



The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners

Membership Requirements

Membership in the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners is attained according to the by-laws of the Society.

Provisional Membership and Corresponding Membership in the Society shall be open to all persons who are Practicing Document Examiners and Specialists, and who meet the following minimum requirements:

- a) to possess at least an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution or from an institution or higher education program whose degrees would be considered the equivalent of an earned baccalaureate degree;
- b) to have a minimum two years training or apprenticeship under the supervision of a recognized Practicing Document Examiner or Specialist, and,
- c) to have two years post training or post apprenticeship experience as a Practicing Document Examiner or Specialist, or, in the absence of (b) or (c):
- d) to have training and qualifications that have been reviewed and received the unanimous endorsement of the Membership and Credentials Committee, and, in any case,
- e) to have submitted or presented at least one technical paper acceptable to the Membership and Credentials Committee, as a guest at a General Meeting of the Society within the previous three years.

Persons who meet the academic requirements specified above and who are presently receiving training may apply for Affiliate membership in the Society.

To be considered for Regular or Specialist Membership, a practicing document examiner or Specialist who has been a Provisional Member for a minimum of two years must successfully pass written, practical and oral examinations conducted by the Evaluation and Examinations Committee. Provisional Members (Regular Membership Track) who have successfully completed written, practical, and oral tests administered by the ABFDE may, in lieu of completing the ASQDE's battery of tests, submit a technical research report or review article for consideration.

Those individuals who meet the minimum requirements for membership may apply by completing an application and submitting it to the Membership and Credentials Committee. Applications are available on the ASQDE website at www.asqde.org, or by contacting:

Lamar Miller
Tel: (256) 970-5070
Email:
Lamar.Miller70@gmail.com

Classes of Membership

The Society consists of eight classes of membership:

- Affiliate Members
- Provisional Members
- Regular Members
- Specialist Members
- Corresponding Members
- Life Members
- Life Corresponding Members
- Honorary Members

Affiliate Membership is the entry level, leading toward Provisional or Regular membership in the Society.

Provisional Membership is available for those who have had two years' training or apprenticeship as a Forensic Document Examiner or Specialist leading toward Regular or Specialist membership in the Society. A "Specialist" means one who is actively engaged in the forensic examination of documents (as described in the ASQDE by-laws) except that the examiner does not make examinations of documents for the determination of authorship.

Corresponding Membership is offered only to practicing document examiners or specialists who reside in a country other than the United States or Canada.

Annual dues are currently \$200 per year and afford members numerous benefits. See "Why Join the ASQDE?" (reverse side) for full details of membership benefits.



Why Join the ASQDE?

The American Society of Questioned Document Examiners was formally established on September 2, 1942 by Albert S. Osborn and other pioneers in the field. The Society subsequently incorporated as a Not for Profit Corporation in the State of Illinois on November 16, 1970. From its inception, the purpose of the Society has been to foster education, sponsor scientific research, exchange experiences and provide instruction in the field of document examination. It attempts to promote justice in matters that involve disputed documents.

To accomplish these objectives, the Society and its members engage in and encourage scientific research and disseminate the results by presentations at the scientific session of its annual meetings. The Society further promotes the continuing education of document examiners by providing quality workshops for members and their guests. The ASQDE has long recognized the importance of attracting new forensic document examiners to join our organization. In addition to the educational and networking benefits of attending and participating in annual ASQDE conferences, other advantages of becoming an ASQDE member include:

1. **Enhancement of your professional status.** Membership in the ASQDE is a prestigious qualification that enhances your credibility both as a forensic document examiner and as an expert witness.
2. **Reduced conference registration fees.** Meeting registration fees for ASQDE members are typically \$100 less than those for invited guests.
3. **Special “members only” benefits when attending a Society meeting.** In their registration packets, members receive a DVD that contains papers not only from the current meeting, but several prior meetings, which is helpful for those members who are unable to attend every meeting. Invited guests, however, receive a DVD that contains only papers from the current year in their registration packets. Furthermore, guests are not entitled to purchase DVDs from prior meetings.
4. **Reduced fees for items offered exclusively by the Society.** For example, we are offering the invaluable Haas Database DVD, which members individually, *or their agencies*, can purchase at a significantly discounted rate from the rate charged to non-members.
5. **A complimentary subscription to the Journal of the American Society of Questioned Document Examiners.** *Agencies who currently subscribe to the Journal will find this benefit alone represents more than half of the annual ASQDE dues.* In addition, members receive a 10% discount off the regular back issue price to complete their set of *Journal* issues.
6. **Receipt of the Society’s Newsletter** that is issued twice a year. Issues contain technical information, reports from our Executive Committee and details about upcoming meetings. This publication is also available on-line.
7. **Access to the “members only” area of the Society’s website.** This area includes databases and other resource information of interest to practicing document examiners.
8. **Use of the Referral Page and opportunity to purchase a page on the Society’s web site.** This is a cost-efficient and effective means for ASQDE members to solicit work and contact new clients. The prestigious reputation of the ASQDE ensures attorneys seek out our website for help in locating qualified private examiners. As a member, for a low annual fee you can purchase your own webpage maintained by the ASQDE webeditor to make your CV and contact information available to those seeking your services. Members can also list their private practice on the ASQDE webpage with a free link to their own website.

To find out more about membership, please contact:

Lamar Miller, Membership Chair, Lamar.Miller70@gmail.com