

Membership is an active process, with annual renewal. Rather than a lifetime assumed commitment it is up to each individual each year to make that choice and let the Council know, by way of full renewal payment or email so we can make provisions based on your current circumstances. It is not automatically renewed.

At the Christmas Conference of 1923/24 the General Anthroposophical Society (GAS) was founded. 100 years later we have a wonderful opportunity to 'Be the Change'; to bring ideals into reality through shared ideas and collaborative actions. Together we can realise how Anthroposophy could flourish in the world into the future. Your membership matters!

The basis of membership in the Anthroposophical Society is participation, which takes many forms, including your annual financial membership contribution.

Your membership is vital to the work we do together in New Zealand and at the Goetheanum.

From The Christmas Conference, GA 260, Part II. The Proceedings of the Conference, XI. Meeting of the Vorstand of the General Anthroposophical Society:

"Therefore, having regard to all that we can know today, I do believe that a standard figure should be fixed and that deviations from this can be arranged in individual discussions. So, I think it would be right to lay down that each group should pay 12 Schillings for each of its members, that is 1 Schilling per month. I can assure you that even if this Schilling is really contributed, we shall have the greatest difficulty in carrying out the things we intend to do here. This must not be allowed to weigh on people. For those who cannot pay, the amount will have to be reduced, and we shall have to reduce our plans accordingly. But I do believe that we could agree on a standard contribution, from the groups, of 12 Schillings per member. Any other arrangement would lead to the Anthroposophical Society being able neither to live nor die, so that once again for financial reasons nothing worthwhile would be achieved. We shall be criticized, and people will not understand that we cannot achieve anything if our hands are tied."

You see from the quote above by Rudolf Steiner, that it was set out in the Christmas Conference that, as a free member of the General Anthroposophical Society, there is no obligation on us as individual members to make a financial contribution to the General Anthroposophical Society.

More recently the 2019 International Treasurers Agreement clarifies that it is the obligation of each group or Country Society to contribute an amount of, currently, 90 Swiss Francs to the General Anthroposophical Society on behalf of each of its members.

The first guideline of this Treasurers Agreement (2019) states " *The councils of the country societies (hereafter 'councils') confirm that, since membership of the Society entails a contribution from each member, membership dues are not free donations.*"

An annual financial contribution is required to remain a member of the Society.

How can the Anthroposophical Society in New Zealand find this money? First and foremost, it is by the financial contributions of we members ourselves. Secondly, there is the possibility of legacy money. In the case of the (National) Anthroposophical Society in New Zealand this has been rare with (Local) Branches in Auckland, Wellington, Hawkes Bay, and Christchurch tending to be beneficiaries more often. There is also the possibility of donations from people outside of the Society who wish to support the Society and the Anthroposophical cultural impulse in the world.

Annual Commitment of Individual Members

Each year in January the total number of members of the ASNZ is updated with the membership office at the Goetheanum. Our payment to the GAS is based on this number.

There is an Entry Level option for ASNZ membership, and this amount is what is needed for the ASNZ to pay the membership fee to the GAS. We ask that new members pay this amount during the first year of membership and then increase to the standard level from the following year.

Instalment options are possible if that helps you to spread the cost. If you must temporarily reduce your financial contribution from the standard membership fee, yet wish to remain a member, please email our treasurer (nic@anthroposophy.org.nz) to discuss.

If you find yourself in a fortunate financial position, we hope you will consider moving from the Standard Level to a Sponsor Level by symbolically sponsoring someone else's anthroposophical journey.

All these options can be expressed by using the form accessed via the RENEW button at the top of the website. If you have tried to use the form and are having trouble with the process, please contact us by email to info@anthroposophy.org.nz

Warm regards

The Council of the Anthroposophical Society in New Zealand

Emma Ratcliff, Michelle Vette and Nic Parkes