



OAK PARK AREA LESBIAN  
AND GAY ASSOCIATION

## Membership Form

(Membership Valid for the Calendar Year)

New Member                       Renewal                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Member information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (mm/day/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (mm/day/yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**I • We wish to be listed in the OPALGA Membership Directory. Name and email address are required. Circle above any additional information you wish to have included.**

### Enrollment type:

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

*\*Patron Level members will be recognized 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.*

Exceptions to the payment of dues based on financial circumstances may be requested through appeal to the OPALGA Co-Chairs at the email address provided below.

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

Gala                       Social/Cultural Arts                       Fundraising                       Communications  
 Public Policy                       Membership                       Speakers Bureau                       Business Networking  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment information:

You may pay your dues in one of two ways:

- By check payable to OPALGA.
- By credit card:  
Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type (MC/VISA only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and mail it to the address below.

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

Thank you for your support!

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

www.opalga.org • [info@opalga.org](mailto:info@opalga.org)

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

# Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association

## **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 History:**

Founded in 1989, OPALGA became one of the largest community-based, multipurpose lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) membership organizations in Illinois, boasting membership from Oak Park, the surrounding suburbs, and Chicago. Now in its third decade, OPALGA has evolved into an organization that functions as a benefactor, using its fundraising capacity to benefit other organizations that provide direct programming or advocacy services to the LGBTQ community.

## **OPALGA's Activities:**

- Awards education scholarships to graduating seniors who have demonstrated active advocacy on issues of importance to the LGBTQ community.
- Raises funds to benefit organizations and agencies providing direct services to the LGBTQ community.
- Sponsors, co-sponsors and produces social and cultural events aimed at the greater Oak Park community.
- Hosts monthly potlucks to which members and guests bring a dish to share and enjoy social interaction.
- Provides diversity, anti-discrimination and advocacy 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.
- 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.
- Received numerous awards including the Equity Award from the Human Rights Campaign; the Community Service Award from the Resources Unlimited Foundation; the Village of Oak Park Fitzsimmons Public Health Award; and the Oak Park Community Relations Human Rights Award.