

Membership in the Star Island Corporation

A Message from the Board of Directors

From the Bylaws of the Corporation

“Members of the corporation shall make every effort to attend the annual meeting of the corporation and make every effort to make an annual contribution of service and money or property to the corporation. Members who fail to attend, or to acknowledge in writing receipt of the notice of three successive annual meetings shall cease to be members of the corporation as of the last day of the calendar year in which a third successive annual meeting is neither attended nor acknowledged. This section shall be made part of the notice of each annual meeting or special meeting held in lieu thereof.”

The bylaws requirements and the criteria for membership set forth below are, in essence, a summary of what Corporation members expect of each other as the ones who have agreed to be the most responsible for the ongoing well-being of the Star Island enterprise.

Corporation members make many different types of contributions to the Star Island experience. In person participation in the SIC Annual Meetings and other meetings, and communicating by telephone, email and letter are extremely helpful to informing how the business of the Corporation gets accomplished. In addition to contributing to decision-making, volunteering on committees and in work parties and attending conferences, it is important that 100% of corporation member individuals or family giving units support Star Island financially by making a contribution each year. (No specific amount is suggested and gifts of ANY size will be welcomed and appreciated. Specific amounts will not be disclosed; names of donors may be included in broad categories of giving.) If corporation members participate as they are able and give according to their means, they set an example for all Shoalers.

Becoming a Member of the Star Island Corporation

Criteria and Process

From the Bylaws of the Corporation:

”Any member may propose to the membership committee the nomination of a person or persons, the election of whom to membership would in the opinion of such a proposing member result in the addition of a member who would during her/his membership advance and promote the carrying out of the purposes of the corporation. Any such proposal for membership must be submitted in writing to the clerk and received at the principal office of the corporation not later than January 15 in any calendar year.”

“[The membership committee] shall evaluate the qualifications of each person proposed for membership, and shall nominate for membership only those persons

who have manifested a sustained devotion to the Shoals and the election of whom it believes will advance and promote the carrying out of the purpose and objectives of the corporation.”

Our by-laws limit corporation membership to 400. It is important to show how the person nominated for membership has worked to the benefit of Star Island - and can be expected to continue to do so. In its effort to assess the potential of nominees to successfully fulfill the role of Corporation member, as described above, the membership Committee has enumerated a number of criteria or indicators. In May, 2002, the Board approved these criteria to guide the Membership Committee in screening proposals.

They include the following:

- Activities on behalf of the Corporation

Examples include but are not restricted to, participation in work weekends, committee work, serving as solicitor and conference liaison for the annual appeal.

- An indication that the candidate understands the responsibilities of Corporation membership and will make a commitment to carry out those responsibilities.

The candidate's statement required as part of the nomination process is a useful indicator.

- Consistent record of financial support.

This means having made a voluntary financial contribution to the Corporation each year for the past several years, with the clear indication that this is expected to continue. When evaluating evidence of past financial support, allowance may be made for the fact that emphasis on the annual contribution has increased dramatically in the last two or three years, and that individuals who were recently students may only now be starting to take on adult financial responsibilities.

- Leadership in those segments of the Shoals Community in which the candidate has participated.

Examples of central roles in the administration or programming of conferences include positions as chair people, registrars, speakers and workshop leaders, Minister of the Week, steering committee, treasurer, and business manager.

Leadership as a staff member or Pelican which shows a commitment to the Island and the Star Island Community beyond the requirements of employment. This can include leadership in and service to the Pelican Community, and job related performance which shows understanding of

and dedication to the mission of the Island and the Corporation.

- Board Potential.

This is a global criterion which may include a combination of professional expertise, maturity, character, judgment, people and leadership skills, and planning and organizational skills. This criterion may be supported by excellence in relation to the way in which other criteria are met, and also by reputation beyond the boundaries of Island-related participation and service.

- Length of service/participation.

Combined years of conference attendance and leadership, staff-pelican employment, and service as a volunteer. Record of continued financial contributions when not otherwise active is also an indicator here. It is expected also that participation is current and continuing.

- Identification with the Values of Liberal Religion

The spiritual traditions and aspirations represented by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ are central in the life of Star Island. Affiliation with one or the other of these denominations, although not required, is a plus since it honors and implies support for these traditions and aspirations.

The Committee evaluates candidates in terms of the pattern of strengths and weaknesses which emerge when all criteria are taken into account and looked at in terms of the current needs of the Corporation. The committee recognizes the uniqueness of each candidate and situation, and seeks to fulfill its mission of nominating candidates who may be expected to continue their commitment and successfully take on the responsibilities of Corporation Membership. We increasingly depend on the volunteer commitment and the financial support of members to collaborate with and augment the work of our dedicated staff. The bylaws express minimal expectations:

The Nominating Process.

Step 1

A person wishing to become a member of the Corporation may initiate the process by discussing membership with a current member of the Corporation. A list of Corporation members is available from the Portsmouth Office, the Lobby desk of the Conference Center (seasonal) or on the Web site *starisland.org*

A Corporation member may initiate the process by discussing membership with a person whom he or she believes is or may be an appropriate candidate.

Step 2

A Corporation member agrees to sponsor the candidate.

Step 3

The sponsor obtains a *Nomination Packet* by contacting the Portsmouth Office. (Packets are available on Island, on the Web site, and at the annual meeting).

Step 4

The candidate writes a brief statement indicating why he or she wishes to become a member and the nature of the contribution/participation he/she envisions making. This should be sent directly to the Clerk of the Corporation c/o the Portsmouth Office.

Step 5

The sponsor informs the Clerk of the Corporation that he/she is sponsoring the candidate, by returning materials to the Portsmouth Office according to instructions provided in the *Nomination Packet*.

Step 6

The sponsor and candidate agree upon two individuals who will write in support of the candidate. The sponsor sends materials included in the *Nomination Packet* to those two individuals.

Step 7

The two individuals named above send letters directly to the Clerk of the Corporation, c/o Portsmouth Office.

The above steps must be completed and the specified materials received at Portsmouth by January 15th of the year in which membership is sought.

Emeritus Membership in the Star Island Corporation

We recognize that passing years and changing circumstances may make it no longer possible for devoted Shoalers to participate as they once did. The Corporation wishes to extend a way for those members who have given long and devoted service to the Island to be recognized and to maintain their contact with the Corporation when active participation must be reduced or cease altogether.

Generally, the criteria for emeritus status consist of consistently having lived up to the expectations explicit and implicit in the criteria for selection of new members of the Corporation for a substantial number of years together with an appropriate reason for curtailing active participation.

The Emeritus Process

Any member of the Corporation may propose another current member of the Corporation (or themselves) for emeritus status. To do so:

- Submit a brief statement naming the individual and describing the situation to the Clerk of the Corporation, Attention Membership Committee, prior to January 15th of the year in which the nomination is to be acted upon.
- The Committee will then evaluate the situation. The Committee may ask for additional information and seek information from other sources, as it deems necessary; and communicate with the proposed nominee to ensure that his or her wishes are respected.
- If the Committee then acts favorably on the proposal, the name of that Corporation Member will be included in the slate presented to the Annual Meeting for a vote by the Corporation Membership. The nominator and nominee will be so notified.
- If the Committee does not act favorably, the author of the proposal will be so notified at least one month prior to the annual meeting.
- The Committee may place names on the slate of nominees for emeritus on its own initiative after ascertaining what the wishes are of the nominee.