



Membership Form

(Membership valid through
December 2011)

New Member Renewal

Date: _____

Member information (for family membership, list both members):

Name: _____ Date of Birth (mm/day/yr): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone (optional): _____

Email Address: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth (mm/day/yr): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone (optional): _____

Email Address: _____

Enrollment type:

\$30 Individual \$50 Family • Organization \$20 Senior • Student
 \$100 Donor Level* \$250 Sponsor Level*

**Donor and Sponsor Level members will be recognized in our Gala Program book and on our website in appreciation of your added support. All but the dues portion of your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent under the law.*

I / We are interested in becoming involved in the following opportunities:

Annual Gala Social/Cultural Arts Fundraising Communications Public Policy
 Membership Education/Awareness Business Networking Other: _____

Payment information:

Make checks payable to OPALGA and send with this form to:

OPALGA
P.O. Box 1460
Oak Park, IL 60304.

If your employer has a corporate matching program, please attach the matching form. Thank you!

For more information: Phone: 708-848-0273 • *Website: www.opalga.org • E-mail: info@opalga.org

OPALGA is an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association

Established in 1989, OPALGA is one of the largest community-based, multipurpose lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) membership organizations in Illinois. OPALGA boasts membership from Oak Park, River Forest, Forest Park, Berwyn and Brookfield, along with the surrounding suburbs and Chicago proper.

OPALGA's Mission:

The mission of the Organization is to promote positive attitudes and advocate for full equality for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community of the greater Oak Park area; to promote institutional change through positive efforts to educate public and private bodies; to provide opportunities for sharing information and resources among its membership; to provide educational, social and cultural opportunities for its members; and to celebrate the contributions that the Organization and its members make to the welcoming communities of the greater Oak Park area.

OPALGA's Activities:

- Sponsors and produces social and cultural events aimed at the greater Oak Park community, such as coffeehouses, periodic theatre or restaurant outings, meet and greet encounters, picnics, art and house walks.
- Hosts monthly potlucks to which members and guests bring a dish to share and enjoy social interaction.
- Provides diversity and anti-hate public forums with local community organizations.
- Coordinates education, outreach and training for members and assists other local groups and organizations in this capacity.
- Maintains communications with OPALGA members through its website, Facebook, regular e-blasts, and periodic mailings.

OPALGA's Accomplishments:

- Succeeded in having the Village of Oak Park's Human Rights Ordinance amended to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment (by Village and Village contractors), housing and public accommodations.
- Proposed and supported the Village of Oak Park extending Domestic Partnership Benefits to same-sex partners of Village employees.
- Proposed and supported the passing of a Domestic Partnership Registry for same-sex couples in Oak Park. This was the first of its kind in Illinois and became a model for other communities to develop their own.
- Worked with and educated Oak Park and River Forest High School administrators to amend its Human Dignity Policy to protect lesbian, gay and bisexually identified faculty, staff and students.
- Interacted with other community organizations, such as Sarah's Inn, the Oak Park Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Oak Park Department of Public Health, to create programs and events that were diversity sensitive and supportive of the LGBT community.
- Received the Equity Award from the Human Rights Campaign in 1998.
- Received the Community Service Award from the Resources Unlimited Foundation in 2005.
- Received the Village of Oak Park Fitzsimmons Public Health Award in 2006.
- Received the Oak Park Community Relations Human Rights Award in 2006.
- Served as Supporting Sponsor of the Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival held in the Chicago area and venues in Oak Park in 2006.
- OPALGA's youth program director, Susan Abbott, received the Village of Oak Park Fitzsimmons Award for Excellence in Public Health in 2009.
- Ongoing interaction with other community organizations in creating activities and events that are supportive of the LGBT community.