

MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Summary

Membership in the Gentlemen's Club of Suburban Hennepin (GMC) shall consist of all persons who have met the requirements for membership, been approved by the Membership Committee and are listed on the membership role. The process to obtain membership shall involve a personal commitment to the Constitution of GMC, acceptance and signing of GMC's Code of Conduct, and completion of the GMC's induction requirements. Upon acceptance, each member shall be required to sign the GMC Code of Conduct, and receive a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws as part of the registration process.

Membership shall be open to all qualifying individuals within Minnesota. Membership starts after the applicant meets membership requirements, applies for full membership, agrees to the membership agreement, and pays the required membership fee. Membership cannot be transferred, inherited, or otherwise assigned to another individual. Membership is solely the privilege of that member. Membership terminates by cancellation of the membership, by failing to pay membership fees, or by failing to adhere to the membership agreement.

Code of Conduct

The GMC Code of Conduct contains the general values and principles guiding acceptable behaviors of all members. Its primary goal is to ensure a respectful and inclusive environment for members within the organization and the larger community. The Code outlines expected professional behaviors, conflict of interest, and commitment to diversity and transparency. As such, members are responsible to aspire to the highest possible standards of conduct.

Each member is expected to use their membership to raise the profile of the GMC at all times. This includes volunteering and networking with other community groups or institutions and positively advancing GMC's mission, vision, and core values. The GMC expects all members to exemplify the highest ideals of professional conduct, characterized by respect for one another, youth mentees, partners and organizations that the GMC does business with. At all times GMC members are expected to foster an environment of integrity, including refraining from fraudulent and unethical practices.

General Membership

GMC membership shall be open to any male who is at least 21 years of age, who vows to abide by GMC's mission, vision, and core values, and who resides in the State of Minnesota:

- a) All members are obligated to act in ways that validate and enhance the trust of The Gentlemen's Club and the community in which we live.
- b) All members must not knowingly be a party to any illegal activity or engage in acts that tend to discredit the integrity of the GMC.
- c) All members are required to meet up with their yearly dues and all other financial obligations as agreed to by the GMC.
- d) All members must respect and abide by the provisions and standards contained in this Constitution

Membership Classification

- *Regular/Resident Members*: All members who reside within the State of Minnesota. They shall be required to provide valid proof of age or residency in the form of a valid Minnesota driver's license, a State ID, or a current passport. They shall be currently active in the GMC's programs and activities.
- *Associate/Non-active/Non-Resident Membership*: All members who do not reside within the State of Minnesota, or are not currently active in the GMC's programs and activities. This includes persons who, by reasons of relocation, illness, incapacitation, or financial delinquency, cannot attend regular meetings, events, or functions for a period exceeding 6 months.
- *Distinguished Membership*: Applies to distinguished members of the State of Minnesota such as City Mayors, State/Federal Senators or Representatives, Professional Athletes, Police Directors, as well as elders above the age of 65.

Rights of Membership

Every active/resident member shall have the right to participate in the following matters: The annual budget of the GMC, the disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the GMC, the merger or dissolution of the GMC, acquisition of property, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws AND Constitution of the GMC.

Termination of Membership

GMC retains the right to terminate a membership at any time should there be any clear violation(s) of GMC Member Code of Conduct, or multiple accounts of negative feedback by other GMC members and/or other credible sources. Members are expected to report any issues involving a potential violation of the Code directly, confidentially and anonymously to the Executive Leadership in writing. All complaints of potential violations of the Code made in good faith will receive a fair and comprehensive investigation conducted with the relevant internal and/or external assistance. The Executive Leadership shall take action should an individual be deemed to have violated the Code. Membership shall generally terminate due to a member's Death, Transfer of membership, or by personal request of the member.

Activating Membership

Membership becomes active when the member application is received and the fee payment is processed by GMC. Membership is valid for one year and is automatically renewed on the anniversary date. Once your membership is activated, you will receive a confirmation email with organizational information and other useful information to get you started. You will be notified about upcoming events, networking opportunities, and receive GMC's electronic newsletters.

Diversity and Transparency

GMC members are expected to act in the spirit of diversity, upholding a culture where the multiple dimensions of identity and expression within which diversity are valued and respected. This includes ethnicity i.e. racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, opinion and expression. As a democratically governed organization, the GMC is committed to transparency. GMC members are expected to promote a culture of transparency and openness, in a manner that is free from pretence or deceit at all times.

Membership Due

Annual membership due is \$150.00. First half of membership payment is due on January 31st and the remaining balance is due on June 30th of each calendar year, with the EXCEPTION of new members whose full payment of membership dues are required upon completion of application process.

Membership Duration

Each membership, unless otherwise agreed, is valid for one calendar year; January 1st through December 31st.

Payment Methods

We accept credit card payments with American Express, VISA, MasterCard and Discover Card. Money orders and checks should be made payable to The Gentlemen Club of Suburban Hennepin.

Membership Renewal

GMC membership is revolving. It is automatically renewed January 1st of each year. However, if a member fails to meet up with his financial obligations without any formal communication to the membership committee in one calendar year, such member shall be considered a new member upon return, and will have to resubmit a new application. Notwithstanding, if a member provides a formal communication to the membership committee, he shall be accepted and regarded as a regular member, and will only be required to meet his annual financial obligation.

Membership Benefits

Membership benefits include services or products provided by GMC to its members. A full and most up-to-date list of member benefits can be found on the membership pages.

GMC membership benefits, example, "*GMC Member*" logo, cannot be used once a membership status becomes inactive. A violation of this policy shall require such member to pay the minimum amount equivalent to the membership dues for the inactive period. This amount must be paid before membership renewal can be processed.