

WHEN SOMEONE ASKS, “HOW CAN I HELP”

Local society leaders may ask, or be asked, “How can I help the American Rose Society?”

The American Rose Society is funded mainly through memberships, but also through special projects, interest from endowments and by contributions from ARS members and rose lovers throughout the world. Programs listed here include a variety of ways a local society can support the national organization, and ways it can encourage others to do so.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the lifeblood of the American Rose Society. ARS offers Individual Memberships, Joint Membership for two members of the same household, Senior Memberships, and Youth Memberships. We offer one, two and three year terms as well as “Life.” ARS offers Corporate Memberships and Foreign Memberships. As you can see, there are memberships for everyone and every situation. (*See Section III for more information.*)

Just as the ARS staff and related committees work to support local societies in their membership efforts, local society leaders are encouraged to support the ARS in its efforts to grow in membership. It is thought that only one-third of local societies members are also members of ARS. As local society members grow in their rose hobby, they should be encouraged to join the ARS for the many benefits that are afforded by the parent organization.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Local Societies are encouraged to purchase three ARS memberships per year to be used as awards, raffle prizes, or in other creative ways. Leaders are also asked to encourage gift memberships during holidays and for special occasions.

LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

Local Societies are asked to donate an American Rose subscription to your local library. By making the American Rose available to the library, readers will become aware of the existence of the Society, and can locate your local society through that contact. (*ARS has a special Library Subscription rate. Contact headquarters for details. The Library Subscription form can be found at: <http://www.ars.org/pdf/LibrarySubscription.pdf>*)

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

In addition to the annual dues local societies remit to the ARS, local societies may have opportunities to make additional contributions:

The ARS Patron Program offers a category for local society Patron donations. Many societies participate annually in the Patron program, and those societies are recognized in American Rose.

Make ARS the beneficiary or joint beneficiary of a local society fund-raising event. The proceeds of any gift can be directed to a fund of choice: one of the endowment funds, computer fund, general operations, gardens, educational programs, or to help with a special need as expressed by the ARS.

Encourage individual members' contributions to the ARS.

Make it a point to briefly discuss ARS fund-raising events and programs at your meetings and in your bulletins and websites, so that members have an opportunity to participate if they wish.

BE A WILLING PART OF THE ARS “FAMILY OF ROSE SOCIETIES”

Think of the American Rose Society as the “parent” of the large organization of rose societies in America. Local societies are “affiliates.” Talk about ARS at each meeting – current *American Rose* articles, national events, new member benefits, special recognitions, etc. By working together in word and deed, both national and local societies – the “family of rose societies” will be more effective and stronger because of that affiliation and the support each can provide the other.