



The Mystic Krewe of

The Lords of Leather, Inc.

P.O. Box 770435
New Orleans, LA 70117

WWW.LORDSOFLEATHER.COM

2010/11 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in joining the Mystic Krewe of the Lords of Leather, Inc. The Lords of Leather Inc. was founded in 1982 with the purpose to function as a *Leather Oriented Mardi Gras Carnival Krewe and Social Club*. Since that time the organization has grown into the leading Leather Social Club in Louisiana and the South. Annually, the Krewe produces several events, most significantly the Bal Masque held on Sunday Night before Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) of Carnival season.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Membership is open to any individual regardless of sex, race, religion, creed, color, sexual orientation, or physical disability. Consideration for membership in the organization requires that an interested person submit the completed application along with the required application fee. Sponsorship by at least two active members in good standing is also required. Membership is solely determined by recommendation of the membership committee, with acceptance or denial by the entire voting membership.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

There are three primary types of membership available that are described in detail on page three of this application. You should thoroughly read the description and direct any questions to the members of the membership committee, who may be contacted through the Lords of Leather web-site or any active Krewe member. Meetings of the Lords of Leather Inc, occur monthly on a schedule agreed upon by the Lords. The location and time of these meetings is well publicized to the membership body.

MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY

Membership is governed by a code of conduct outlined in the bylaws. No member is expected to participate in any public stage production or activity against his or her will. However, every member is expected to support all activities of the organization both personally and financially. Member choosing to be in the annual *Bal Masque* will incur expenses for their own costumes. These costs depend upon the degree of complexity of the costume as well as the amount of personal investment of time in the design and creation of the costume presentation.

Membership provides for fun and involvement in activities that support the interest of the Leather Community throughout Louisiana. We look forward to processing your application.

A NON-REFUNDABLE FEE OF \$25.00 MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION



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Name			
Address			
City		State	Zip
Telephone Home:		Cell:	
Email:		Badge Name:	
Age:		Date of Birth:	

Application for Membership as: **ACTIVE (LORD)**
 You must select one **ASSOCIATE (VISCOUNT)**
 AFFILIATE (BARON)

Explain your reason for applying to this organization: _____

Describe your attitude/feelings about leather: _____

What talents and skills do you offer: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor1: _____ Sponsor2: _____

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Membership in the Lords of Leather is by written application, subject to approval of the membership. Active and Associate members in good standing are given a silver badge with their desired "badge name" and membership level. There are three classes of membership in the Mystic Krewe of the Lords of Leather, as follows:

Lords, also known as **active** members, pay annual dues (for 2010/11, \$300.00 plus assessments, if any) as set by the Krewe and, in addition, are required to participate, both physically and financially, in various fundraising activities during the Krewe year. Participation may also include, but is not limited to, assessments for tickets to various fund raising activities. Tickets can be sold by Lords to offset any assessments. Furthermore, Lords are required to attend all Krewe functions and assist whenever needed. They are required to be at all regular monthly meetings, unless excused by the President or other Board Member. Lords have full voting rights during a general membership meeting, can hold Krewe offices, and can be "royalty" at the annual Bal Masque. During the annual Bal Masque, active Lords receive table seats and balcony seats, in a number set forth by the Ball Captain, as a result of their participation throughout the year. Only "Active" Lords are allowed to purchase and display the large Krewe patch, also known as "colors" in an appropriate manner. In turn, Lords receive the most benefits of membership in the Krewe.

Viscounts, also known as **associate** members, pay annual dues (for 2010/11, \$500.00 annually) as set by the Krewe. These dues are at a higher level than Lords; however Viscounts are **not** required to participate in Krewe functions, although they are encouraged to do so. The Viscount level membership is geared particularly for those members who wish to actively support the Krewe, but who are unable to attend all functions. Viscounts have no voting rights nor can they hold elected office in the organization. During the annual Bal Masque, active Viscounts receive table seats and balcony seats, in a number designated as one-half (1/2) the number provided to Lords, as a result of their membership status in the Krewe. Viscounts are allowed to purchase and display the small Krewe patch, also known as "colors" in an appropriate manner. Overall Viscounts receive a smaller set of benefits from their membership in the Krewe but have no obligations for service or attendance.

Barons, also known as **affiliate** members, pay a much lesser amount as their annual dues (for 2010/11, \$60.00 annually). The Baron level membership does not allow the member voting rights during a membership meeting, the ability to hold elected office, or the ability to be "royalty" during the annual Bal Masque. Barons receive balcony seats, in a number set forth by the Ball Captain, at the annual Bal Masque for their membership status. The Baron level membership is primarily for non-local members who are unable to participate in most Krewe activities or for members of other organizations that do not allow membership in more than one club. Barons are allowed to purchase and display the small Krewe patch, also known as "colors" in an appropriate manner. Barons receive a very limited set of benefits from their membership in the Krewe.

In addition, each year the Krewe may recognize a small number of honorary members, or **Viceroy**s, for their outstanding volunteer services to the Krewe. Viceroy's receive no benefits

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from their membership status in regards to Krewe business or meeting responsibilities. They are our honored guests at all functions and we appreciate their commitment to our club.

APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1 -APPLICANT (SERF) -An individual who expresses interest in becoming a member of this organization by written application, and has submitted the required non-refundable application fee, and who is sponsored by two (2) active members will be considered an **Applicant** and will be known as a **Serf**. Applications must be submitted to the Rush/Membership Committee.

STEP 2 - CANIDIDATE (VASSEL) A **Candidate**, to be known as a **Vassal**, is an Applicant who has been approved by the Rush/Membership Committee.

For applicants for Associate and Affiliate membership:

Upon a favorable two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership, the applicant is granted membership in the Krewe.

For applicants for Active membership:

The applicant is invited to an official meeting to be introduced to members. Upon a favorable two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership, an Applicant is then accepted as a **Candidate**. A Candidate is expected to meet all the requirements of an Active Member, pending acceptance into Active status. Upon completion of the participation requirements and a favorable two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership, a Candidate is accepted for **Active** status. A candidate can express opinions on any matter of official business and may present petitions to the House of Lords on relevant matters for official consideration by the Active Membership.

Membership Committee

Contact via Website www.lordsofleather.com

Lord Michael Albracht, Chair
Lord Ben Bourgeois
Lord Gary Vandeventer

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