



Fond du Lac Yacht Club

Tel: 920-921-9950 705 Mohawk Drive P.O. Box 1930 Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1930  
www.fdyachtclub.com



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION INFORMATION

PLEASE READ COMPLETELY

### **SPONSOR INFORMATION**

Sponsoring a prospective member is an important step that should not be taken lightly. While we are far from an elitist organization, the fact that the clubhouse operates as a key club without paid staff makes it necessary to determine that applicants are persons of good character. Will the prospect have the time and interest to fulfill the requirements of membership? Fifty hours of service the first year is not a method of free labor, but rather, a device to introduce the member to the club. The Probationary hours are not for sale, but must be earned. We serve no one by letting their membership die for lack of probationary hours. Explain the Work or Pay rule that requires twelve hours of service each year.

Show your prospect around the clubhouse; explain what and who we are. Bring them to a membership meeting. Their application cannot be read to the membership until they attend at least one meeting with one of their sponsors.

As sponsor you will receive a letter asking you to explain why your prospect will be a good member, please complete and return it promptly.

Finally, as sponsor, you are your prospect's mentor. Serve them well.

### **PROSPECTIVE MEMBER INFORMATION**

Talk to your sponsor about the Fond du Lac Yacht Club; have them explain the requirements of membership. You will be required the complete fifty hours of service to the club during your first year of membership, everyone must do this and your first year dues and initiation fee are NOT refundable if you fail. In the event of a Joint / Regular applicant the work requirement is reduced for the second applicant. You are also expected to provide twelve hours of service to the club each year after your first. This is a work or pay rule, and there are some exceptions.

Applications must be received by the Membership Secretary prior to the Board of Director's meeting (usually the last Thursday of the month) for processing and presentation to the Board. You may be asked to meet with a screening committee prior to the processing of your application. Your application will then be read to the Membership at the next Regular Meeting. The application is then posted in the clubhouse for at least 28 days. If no serious objections are raised to the

application, the applicant is then voted upon at the next Membership Meeting. Your one year Probationary membership begins at this time. You will be Indoctrinated, receive your membership booklet, and door key at that time. The attached excerpts of the club by-laws are for your information. Keep them! Return only the application, the required proof of boat ownership, and payment.

Upon Indoctrination, you will receive a complete copy of the by-laws, policies, house rules, and a membership roster.

Above all, we want you to enjoy the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, but we must share the work as well as the fun. If you are willing, hop aboard!

### **APPLICATION INFORMATION**

Complete the application, be as accurate as possible. Information about your boat is important, this is a yacht club. Be sure, in the future, to keep this information up-to-date as only boat owners (with some exceptions) are voting members. Include a copy of your boat documentation, boat title, or certificate of number. New members must be boat owners. Also include payment of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX (\$336.00) as payment of your current year dues (\$168.00) and initiation fee (\$168.00). In the event that this is the application of the spouse of a current or prospective member (Joint/ Regular Member) include only the current year dues (\$168.00). **Dues and Initiation fees must accompany the application.**

Sent the completed application, boat ownership proof, and correct fees to:

Fond du Lac Yacht Club  
Attn: Membership Services  
PO Box 1930  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1930

Or have one of your sponsors leave the application in the Member Services mailbox in the office.



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## MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The governing rules of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc., are the By Laws. The application form itself, and this policy statement are interpretive policy of those By Laws and do not supersede them in any way. This is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions by prospective members and assist them in deciding whether or not to seek membership.

1. **Membership Process.** As explained in the letter acknowledging the application there are steps taken leading toward a membership vote accepting one into Probationary membership. The application must be reviewed by the Screening Committee and Board of Directors prior to being presented at a membership meeting, listing in our monthly newsletter and posting on the bulletin board for twenty-eight days. During this time, the prospective member's references and sponsors are contacted and there may be a meeting with the Screening Committee, Board of Directors or both. This entire process takes five to eight weeks depending upon receipt of the application. The Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of each month. Of primary concern is demonstration of boat ownership, interest in safe recreational boating on Lake Winnebago and the comments of sponsors and references. Those persons who aspire to Yacht Club membership but have no sponsors are encouraged to join one of the auxiliary clubs. This is a good way to get to know members and eventually gain sponsorship. Information on the Boating Club, Sailing Club, Ice Yachters, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and Nautigals can be requested from any member. The primary contacts are listed on an information sheet by the bar phone at the Yacht Club. These organizations are all independent entities but hold their meetings at the Yacht club and are comprised mostly of Yacht Club members.
2. **Classes of Membership.** There are several classes of membership including Life and Honorary fully described in the By Laws. Each class has its own rights and responsibilities. Those classes which can be applied for are *Regular Membership*, and *Joint Regular Membership*. During the first year leading to regular membership, the prospective member will be a *Probationary Member*.
  - a. **Regular Membership.** This category of membership comprises the vast majority of the membership of the Club. To attain this status, one must be a boat owner over twenty-one who satisfies the Board of interest in boating and support of the Yacht Club and its purposes. Regular Members have full voting rights if they attend three meetings per year and maintain ownership of a boat. Voting rights are lost after two years without a boat. Certain age and length of service requirements form exceptions to this. Regular Members are required to perform twelve hours of service each year including credit of one hour each for meeting attendance.

- b. **Joint Regular Membership.** The legally married spouse of a Regular Member can become a Joint Regular Member. Rights and obligations including the vote, dues and twelve hour service rule apply. No initiation fee nor fifty hours of probationary service are required. Wisconsin Marital Property Rights statutes provide that if a boat is owned by either spouse, it is owned by both in the absence of other mutual agreements between the parties.
  - c. **Probationary Membership.** During the first year of membership, Regular Members are Probationary Members. After indoctrination they have full rights of membership and are required to perform fifty hours of service. The primary purpose of the service time is to gain knowledge about the Club, its members, facilities and procedures. A Probationary Member's spouse can contribute to the service time requirement. For couples jointly applying for Regular Membership and Joint Regular Membership, only one spouse need fulfill the fifty-hour requirement. In short, the two must serve sixty-two hours between them. Both will be considered as Probationary Members. After one year of probationary service and upon recommendation of the Indoctrination Committee, a voice vote is taken to make Probationary Members Regular or Joint Regular Members.
3. **Indoctrination.** Following the vote into Probationary Membership, a two-hour indoctrination session will be scheduled. During this session, Club procedures and facilities will be demonstrated and explained. The key card will be issued **only** at this Indoctrination session.

Excerpted from the By Laws of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc. (Adopted June 2006)

## ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

No citizen under age of 21 may become a member. A written application must be prepared by all applicants setting forth such data as may from time to time be required on the forms authorized and/or approved by the Board of Directors. Each application shall bear the signature of two Voting Members as sponsors and shall be accompanied by proof of boat ownership (Federal Documentation, State Title or, for boats not requiring these, a Department of Natural Resources Registration), and the initiation fee as may be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time. Dues for the current year shall also accompany the application if such application is submitted before October 1<sup>st</sup>. All such applications and deposits shall be delivered to the Secretary prior to commencement of the screening and review by, and at the option of, the Board of Directors at its next meeting or thereafter. Following receipt of the application, the applicant's name shall be:

- a. Posted on the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc. bulletin board for at least 28 days; and
- b. Included in a bulletin, electronic communication, or the regular publication of Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc., available to all Voting Members before being voted upon by the Voting Members.

The Board of Directors may establish a Screening Committee that will be convened if the background check indicates further review of an applicant is necessary. The committee shall be composed of such persons as it shall designate from time to time to review applications for membership. To assist any such Screening Committee, all members are urged to present adverse comments prior to Board of Directors approval. Upon such review as the Board of Directors deems satisfactory, and upon compliance with the notice requirements set forth above, the application shall be acted upon at the next Regular Meeting of Voting Members or at such meeting thereafter as the application may be heard.

The applicant may be required to meet in person with the Screening Committee or with the Board of Directors. Additionally, the applicant must attend at least one (1) Regular Meeting accompanied by at least one (1) of the applicant's Voting Member sponsors before the application may be acted upon.

All applicants shall be deemed to warrant and represent that they have not been convicted of a felony except as may be disclosed in writing on the application. The Board of Directors or the Screening Committee, at their option, may reject any application if the applicant has been convicted of a felony.

Falsification of such application may result in forfeiture of membership

All applicants who:

- a. Meet each and every requirement for membership, and
- b. Obtain an approving majority vote of the Voting Members in attendance at the meeting where the application is acted upon.

shall be accorded membership to the category herein provided.

If any applicant is not accorded membership, then upon written request, such applicant shall be entitled to have his/her application reviewed by the Board of Directors. Upon such review, the Board of Directors may either reject further consideration of the application or in the alternative, cause the application to be reconsidered by the Voting Members.



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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

*Please, Only One Applicant per Application (See Backside for the Fee Structure)*

**I hereby apply for membership in the Fond du Lac Yacht Club. I recognize that acceptance is subject to a voting process and that I will be subject to the by-laws and policies of the Club.**

**Please Print**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Make of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Length : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Boat: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Summarize your boating experience:

List other boating clubs and dates of membership:

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Why do you wish to become a member of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club?

Preferred names on nametags: Self \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSORS** – You must have two voting members of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club act as your sponsors. They are responsible for introducing you to the club and you **must** attend at least one membership meeting as the guest of one of your sponsors.

**PRINT** First Sponsors name: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the applicant attend a membership meeting with you?: \_\_\_\_\_ Which meeting?: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant?: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT** Second Sponsors name: \_\_\_\_\_

Did the applicant attend a membership meeting with you?: \_\_\_\_\_ Which meeting?: \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant?: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Each sponsor will be contacted regarding your application. Additionally, you may be required to meet with the Screening Committee prior to processing your application.

I certify that the information included in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have read and understand the attached excerpts from the by-laws of the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc. and I agree to the membership screening process of the Club. I also agree to abide by the rules and the by-laws of the Club. I understand that as a Probationary Member I will be expected to perform fifty (50) hours of service to the Club during my first year of membership, and will be expected to perform twelve (12) hours of service each year of my membership thereafter as provided in the by-laws and policies of the Club. ***I have never been convicted of a felony***, except as disclosed to the Board of Directors.

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT PLEASE READ THIS**-This application must be accompanied by payment of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX (\$336) which covers \$168.00 initiation fee & \$168.00 first year dues. The initiation fee is not required if this application is for a Joint/Regular membership of a legal spouse of a member or prospective member. **Proof of ownership of a boat is also required.** A copy of your Certificate of Documentation, Certificate of Title, or Certificate of Number must also be included.

**KEEP THE EXCERPTS OF THE BY-LAWS, THEY ARE FOR YOU. DO NOT INCLUDE THEM WITH THIS APPLICATION.**

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Date of receipt: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor letters sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Screening Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Date read to Board: \_\_\_\_\_ Date read to membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Date posted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Membership vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of indoctrination and presentation of membership card: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Acceptance as voting member: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of demit: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: The IRS has ruled that contributions or gifts to the Fond du Lac Yacht Club, Inc. are not deductible from Federal Income Taxes.**