

## **Open Letter to ARA Members and Prospective Members**

In the past years, ARA has been fortunate in acquiring a membership of highly competent professionals. We have grown both in quality and to some extent in quantity. It is our hope that we will continue in our growth of active and participating members. If we are to do so, however, it is contingent upon the membership to assist.

Although we have numerous inquiries regarding membership, typically these are from students or professionals who fail to meet the present requirement of five years of professional experience. These inquiries do not represent professionals from allied fields who are also involved in the habilitation and rehabilitation of the acoustically impaired.

We believe that the membership would be strengthened by an invitational approach and hope that you can help maintain the quality of the membership by actively seeking candidates for membership who you feel would contribute in significant and innovative ways and who you feel will be an actively involved member.

The Membership Committee also seeks your help as sponsors of the candidate by requesting that you be as specific as possible in why you feel a candidate would be a good member and how they might contribute to the Academy. This information is critical not only for the Membership Committee but for the final decision by the Executive Committee, as many of candidates are not known personally by the membership of the Executive Committee and the completeness of the sponsors letter will help to facilitate the Committee's determination concerning membership.

The following is an excerpt from the Membership Proposal stating the requirements and procedures for membership:

**Membership requires a graduate degree in audiology, language pathology, deaf education, psychology, psycholinguistics, otology or other allied fields; demonstrate professional leadership in the field; and demonstrate interest and background of at least five years experience in or closely related to habilitation, rehabilitation or educational programs for the acoustically impaired. Academy membership is limited to one hundred and twenty-five.**

**This membership proposal in triplicate must be supported by the following: (a) letter from the applicant stating his qualifications and why he wishes to join ARA, and including chronology of his experience in teaching, clinical work, research and other activities in the area, and listing publications and or other scholarly productions; (b) name of primary sponsor; this sponsor should not be a professor or student with whom the applicant has trained or with whom he is currently working;**

**and (c) name of secondary sponsor, not necessarily meeting the above requirements. Both sponsors are required to be Academy members. The required material should all be sent to the Membership Committee Chairman.**

**Thank you for your continued support of ARA.**

**MARGARET FLEMING, M.A.  
Chairman, Membership Committee**