



POST-POLIO HEALTH INTERNATIONAL
INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL VENTILATOR USERS NETWORK

***PHI is inviting your group to become an
Association Member ...***



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Because of your commitment to polio survivors – and to providing them with useful information and emotional support – we are happy to share exciting news with you.

Post-Polio Health (PHI) has created a new membership category called Association Membership. Association Membership is open to consumer-led self-help groups or associations whose mission complements that of PHI. You will recall that our mission is *to enhance the lives and independence of polio survivors and home ventilator users through education, advocacy, research and networking.*

The purpose of this new membership category is to strengthen our partnership with support groups and other post-polio organizations, to maximize the power of our numbers through networking and to improve the quantity and quality of communication among the Association Members.

As you know, PHI has always been available for counsel and advice, and many of you have taken advantage of our knowledge base and connections. Groups have regularly accessed our online resources about the philosophy and basics of coordinating a support group (www.post-polio.org/net/supgrps.html).

Why are we creating this new membership category now?

We have observed a decline in the number of post-polio support groups and in some, a decline in their vitality. In a perfect world, all support groups would disappear because all the problems were solved! But PHI believes there is more work to be done – more education of polio survivors and health professionals, more emphasis on research and solutions and stronger advocacy on issues that affect polio survivors.

We see some groups celebrating 20 years of operation, while others appear to be struggling. While all groups, no matter how successful, struggle at times, we think that all groups benefit from re-evaluating, evolving and networking with others.

That's why we think it's an ideal time to capitalize on our network and leverage the "power of numbers."

There will be immediate benefits for Association Members. PHI will:

- Distribute *Post-Polio Health* and the annual *Post-Polio Directory* in print.
- Create a special area on www.post-polio.org recognizing Association Members and their groups' work.
- Continue to provide current services, such as permission to reprint PHI copyrighted articles, discount on PHI brochures, etc.
- Communicate with Association Members for consultation and for opinions to be sure polio survivors are heard and counted in advocacy efforts.
- Facilitate a monthly e-communication (in English for now) so that Association Members can more systematically share support group successes and candidly discuss issues related to lingering post-polio issues as well as develop plans to meet future needs.

PHI will also assist and encourage Association Members as they:

- More systematically communicate information about their groups to PHI so these activities can be promoted more broadly.
- Disseminate information about PHI and its activities.
- Promptly respond to advocacy requests and calls-to-action.
- Participate in discussions related to post-polio support groups and polio survivors via e-communication.

Will you join us to maximize the "power of numbers?" The power of our network benefits all of us. We want to help strengthen and support your group. And we want to help meet your members' needs with greater impact and relevance than ever.

Our fee structure is based on the number of members in your group. And it's only **\$1.00 per member per year!** The minimum fee is \$35. The maximum fee is \$250.

Please complete and return the enclosed card today.

Sincerely,
The Volunteer Board of PHI
and
Brian Tiburzi, Executive Director