

## Membership Policy, Sponsorship Policy & Categories Information

The Prairie Club accepts members in six different categories. Annual dues range from \$37.50 to \$130.00. Below is an explanation of each of these six membership categories.

### **Active Membership (Category #1) \$130.00**

All benefits of membership:

- \* Access to Club property. Members who plan to use the Hazelhurst beach, tennis courts, or grounds more than once a month in peak season (June, July, and August) or wishes to otherwise store a boat, SUP, Kayak, Beach Chairs/Umbrella or any other beach paraphernalia on Campgrounds, must first purchase a Hazelhurst Season Pass from the Club office;
- \* Participation in Club activities;
- \* Receive the *Bulletin* newsletter and other electronic communications (email required);
- \* Rent/Lease Club property and private cottages;
- \* Purchase private cottages when available (must be a member in good standing for two years);
- \* Vote in all Club elections, bylaws changes, and issues;
- \* Hold office or committee chairmanships;
- \* Sponsor new members.

### **Honorary Life Membership (Category #2) \$0.00**

All benefits of active membership. No dues shall be paid.

Any Active member of the Club in good standing who in the Club's judgment has rendered special service to the Club, or has especially promoted the objectives and aims of the Club, may be elected an Honorary Life member. An Honorary Life member shall be proposed in writing by fifty Active or Honorary Life members of the Club, and the petition shall then be presented by the President of the Club to the membership for a vote. A majority of Active and Honorary Life members present in person or by proxy at any annual or special meeting shall be required to elect a person to Honorary Life membership.

### **Senior Active Membership (Category #3) \$37.50**

(This membership is grandfathered and will not be made available to new applicants.)

All benefits of active membership.

### **Hiker/Walker (Associate) Membership (Category #4) \$42.50**

(This membership is grandfathered and will not be made available to new applicants.)

All benefits of membership except Hiker/Walker members may not lease or buy property, sponsor new members, vote or hold office.

### **Student Membership (Category #5) \$45.00**

(Intended for full time students, this category makes the transition to Active membership upon completion of school easier and encourages use of the Club and its scholarship program.) All benefits of membership except Student members may not lease or buy property, sponsor new members, hold office or vote.

### **Senior Membership (Category #6) \$60.00**

(Person has been an Active member for 25 years and is at least 70 years of age.)

All benefits of active membership.

## Membership Policies

### **Delinquency:**

On February 1st of each year, the Club office shall send a notice by email to each member requesting payment of dues. Members who have not provided an email will receive their notice by mail. Any member whose dues have not been paid by March 16, shall be considered delinquent and not in good standing. Between March 16 and April 1, the delinquent member must pay a penalty of \$25.00 in addition to the dues. After April 1 if the dues have not been paid, the member's name will be removed from the records, and they must go through reinstatement procedures.

### **Reinstatement:**

A former member who wishes to rejoin the Club shall file an application for reinstatement, all according to the rules of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall consider all such applications and make recommendations to the Executive Board. Upon approval, reinstatement will be effected following receipt of \$50.00 plus current year's dues. In addition, members seeking reinstatement within three years of last membership year may not apply as new members, but must pay appropriate fees for reinstatement.

## Sponsorship Policies

- All classes of membership (except Honorary Life Membership) must be sponsored by two active Prairie Club members and interviewed by at least one member of the Membership Committee.
- Active Prairie Club members must have been a member in good standing for at least two years.
- During one calendar year, an active member in good standing of at least two years, may sponsor no more than two candidates for prospective Active Membership, and no more than two candidates for prospective Student Membership (Exceptions at Prairie Club Board discretion).
- Sponsors must not be directly related to the applicant (Parent, Child, Sibling, Spouse, Partner, Significant Other, Uncle, Aunt, Niece, Nephew)
- Sponsors must not be directly related to the applicant's other sponsor (Parent, Child, Sibling, Spouse, Partner, Significant Other, Uncle, Aunt, Niece, Nephew)

The key to a successful Application for Membership is how well the Sponsor has known the Applicant and is able to earnestly support the applicant for membership. We encourage our current members to help us maintain the values and goals of membership in the Prairie Club, and to continue to sponsor candidates that will make The Prairie Club a better place for future generations. Please remember that when you sign the sponsor's form you are not only attesting that you have known this individual for a minimum of six months, you are also personally vouching for the **character and conduct** of the applicant. As a sponsor, it is your responsibility to act as a guide for a potential member of the Prairie Club, including Club history, mission, ideals, rules and regulations, as well as privileges. The role of the Membership Committee is to ensure that the prospective member has been oriented to the club before completing the application process.

## The Membership Committee

This Committee's main responsibility is to review applications, facilitate the membership process, and to screen new members to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Prairie Club are understood and agreed to by the prospective member. The Membership Committee will conduct interviews with the prospective member, and then give recommendations to the Prairie Club Board for or against membership in the Club. The Committee also reviews and revises membership policy and presents any recommendations to the Board.

The timeline for processing prospective members can vary significantly due to numerous factors including (but not limited to) proper completion of all parts of the application, availability of membership committee for interviews, mandatory "posting period" and availability of board members to review applications.

**Note:** The completed required forms and appropriate fees must be submitted in full to the Club office. Incomplete applications will not be processed.