



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your interest in MTWA. Membership is by invitation and limited to travel journalists and public relations professionals living and working in the Midwest states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

MTWA was founded in 1951 for the purpose of protecting and upgrading travel writing as a profession by exchanging ideas, encouraging high professional ideals, and helping preserve and improve communication between travel writers and consumers.

There are two categories of MTWA membership:

An **Active Member** is a salaried editor or writer or freelance contributor residing in the Association's membership area who is responsible for travel-related content for a newspaper, magazine, or specialty publication.

An **Associate Member** is a person residing in the Association's membership area who is engaged primarily in public relations within the travel industry and who has worked regularly with the travel media for a minimum of one year.

Applications for new members are accepted twice each year (January 15 and July 15) for consideration by the MTWA Membership Committee and the Board of Directors at the organization's spring and fall meetings.

Each application requires support of three MTWA-member sponsors. It is to your advantage that sponsors know you well and are familiar with your work and professional abilities. Each sponsor must complete a copy of the enclosed Sponsor Form and return it directly to MTWA by January 15 or July 15.

You must mail your completed application form and support materials, along with a \$50 non-refundable application fee, to MTWA by either the January 15 or July 15 deadline. An omission of any of these items will result in the return of the application and may (based on review schedule) jeopardize your eligibility until the next review period.

It is important to note that membership in MTWA is by invitation. Each application is considered in the context of MTWA's current needs, size, geographic distribution, and determination of quality. Membership is not automatically awarded when the requirements on the application form are met, but is at the discretion of the committee which makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for final vote.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the review process shortly after the organization's spring or fall meeting. Those accepted will be considered members in good standing only after payment of dues in the amount of \$75 for Active Members and \$125 for Associate Members.

Direct all inquiries and mail all correspondence to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542
Phone: 402.438.2253; Fax: 866.365.4851; Email: glhinz@alltel.net

January 23, 2008



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION REQUIRED OF APPLICANTS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Editors of publications with more than 10,000 circulation must submit:

1. A copy of your masthead with your name indicated as editor; and
2. Background information and proof of circulation of your publication.

Freelance or Staff Writers must submit:

1. Five full-length travel articles published within the previous 12 months in publications with an audited circulation of at least 10,000. Mount or photocopy these submissions on 8½x11-inch paper in a way that shows byline, publication date, and name of publication; and
2. A list of all travel material published in the past three years.

Book Authors must submit:

1. Most recent travel-related title with a minimum of 5,000 copies press run published within the past 12 months; and
2. A list of other work.

Broadcast Writers must submit:

1. Sample tapes; and
2. A letter of recommendation from your program manager.

Writers of other material must submit:

1. Five samples of your work (e.g., Internet travel sites, specialty publication, non-audited publications, etc.) that equal work published in audited publications and have been produced within the past 12 months.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

1. List travel accounts or, in the case of DMOs, a description of your area and its story potential.
2. Submit a letter on your organization's letterhead from your immediate supervisor verifying your position. (Disregard if your company is a sole proprietorship.)

EVERY APPLICANT MUST ATTACH A ONE-PAGE LETTER DESCRIBING:

1. Your work;
 2. Length of time in the travel-writing/travel field; and
 3. Percentage time devoted to travel journalism/working with travel journalists.
- Other information such as honors, awards, and affiliations with other travel-related groups may be included if Applicants wish.

Information and materials submitted by Applicants are reviewed by a Membership Committee which makes recommendations to MTWA's Board of Directors who vote at each regular Board Meeting on admitting Applicants to MTWA.

Remember, Applicants must submit:

1. **The first page of the Application for Membership form;**
2. **Sponsor Forms (or arrange for Sponsors to submit them);**
3. **Supporting information depending upon occupation and/or type of membership; and**
4. **A \$50 non-refundable application fee.**

Supporting information can be returned if Applicants send SASE.

September 5, 2006



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

As defined by MTWA's Bylaws: "An Active Member is a salaried editor or writer or freelance contributor residing in the Association's Membership Area who is responsible for travel-related content for a newspaper, magazine, or specialty publication and who meets other Membership Requirements established by the Board of Directors. Professionals working in other travel-related media will be considered for Active Member status on a case-by-case basis."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Position/Title/Status: _____ Since: _____

Company: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Office Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Home Email: _____

SPONSORS

Applicants must supply names of three members of MTWA as sponsors.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please provide each sponsor with a Sponsor Form to be completed and postmarked on or before January 15 (for consideration at MTWA's spring meeting) or July 15 (for consideration at MTWA's fall meeting). Applicants are responsible for ensuring that sponsors meet these deadlines.

**Mail this page, other required materials, and a \$50 non-refundable application fee postmarked on or before January 15 (for consideration at MTWA's spring meeting) or July 15 (for consideration at MTWA's fall meeting) to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542**

January 23, 2008



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

As defined by MTWA's Bylaws: "An Associate Member is a person residing in the Association's Membership Area who is engaged primarily in public relations within the travel industry and who has worked regularly with the travel media for a minimum of one year. Associate Members may be required to meet additional Membership Requirements established by the Board of Directors."

Name: _____ Date: _____

Position/Title/Status: _____ Since: _____

Company: _____

Company Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Office Email: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

Home Email: _____

SPONSORS

Applicants must supply names of three members of MTWA as sponsors.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Please provide each sponsor with a Sponsor Form to be completed and postmarked on or before January 15 (for consideration at MTWA's spring meeting) or July 15 (for consideration at MTWA's fall meeting). Applicants are responsible for ensuring that sponsors meet these deadlines.

**Mail this page, other required materials, and a \$50 non-refundable application fee postmarked on or before January 15 (for consideration at MTWA's spring meeting) or July 15 (for consideration at MTWA's fall meeting) to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542**

January 23, 2008



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

SPONSOR FORM

Applicants must be sponsored by three MTWA members in good standing. **A nominating member must have been a member for at least one year, must have attended at least one Association meeting prior to submitting the application, AND may nominate only two Associates during each application period of January and July.**

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Applying for MTWA membership status: Active Associate

Sponsor's Name: _____ Active Associate

Sponsor's Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

I know applicant: Casually Fairly well Well Very well

I have known applicant: 1 year 2 years 5 years More than 5 years

I have traveled with applicant: Never Once Twice Several times

I have worked with applicant: Once Twice Several times

Why have you agreed to sponsor the applicant? (Comments on above): _____

NOTE: You must use the other side of this page or attach a one-page summary explaining why you feel the applicant should be accepted for membership, including what you know about the applicant's professional duties, work performance, clients/destination represented, and anything else you deem pertinent, such as what the applicant can bring to MTWA. (Please be candid. This information will be reviewed only by the Membership Committee and Board of Directors.) Sponsor, remember that you may sponsor only two applicants per membership applicant period.

Any Sponsor Form submitted without comments, not fully completed, not legible, or not signed, will be returned and (if it impedes review schedule) may jeopardize applicant's eligibility.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

**Sponsor, please mail completed form directly to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542
Postmark on or before January 15 or July 15.**

January 23, 2008



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

SPONSOR FORM

Applicants must be sponsored by three MTWA members in good standing. **A nominating member must have been a member for at least one year, must have attended at least one Association meeting prior to submitting the application, AND may nominate only two Associates during each application period of January and July.**

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Applying for MTWA membership status: Active Associate

Sponsor's Name: _____ Active Associate

Sponsor's Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

I know applicant: Casually Fairly well Well Very well

I have known applicant: 1 year 2 years 5 years More than 5 years

I have traveled with applicant: Never Once Twice Several times

I have worked with applicant: Once Twice Several times

Why have you agreed to sponsor the applicant? (Comments on above): _____

NOTE: You must use the other side of this page or attach a one-page summary explaining why you feel the applicant should be accepted for membership, including what you know about the applicant's professional duties, work performance, clients/destination represented, and anything else you deem pertinent, such as what the applicant can bring to MTWA. (Please be candid. This information will be reviewed only by the Membership Committee and Board of Directors.) Sponsor, remember that you may sponsor only two applicants per membership applicant period.

Any Sponsor Form submitted without comments, not fully completed, not legible, or not signed, will be returned and (if it impedes review schedule) may jeopardize applicant's eligibility.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

**Sponsor, please mail completed form directly to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542
Postmark on or before January 15 or July 15.**

January 23, 2008



MIDWEST TRAVEL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

The Oldest Association of Professional Travel Writers in the U.S.

SPONSOR FORM

Applicants must be sponsored by three MTWA members in good standing. **A nominating member must have been a member for at least one year, must have attended at least one Association meeting prior to submitting the application, AND may nominate only two Associates during each application period of January and July.**

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Applying for MTWA membership status: Active Associate

Sponsor's Name: _____ Active Associate

Sponsor's Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

I know applicant: Casually Fairly well Well Very well

I have known applicant: 1 year 2 years 5 years More than 5 years

I have traveled with applicant: Never Once Twice Several times

I have worked with applicant: Once Twice Several times

Why have you agreed to sponsor the applicant? (Comments on above): _____

NOTE: You must use the other side of this page or attach a one-page summary explaining why you feel the applicant should be accepted for membership, including what you know about the applicant's professional duties, work performance, clients/destination represented, and anything else you deem pertinent, such as what the applicant can bring to MTWA. (Please be candid. This information will be reviewed only by the Membership Committee and Board of Directors.) Sponsor, remember that you may sponsor only two applicants per membership applicant period.

Any Sponsor Form submitted without comments, not fully completed, not legible, or not signed, will be returned and (if it impedes review schedule) may jeopardize applicant's eligibility.

Sponsor's Signature: _____

**Sponsor, please mail completed form directly to:
MTWA, P.O. Box 83542, Lincoln, NE 68501-3542
Postmark on or before January 15 or July 15.**

January 23, 2008