

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1.**

**A.** Subject to the provisions of this Article V, any person shall be eligible for membership in this organization who is (i) employed by the governments of the United States or Canada, or the political subdivisions thereof or therein, or by any business enterprise therein; and (ii) pays all dues and maintains his or her dues on a current basis with the National Union.

**B.** Any person who is a member of NAGE as of October 1, 2002, may maintain his or her membership status, so long as he or she maintains the same employment status or has been unemployed from that status for less than 6 months. After October 1, 2002, new membership is only open to a person employed in a bargaining unit represented by NAGE or any person employed by or providing service as a staff member or as an elected officer of NAGE.

#### **SECTION 2.**

There shall be no discrimination against any member, or any applicant for membership by reason of race, ethnicity, creed, color, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, or disability.

#### **SECTION 3.**

No person may become a member of the National Association or any Local Unit who has, at any time, been found to be guilty of any conduct violative of Article XII, Sec. 1, of the National Constitution without obtaining a waiver of these provisions by the Executive Board of the Local Unit and the National Executive Committee.

#### **SECTION 4.**

A member, upon retirement or separation from employment with federal, state, county, municipal or a political subdivision, government or corporation doing business with the federal, state, county and municipal government, or any other business enterprise, is entitled to become a retired member. However, members who retire and wish to retain NAGE insurance and other benefits at a reduced annual cost may do so. To qualify for reduced cost, such retiree must have been a member for five (5) or more years or a chartered member. Such retired member can attend local meetings but may neither vote nor hold local office unless he/she is a full dues paying member in good standing, and has received a waiver from the National Executive Committee.

**SECTION 5.**

Any member in good standing in a Local Unit, who has been assigned to the jurisdiction of another Local Unit, shall be entitled to a certificate from his original Local Unit, stating his membership and the duration thereof.

**SECTION 6.**

The National Association of Government Employees subscribes to the pertinent Executive Order, Labor Management Relations rules, regulations and laws governing the Federal "Standards of Conduct for Labor Organizations" and subscribes to comparable codes for states, counties, municipalities and their subdivisions as may be applicable.

**SECTION 7.**

No person shall use, conspire to use, or threaten to use force or violence to restrain, coerce, or intimidate, or attempt to restrain, coerce, or intimidate any member of the National Association of Government Employees for the purpose of interfering with or preventing the exercise of any right to which he is entitled under the pertinent rules, regulations, laws and Executive Orders referred to in Section 6.

**SECTION 8.**

The National Association of Government Employees prohibits its National and Local Unit officers and members from directly or indirectly through a spouse, minor child, or otherwise, from participating in business or financial interests which conflict with their duty to the Association.

**SECTION 9.**

No Local Unit or National Union shall directly or indirectly make any loan to any member or employee which results in a total indebtedness on the part of such officer, member or employee to the Association in excess of \$2,000.

**SECTION 10.**

Nothing in this or any other provision of this Constitution shall prevent a Local Unit from investing funds in State chartered credit unions as well as Federal credit unions or in the Federally insured savings and loan associations, whenever such investments shall be authorized by a regular meeting of the local or by the National Executive Committee.

**SECTION 11.**

No member may resign from his membership in the National Association or subordinate body before he has paid all dues and other obligations due the National Association and all its subordinate bodies or during a period he is the subject of any disciplinary action described in Article XII and no resignation shall become effective until such payment is made or such disciplinary proceeding is completed unless the member shall have received the written approval as to his resignation from the National President.

**SECTION 12.**

The Code of Ethical Practices is incorporated herein by reference.