

National League of American Pen Women

Membership Qualifications

A. An Applicant for Art Membership (i.e.: architect, cartoonist, choreographer, craftsman, designer, interior designer, graphic artist, illustrator, painter, photographer, or sculptor) shall submit to the Branch Membership Committee three (3) photographs and/or slides of her work, along with proof of sale in each category.

(1) The painter, sculptor, craftsman, and graphic artist shall show proof that her work has been chosen by a qualified jury of selection in at least three (3) jury exhibitions within the last five (5) years. Applicants, who have exhibited in three (3) nationally recognized art competitions, shall be accepted for membership without meeting this requirement. Jury selection requirements may be waived for applicants who have already received outstanding recognition in their field.

(2) The photographer shall show proof that her work has been accepted, within the past five (5) years, for exhibition or published in books, newspapers or national magazines as original creative fine art photography.

(3) The architect and commercial artist (cartoonist, visual technologist designer, interior designer, illustrator) of recognized professional standing shall show proof of work with established firms and/or publication of work within the past five (5) years.

B. An Applicant for Letters Membership (i.e.: advertising copy writer, author, coauthor, compiler, dramatist, editor, genealogist, lecturer, librettist, lyric writer, musicologist, periodical writer, photo journalist, poet, press writer, research worker, sales promotion copywriter, or script writer for motion pictures, radio or television) shall submit to the Branch Membership Committee, at least three (3) samples of her original work - unless of book length, for which only one (1) is required, together with proof of sale within the last five (5) years.

(1) Authors whose books have self-published, but NOT VANITY published, shall submit copies of their book (s) to be evaluated by the Branch to substantiate the professional quality of the book(s).

(2) Original writing of professional quality not only must be paid for, but also must have been published, unless the applicant is a salaried writer. In this case, she shall submit samples of her writing and proof of payment by her employer. Cash prizes will be considered as payment, if the material is published.

(3) A lecturer shall have professional rating in her subjects and her lectures shall be her own creative work. Scripts, recordings, auditions, or other forms of library credentials shall be submitted with proof of payment for her lectures, all held within the past five (5) years.

(4) An applicant for advertising/sales promotions shall be engaged in the field of graphic arts, lay-out, design, and/or copy writing for the purpose of publication in periodicals and sales promotion collateral.

(5) The musicologist, who is proficient in the science, history, forms and methods of music, in lecture or written, shall submit published copies of her work with proof of payment. Scripts or recordings of her paid lectures may be submitted.

C. An Applicant for Music Membership shall submit, to the Branch and to the National Composer's Committee, at least three (3) original published or unpublished compositions and/or arrangements which she has composed within the past five (5) years, along with proof of payment for at least one professionally published composition, or proof of at least one public performance of professional significance. (An arrangement is an adaptation or a composition to a different form from that in which it was originally written.) In submitting an arrangement, the applicant must include a copy of the composition in its original form, along with her arrangement of it, and permission from the original composer to make the arrangement if the composition is not in public domain.

(1) Proof of payment for a professionally published composition or arrangement shall consist of a copy or photocopy of a publisher's agreement with the composer.

(2) Proof of public performance of professional significance shall consist of printed programs, radio logs and/or TV schedules or tapes, along with written score.

(3) Music sung by a church or synagogue choir made up of volunteer congregates, which under other circumstances would be performed by paid singers, and performed in public. In many cases the music director of the institution is a paid staff professional.

(4) Music which is performed by community or children's theatres. In this case, the performers are not paid and most of the work is volunteer, thus the composer is not paid. However, in a regularly scheduled performance, a ticket price or a fee is charged to defray production expenses. This would not include parody lyrics, which are written to existing tunes - that is in the Letters category.

(5) Music which is performed at a benefit or fund-raiser. In this case, the composition is donated to entertain or to attract attention to the benefit, and the performers donate their time. The benefit is sponsored by a recognized organization, and the money is raised to support a needy organization or to fund a political issue.