

From your Membership Chair: Leslie Dripps



- [Join or renew by Nov. 1](#) for a chance to **win next year's membership for free!** *You can renew within 3 months of current membership expiration; renewal will begin on the current year's expiration date. NEW! Active Memberships can sign up for auto-renewal or monthly installments (avail. Oct. 1) and get your life back!*
- Request a [Complimentary Membership](#) by Nov. 1 for a free, one-year membership.
Complimentary Memberships are for...
 - Any new or returning member experiencing organizational or personal financial limitations
 - Any teacher in the first year of teaching chorus
 - Any newly enrolling member whose institution serves minority populations of 50% or more
 - Any newly enrolling member who identifies with any historically underrepresented group in ACDA, in recognition of the significant artistry those groups have continuously provided
- [Advocacy Resources](#) for your school administration (COMING SOON!)
A year-long project has been launched to assemble a collection of **evidence-based support and best practices** for building strong choral programs **designed specifically for distribution to school administrators** or boards of directors. We will leverage the decades of choral, singing, and music education research into a powerful tool for our membership. We need your input! [Complete this survey](#) to contribute to this project or sign up to become involved.

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP RENEWING? Email Trina at membership@acda.org the national office directly, or Leslie at lesliedripps@gmail.com. We both welcome your questions!

ACDA MEMBERSHIP *for dummies, please!*

I have a confession. I'm The Person. You know that person. The person who forgets *every year* that her membership is expiring. The person who *does. not. have. time.* to read renewal reminders. The person who, six hours before an honor choir event, renews membership in a panic and then needs an email from Trina to show the event hosts.

To the appalled Organizing Czars out there who placed an annually recurring task on their calendars from the very first day they joined, I apologize and am impressed and inspired. However, my limited "organizational powers" (I use the term loosely) too often find themselves at capacity to even conceive of this.

So, as your new Membership Chair (irony, am I right?) I have some requests to submit to the national office to help folks like me renew in a timely manner:

1. For any who request it, please fund a small tasteful tattoo of membership number and renewal date. *Tattoo location should probably be easily visible without a mirror.*
2. Offer subdermal implants which send mild electrical zings with ever increasing frequency and vehemence as renewal date approaches. *Maybe add a feature to make it react to junk food, too?*
3. Commission a mass-produced, old-timey automaton, jack-in-the-box wound up annually to spring out (horribly and leeringly) on the renewal date. *I would do just about anything to avoid this.*
4. Sub-contract Amazon delivery drivers to also distribute in-person verbal renewal reminders. *These folks are some of our most frequent visitors, anyway. Let's harness that resource!*
5. Create an auto-renewal process on the website, which takes credit cards. *If I could manage renewing once I'd be set.*
6. Along with auto-renew, maybe offer monthly installment payments. Charged automatically to my credit card on file? *Heaven. Sigh...*

As you can see I'm an ideas gal, though requests 1-4 seem unlikely. But there *is* good news: both the **auto-renewal option** AND **monthly installments option** are happening! (Installments available Oct. 1.) www.acda.org/membership-central These options are bound to change my life, and the lives of many like me; after all, we live in times where small things need to be celebrated. So, when your calendar reminder prods you to renew this year: *wow, the options!*

There is a question every organization should ask itself regularly, and while I can't imagine that anyone has ever muttered in an exhausted undertone, "Why ACDA, anyway?," I've been thinking carefully about exactly that question. Just what makes ACDA membership worth all that calendar trouble? After chatting with colleagues, ACDA leadership, and even folks who aren't yet members, we compiled a complete and, dare I say, energizing list [here](#), both for your enjoyment and to share.

Included in that list is a new endeavor I am particularly excited about:

[Advocacy Resources](#) for use in conversations with school administration

Are you occasionally treated as if you single-handedly invented the entire spectrum of choral arts merely for your personal convenience? Just me? A year-long project has been launched to assemble a collection of **evidence-based support and best practices** for building strong choral programs **designed specifically for school administrators** and boards of directors. We will leverage the decades (possibly centuries) of choral, singing, and music education research into a powerful tool for our membership.

- This project needs your input! Please [complete this survey](#) so we have a thorough sense of what is needed.

If you have any additional suggestions--no matter how wild!--(Automatons are on the table!) to make renewal easier, send them to me! I'll be glad to hear from you. Have a great year!

