



Application to Join PEN USA

**WRITERS DEFENDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
AND BUILDING A LITERARY COMMUNITY**

PEN is a worldwide organization of professional writers founded in 1921 by D.H. Lawrence, Joseph Conrad, John Galsworthy, Catharine Amy Dawson Scott, and George Bernard Shaw to develop a literary community not bounded by politics or governments. PEN Center USA, located in Los Angeles, was founded in 1943, incorporated as a non-profit association in 1981, and is now the third largest PEN Center in the world. Our mission is to promote and maintain a vital literary community in the Western United States, and advance freedom of expression throughout the world.

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

FULL MEMBERSHIP

If you are a writer, journalist, editor, or translator, regardless of your nationality, race, gender, or religion, and have accomplished a body of work of substantial literary value in one or more of the following categories, which meets membership criteria, we invite you to apply for membership in PEN USA.

- Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Criticism, Essay or Translation: Publication of at least one book or equivalent body of work, written solely by the applicant OR membership in the Authors Guild. Self-published, print-on-demand, and e-published books do not qualify.
- Journalism: Publication of an extensive body of work in newspapers, magazines and news media.
- Drama, Screenplay or Teleplay: Production of one play at an equity theatre written solely by applicant OR membership in the Dramatists Guild. Production of one feature screenplay OR teleplay or membership in the Writers Guild of America.
- Editorial Work: Editing by the applicant of at least five books within a five-year period.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Associate membership is open to any member of the literary community who supports PEN USA and its programs. Associate membership is available to students at a \$25 discounted rate.

THE PEN CHARTER

Visit www.penusa.org to review the benefits of PEN Membership.

The PEN Charter is based on resolutions passed at international congresses and may be summarized as affirming that:

1. Literature, national though it be in origin, knows no frontiers, and should remain common currency between nations in spite of political or international upheavals.
2. In all circumstances, and particularly in time of war, works of art, the patrimony of humanity at large, should be left untouched by national or political passion.
3. Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favor of good understanding and mutual respect between nations; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel race, class and national hatreds and to champion the ideal of one humanity living in peace in one world.
4. PEN stands for the principle of unhampered transmission of thought within each nation and between all nations, and members pledge themselves to oppose any form of suppression of freedom of expression in the country and community to which they belong. PEN declares for a free press and opposes arbitrary censorship in time of peace. It believes that the necessary advance of the world towards a more highly organized political and economic order renders a free criticism of governments, administrations and institutions imperative. And since freedom of expression implies voluntary restraint, members pledge themselves to oppose such evils of a free press as mendacious publication, deliberate falsehood and distortion of facts for political and personal ends.

I hereby affirm that I have read the above PEN charter and subscribe to its principles.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION ON THE REVERSE SIDE

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

Attach a literary resume that includes the applicable and necessary information listed below. Sign the PEN Charter on the front of this application and enclose an application fee payable to PEN Center USA. If you are accepted, your application fee will be applied to your dues for the first year.

For Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, Essay, Journalism, Criticism, Translation:

Please list title, publisher, year of publication, and genre of each published work. If candidate has not published one book, please list publications in which stories, poems, or articles have appeared, with each publication date.

For Drama, Screenplay, or Teleplay:

Please list title and year written of each work, and provide names, years and locations of producing theaters, film studios, or broadcast networks.

For Editorial Work:

Please list publishers, magazines, or other employers for whom you have done editorial work and length of employment with each, as well as names of authors, titles, etc., which you have edited.

Submit the required backup information and complete the following:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

URL: _____

- Full Membership – Application Fee & Dues \$79.00
- Associate Membership – Application Fee & Dues \$50.00
- Student Membership – Application Fee & Dues \$25.00

Please sign the PEN Charter on the front of this application.

How did you hear about our organization? _____

Return this application with your application fee & dues to:
PEN Center USA
P.O. Box 6037, Beverly Hills CA 90212
Phone: 323.424.4939
Email: membership@penusa.org
www.penusa.org