

New Nest Information Packet

How can I start a new Ravens Nest?

Any group of individuals who possess a mutual desire to promulgate the purposes of the Chamber, each of whom shall be at least 18 years of age, shall be eligible to apply for membership as a Ravens Nest and a Chamber member.

New Ravens Nest applications must be investigated and referred to the floor for approval by vote by the Chamber President's Membership Committee.

Are you a Full Membership or Associate Nest? What is the difference?

A Full Membership Nest is afforded full voting rights at the Chamber level. If your geographical location is 75 miles or more away from the Chamber, you can apply as an Associate Nest. As an Associate Nest, you will not be required to attend Chamber meetings but will have to submit your Nest meeting minutes to be read on the floor during the meeting.

What do I have to do?

Working with the Membership Committee, you will submit an initiation fee which includes cost of charter (Articles of Incorporation), together with the pro-rated payment of dues, to the Treasurer through the Chairman of the Membership Committee. The committee, upon acceptance of application, will further assist you with your Articles of Incorporation and provide you with current By-Laws. They will assist you in the process of electing your Officers and Board of Directors. We encourage new Nests to visit other Nests during their meeting night to experience the process and flow of a Nest meeting. As a new Nest, you will be required to declare a yearly primary charity that your Nest will support. You should also consider monthly charities to support. All charities should be regionally based in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Who can be a member of my new Nest?

Any person 18 or older, who is not already a dues paying member of another Ravens Nest, may be a member of a new Nest. If a current member of a Ravens Nest wishes to join your Nest, they must first officially resign, in writing, from their current Nest.

I have questions about procedure after acceptance. Whom can I talk to?

You can ask anyone in the Chamber any questions you might have. You can also visit a Nest close to your new Nest and observe their monthly meeting. Let them know who you are and that you are visiting. We help one another. Nest meeting times and locations are on the Chamber website.

What are the yearly Nest dues?

The yearly Nest dues owed to the Chamber are \$120 per year.

The relevant sections of our Chamber By-Laws follow this summary. Our full By-Laws are posted on our website:

RavensNests.org

In the Contact Us page of our site.

Chamber of Ravens Nests

NEW NEST MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date of Application: _____

Applicant: _____

Meeting Place Address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Referred by? _____

"I, the undersigned, do hereby make formal application for Membership to Chamber of Ravens Nests and will actively support the organization, attend meetings, and participate in the activities thereof to the best of my/our ability."

Applicant Signature: _____

Chamber Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Raven Inn, Towson MD.

Membership dues are \$120.00 year per Nest.

Please make check payable to the Chamber of Ravens Nests.

For more information, please go to our website:

RavensNests.org



ARTICLE IV

Membership

Section 1.

The membership of the Chamber shall consist of two types of officially approved and chartered Ravens Nest.

1. Full-membership nest.
 - a. Such a nest is the principal focus of the requirements stated in Sections 2 and 3 of Article IV.
2. Associate Nest.
 - a. Such a nest is a group whose geographical distance is greater than 75 miles from the Chamber meeting location.
 - b. As such they are not obligated to fulfill the meeting attendance requirements of Sections 2 of Article IV.
 - c. Are always welcome at the Chamber meetings, functions and /or events. And will have the privileges of all other Nests.
 - d. Are held accountable to all the same requirements as a Full-membership nest.
 - e. An Associate Nests that chooses not to attend meetings is required to submit meeting minutes to the Chamber Recording Secretary every two months.

Section 2.

Meeting Requirements: Each member Nest shall remain a member in good standing as long as its dues are current and as long as it meets all the obligations and requirements set forth herein, including maintenance of its charter and attendance of a representative at a minimum of nine (9) meetings per year. Each Nest must also maintain at least 15 members or be subject to forfeiture of its voting privileges.

Section 3.

Only active Nests in good standing shall be entitled to be represented at meetings, to vote on Chamber business and to have members hold office. Guests do not have a 'voice' at meetings unless they are a member of a Chamber established committee. Their 'voice' may only be heard as it pertains to that committee at the appropriate agenda time.

Section 4.

Any Nest not in "Good Standing" with their State will have sixty days to resolve the issue. If the issue is not resolved within sixty days, then that Nest shall loose it's privilege of having a "voice" at meetings, voting privileges suspended, and it's members cannot hold office.

Section 5.

Any nest not in compliance with the Chambers meeting attendance requirements shall loose it's privilege of having a "voice" at meetings, voting privileges suspended, and it's members cannot hold office. Such privileges will only be reinstated after the Nests sends a representative to three (3) consecutive meetings.

Section 6.

Prior to acceptance as Full membership into the Chamber of Ravens Nests, the Chamber will identify and agree upon at least one neighboring Nest to act as Mentor for one year to the New Nest.

ARTICLE V

Membership-Qualifications and Procedures

Section 1.

Any group of individuals recommended by the Membership Committee who possess a mutual desire to promulgate the purposes of the Chamber and who are 15 or more in number, each of whom shall be at least 21 years of age, shall be eligible to apply for membership as a Ravens Nest and a Chamber member. The group applying for membership shall pass a formal resolution by which it binds itself upon acceptance as a member of the Chamber to conform to and abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chamber. In the case of a conflict between Nest by-laws and Chamber by-laws, Chamber by-laws shall prevail.

Section 2.

The applicants shall submit at the time of application an initiation fee which includes cost of charter (Articles of Incorporation), together with the pro-rated payment of dues, to the Treasurer through the Chairman of the Membership Committee. In the event the applicants are not accepted for membership, all fees and dues shall be promptly refunded. The applicant shall not re-apply for membership for at least 6 months from the time of rejection or notification of failure to receive charter.

Section 3.

The Membership Committee, during their period of investigation, shall relate to the applicants, (1) the requirements for membership, (2) adherence to the Chamber By Laws, (3) maintaining an active interest in the activities of the Chamber as well as those activities sponsored by other Nests, (4) sponsorship of a Charitable Organization, and (5) requirements for proper conduct.

Section 4.

The Membership Committee shall meet with the applicants to verify its membership and officers. At the next scheduled Chamber meeting representatives from the applicants will attend the meeting and introduce themselves. Thereafter, the representatives will leave the meeting room and a vote will be taken. Election for membership as a Ravens Nest shall be by at least a majority vote of the member Nests present. Each Nest so elected shall automatically become a member of the Chamber.

Section 5.

No individual shall be eligible for membership in any Ravens Nest if they are already a dues paying member of another Ravens Nest.

Section 6.

Any individual who resigns from any Nest of their own volition shall be eligible for membership in any other Nest upon proper application for such membership.