



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Florida Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (FOWA), chartered in 1946, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization made up of paid outdoor communicators. They report and reflect upon Florida's diverse interests in the outdoors to educate and encourage the public in ways to protect and conserve our natural heritage. Members cover a variety of outdoor topics including fishing, hunting, boating and conservation. They are freelance writers, book authors, columnists, publishers, editors, broadcasters in radio and television, photographers, videographers, artists, illustrators, Web site and online designers/writers/editors, public information officers and public relations professionals.

### Why Join FOWA?

--To improve your knowledge and skills. FOWA provides members the opportunity to attend professional conferences that stress craft improvement, provide newsworthy topics, and offer fellowship and association with others in the outdoor communications profession.

--FOWA's e-newsletter, *The Market Edge*, emphasizes craft improvement, communication skills and provides a valuable exchange of information among members. It also provides leads on current assignments, jobs and other items of interest. FOWA strives to keep members up-to-date in the outdoor communications field.

--In order to support the best use and wise management of all natural resources by increasing public awareness, appreciation and understanding of our outdoor heritage, FOWA's Outreach Programs provide a forum by which conservation information is disseminated to the general public.

--To maintain the highest standards of professional competence and ethics in communicating to our respective readers and audiences. Presented annually, FOWA's 'Excellence-in-Craft' awards encourage quality work and recognize the best in our profession. Categories include newspaper and magazine writing, photography, books, videos, broadcasting and other media.

## **MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

The Florida Outdoor Writers Association, Inc. (FOWA), chartered in 1946, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit professional organization made up of paid outdoor communicators. They report and reflect upon Florida's diverse interests in the outdoors to educate and encourage the public in ways to protect and conserve our natural heritage. Members cover a variety of outdoor topics including fishing, hunting, boating and conservation. They are freelance writers, book authors, columnists, publishers, editors, broadcasters in radio and television, photographers, videographers, artists, illustrators, Web site and online designers/writers/editors, public information officers and public relations professionals.

### **CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

**1. ACTIVE MEMBER:** A professional outdoor communicator who is professionally compensated (not bartered or traded in-kind) for his/her published work in the field of outdoor communications and achieves a minimum of 16 points per year in any combination of the following categories:

- A) **Magazine or Newspaper Staff Writer/Columnist:** Two points for each outdoor column, article or side bar.
- B) **Freelance Outdoor Writer:** Two points for each outdoor-related column, article.
- C) **Internet Writer:** Two points for each outdoor-related column or article published on third-party, non-author-owned, Web sites or e-zines. Six points per year for contributions as a contract blogger on third party blog sites. Such submissions are expected to contain informative outdoor-related material and be updated or submitted on a consistent basis. Twelve points maximum allowed in this category.
- D) **Owner, publisher or webmaster of non-static, contributory Web site, Blog site or e-Zine:** Twelve points for each site. The Membership Committee may require printed proof of publication and may use discretion in awarding additional points for unusual production efforts.
- E) **Outdoor Photographer:** Two points for each individually-compensated photo (Online or print). One point for each photo published as part of a writer's/photo/story combo (online or print).
- F) **Audio/Visual Outdoor Communicator. Host, writer, and/or producer of an outdoor radio or television show:** One point for each original radio or TV broadcast. Ten points for each new release of a commercially-available outdoor video or audio tape. Four points for any original audio or video Podcast.
- G) **Outdoor Artist, Illustrator, or Cartoonist:** Two points for each color or black-and-white work (all mediums.)
- H) **Book author:** Sixteen points for each outdoor-related book published within a three-year period.
- I) **Lecturer:** One point for each professionally-compensated speaking engagement.
- J) **Public Relations:** Sixteen points for an employee of a public agency or private organization engaged in outdoor publicity.
- K) **Print Publisher:** Sixteen points per year for each magazine or newspaper produced.

**2. ACTIVE/SENIOR MEMBER:** An individual, who has been an Active member for at least 10 years, is at least age 62 but still qualifies as an Active member. Dues will be half the annual dues paid by the Active category.

**3. ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** An individual who is compensated for some of his/her work in the field of outdoor communications under the categories listed in the Active category but who does not meet the minimum membership requirements of sixteen points. As FOWA assumes the applicant aspires to eventually become a professionally-compensated outdoor writer and Active member, compensation for this membership category may include in-kind payments. Associate members have all the benefits and privileges of Active membership, but may not vote or hold office. Dues will be the same as the Active category.

**4. LIFE MEMBER:** An individual meeting the criteria established in the Bylaws shall be elected by the Association at any regular meeting by a majority of the Active membership present. Life membership is a gesture of respect and gratitude in recognition of outstanding contributions in the work or success of FOWA. Election to Life membership shall in no way deprive the recipient of his/her part in the administration of the affairs of the Association, including the right to vote on issues and hold office in the Association. Life members pay no dues. The Life membership category will be limited to 10 percent of FOWA's individual membership.

**5. CORPORATE/TOURISM MEMBER:** A Corporate/Tourism member is any outdoor organization, association, company, business, tourism development entity or commercial firm with a common interest in the purposes of FOWA. Corporate/Tourism members shall have all privileges of Active membership but may not vote or hold office except where otherwise provided in the Constitution or Bylaws. They are invited to take part in all conferences, workshops and events at member rates and receive all publications as well as being listed in the Membership Directory. They may request

membership lists and labels to mail company or product information to members and are welcome to take part in the Annual Conference as sponsors and to participate in the Corporate and Tourism Showcase.

**6. CONSERVATION PARTNER:** In accordance with FOWA's 501C3 designation, a Conservation Partner is any company, business, organization, association, commercial firm or individual who strongly supports FOWA's stated goals and objectives. Conservation Partners are invited to attend all conferences, workshops and events at member rates and to receive all publications as well as being listed in the annual Membership Directory.

**PROCEDURE FOR REINSTATEMENT:** If a member has been dropped from membership due to non-payment of dues, he/she may regain membership by: 1. Reapplying – the application will be processed the same as a new applicant. 2. Pay the current year's dues and processing fee (if any). No initiation fees will be charged.

**PROCEDURE FOR UPGRADING MEMBERSHIP STATUS:** A member in good standing (all dues paid) wishing to upgrade his/her membership to Active is required to submit proof of publication as stated in the criteria for active membership. He/she must also submit a new application that will be processed as a new applicant.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** All membership applications must be made on the form prepared for this purpose and available from the Executive Director or from the FOWA Web site. The form must be completed and submitted, with proofs of publication and payment attached, before membership is considered. Once a prospective member has been approved by the Membership Committee, a packet of information will be sent consisting of a welcome letter, directory, and FOWA sticker. Corporate/Tourism Members will also receive a disc containing FOWA's membership database and email list.



# FOWA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check one:  Active  Associate  Cons. Partner  Student  
(See above for current FOWA membership criteria and qualifications)

(Please complete this entire form and attach your Directory Information.)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME (not required) \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ WEB SITE URL: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for Active or Associate members are \$100 per year. Dues for Conservation Partners are \$25 per year. Student Member dues is \$15 per year. Active/Senior dues are \$50 per year. Dues are due no later than March 1. Applications received after September 1 are subject to pro-rated fees (see above).

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK \$ \_\_\_\_\_ AE \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: (00/00) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Name, address and phone number must match your credit card's billing information. If not the same, please advise.*

## CERTIFICATION

I certify that I qualify for the membership level checked above under the current requirements for membership and am a paid outdoor communicator:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I have enclosed the following documents to complete the membership process:**

- Proof of Payment (letters from employers, pay stubs, etc.)
- Proof of Qualification (tear sheets, copies, etc., see Membership Criteria)
- Check or Credit Card information for dues

Mail this completed form and documents to:

Tommy Thompson, FOWA, 24 NW 33 Court, Suite A, Gainesville, FL 32607

## FOWA DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Write your own updated Directory listing on this page (or enclose a separate sheet or digital file) and send it along with your Membership Application. If this is a renewal and you're 'absolutely, positively' satisfied with your previous listing, note 'as previously published' in the box below.

The FOWA Membership Directory is published each spring and will include this information.

Here are a few examples:

**SARGEANT, FRANK (Life)**

**PH: (813) 645-4334**

**Email: [fsargean@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fsargean@tampabay.rr.com)**

1427 Deirdre Drive, Ruskin, FL 33570. Outdoor Editor Tampa Tribune. Florida Sportsman Projects Editor. Freelance credits include: Outdoor Life Boating Editor, Contributing Editor Boating Magazine, Senior Script Writer "Outdoor World" television. Sports Afield, Field & Stream, Boating/RV. Specialties: Fishing tackle retailer. Marine electronics reporting and fishing boat testing. FOWA President 1988. Member: OWAA, DU and Trout. (1981) Spouse: Darla

**MARKHAM, RAY E. (A)**

**PH: (941) 723-2655 W: (941) 228-3474**

**Email: [flatback@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:flatback@tampabay.rr.com)**

P.O. Box 297, Terra Ceia, FL 34250. West Central Region Editor and online contributor for Florida Sportsman Magazine. Speaker at Florida Sportsman Fishing Shows. Radio show co-host for Florida Sportsman Magazine Live, WWBA 1040 AM on Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m. Credits: Columnist for Tampa Tribune's "On the Waterfront." Board member CCA, Old Salt Fishing Foundation. (2005)

**HUFF, SANDY (A)**

**PH&FAX: (727) 725-1015 CELL: (727) 420-6184**

**Email: [HuffSandy@aol.com](mailto:HuffSandy@aol.com)**

3530 Fairview Street, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. FOWA Board Member 2003-05. Freelance photojournalist specializing in travel, paddling, sailing, fishing, birding and other outdoor subjects. Author of "Paddler's Guide to the Sunshine State," available at University Press of Florida. Author of CHOMP!, a play about a poetry retreat on an alligator farm (email for a reader's copy). 1,098 credits in 119 publications. Canoe, sailing, and writing instructor. MA in Communications. Member: Penwomen, Windlasses, US Sailing. 2005 Winner of the Horace Carter Award. (1986) Spouse: Bill

Official Notice, Florida Outdoor Writers Association, Florida Registration #CH17939:

A copy of the Official Registration and Financial Information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.