

Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association

The OPALGA Center
947 Garfield Street • Oak Park, IL 60304
(708)848-0273 • fax (708)848-7544
www.opalga.org • info@opalga.org

Enrollment type:

- \$50 Individual \$75 Family • Organization \$30 Senior • Student
 \$150 Donor Level \$300 Sponsor Level

Member info (please fill out and send to The OPALGA Center):

- New Member Renewal Date: _____

Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Year of Birth: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Name: _____ Day Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Year of Birth: _____ Evening Phone: _____

To receive OPALGA e-blasts at the address(es) above, go to www.opalga.org and sign up.

Our monthly publication, *Empower*, is included with each paid membership. Donor and Sponsor Level members will be recognized in our Gala Program book in appreciation of your added support.

I • We are interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

- Gala Social / Cultural Arts Fundraising Communications Public Policy
 Youth / Young Adult Programs Membership Speakers Bureau Other: _____

Yes! Please list me in the OPALGA Membership Directory.

Payment info:

Checks can be made payable to OPALGA.

If paying by credit card, please fill out the information below:

- Discover MasterCard Visa

Name on Card: _____ Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Authorizing Signature: _____

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

Thank you for your support!

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.

Diverse from inception, OPALGA strives to provide leadership and direction in three arenas: 1) Group-based support for people questioning or exploring their sexual orientation; 2) Political activism to promote and insure non-discrimination in the community; and 3) Cultural expression unique to the LGBT community. To that end, OPALGA has been an important presence to countless individuals seeking shelter and support, creative expression to allow their voices to be heard and a launchpad to initiate public reform.

OPALGA's Programs:

- Sponsors and produces cultural events aimed at the Oak Park community, such as monthly coffeehouses and periodic theatre outings.
- Hosts monthly potlucks to which members and guests bring a dish to share and donations for OPALGA's youth programs.
- 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.
- Provides direct services for youth and young adults to improve their well being through our drop-in center, HIV education and prevention programs and information resources. OPALGA's youth programs are designed and overseen by a professional director, and attendees are drawn from more than 35 suburban communities and Chicago's West Side.
- Produces a monthly newsletter, *Empower*, that serves as the primary vehicle for communication with OPALGA's members.

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.