. Once the SRA Business Manager receives the request, the inactive member is placed at the top of the active membership waiting list. Once a new active membership becomes available, the inactive member’s share can be offered to a person buying the inactive member’s house or to the next person on the waiting list whichever situation applies (Article II, Section 9b).

When an active member surrenders their share to SRA, will they get a refund? When?

Upon sale of the surrendered share and receipt of the new member's fees by the SRA Business Manager, the previous active member will be refunded the full par and premium value of the share less any remaining obligation to the SRA (Article III, Section 1). The par and premium value is still **\$540**.

Can an active member lose their membership other than through voluntary surrender of the membership share?

Yes. An active member can lose their membership if the active member does not pay their annual dues or other required assessments of the SRA. The SRA Board retains the right to require surrender of an active membership for other reasons relating to SRA membership responsibilities (Article II, Section 11).

Can a temporary member lose their membership other than through the normal change in renter status or active member's change in status?

Yes. A temporary member can lose their temporary membership if they are on the waiting list for active membership, receive an offer for active membership, and decline the offer. In this situation, the person loses their temporary membership and is moved to the bottom of the waiting list (if they wish to remain on the waiting list). This provision is made known at the time a person on the active membership waiting list decides to take a temporary membership (Article II, Section 4c).

Can a person on the waiting list decline a temporary or an active membership?

Yes. 1) A person on the active waiting list can decline a permanent membership; however, they lose their position on the waiting list and are moved to the bottom of the list. 2) A person on the active waiting list can decline a temporary membership as many times as they want and still retain their position on the waiting list. 3) A person on the active waiting list who holds a temporary membership and declines a permanent membership when offered, relinquishes their temporary membership, loses their position on the waiting list, and moves to the bottom of the waiting list (reference question above).

A person on the active waiting list who declines a permanent membership a second time is removed from the active waiting list.