

# **The Kentucky Rifle Association**

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

### **Sponsoring and Endorsing an Applicant**

When considering a candidate for membership in The Kentucky Rifle Association the sponsor and endorser are urged to reacquaint themselves with the Association's purpose and objectives, which are outlined in this document. You should review the by-laws in your KRA Membership Directory, which contain pertinent information relative to sponsoring new membership. You should inform the prospective applicant of our purposes and objectives, and be sure that they are understood by the applicant. This should be done before you ever sign an application. The Association does not look favorably on an applicant whose primary interest is financial gain. If a "grey" area exists with a particular individual, discuss it with the Membership Chairman prior to submitting the application to avoid needless effort and possible embarrassment for the KRA .

### **Who May Sponsor and Endorse an Applicant**

**Officers and Directors may endorse but not sponsor** an applicant . Our By-Laws indicate that **other KRA members**, in good standing for **at least three years**, may sponsor or endorse a candidate by signing a Membership Application Form.

### **Who May Apply for Membership**

All candidates must be 18 years of age or older, without a criminal record. Any applicant that has been asked to apply by a sponsor and has a willing endorser may apply . After no less than one-year has lapsed from the date of a rejection notification for admission, any candidate may submit a new membership application.

### **Applicant's Interest in Collecting**

Our membership consists of collectors and students of Antique Kentucky rifles, pistols, and accouterments. We ARE NOT a black powder-shooting club, nor are we an organization for those whose primary interest is the recreation of the Kentucky rifle.

Applicants are not discouraged from their co-interest in contemporary arms, but are not qualified for membership by their sole interest in contemporary arms.

We are primarily a collector corporation for antique Kentucky rifles, pistols, and accouterments. However, we consider for membership students who, over reasonable periods, have demonstrated serious intent in research, and whose studies have led them to new insight into our distinctive Kentucky rifle heritage and history.



# Application Procedure

Membership in the Kentucky Rifle Association is by invitation only. As previously noted, only an eligible member of the Association who is a member in good standing for at least 3 years ( Not an Officer or Director) must initiate the application process. The forms are available from the Membership Chairman, who is the Vice President of our Association, from the Administrative Assistant, or at our web site. The forms must be fully completed by the applicant, and reviewed, acknowledged and signed by the applicant's sponsor and endorser. The sponsor shall then forward the application with two Letters of Introduction, his and the endorser's, to the Membership Chairman for review. (These must include comprehensive written comments about the applicant.)

The candidate's application is reviewed by the Membership Chairman and then presented to the Board of Director's for action. If the Membership Committee has any questions or concerns about the applicant or their interest, their name will not be tacitly approved until those questions have been answered. When the Board approves the application, the Newsletter Editor will then be instructed to print the name of the prospective member in the next Newsletter for any comments by the membership at large. If no adverse comments are received within 30 days after the candidate's name has been circulated via the Newsletter, the Membership Chairman will send the prospective member an invitation to join our Association. Potential members, thus invited to join, have 30 days to accept by forwarding all applicable fees to the Administrative Assistant within a reasonable period or the invitation is considered withdrawn. The applicant must then wait one year to re-apply.

## Sponsor and Endorser Responsibilities

- Both the Sponsor and Endorser are obligated to know the applicant.
- Review the purposes and objectives of the KRA and the Application with the proposed applicant.
- Be fully knowledgeable of and review the proposed applicant's collection and collecting interest.
- Mutually discuss the applicant and be free of conflicts of interest with the KRA's guidelines.
- Discuss the proposed applicant with the Membership Chairman (listed in the Membership Directory or on the cover of the Newsletter) if you have doubt about the applicant meeting qualifications.
- Provide accurate and comprehensive information about the applicant in the Letter of Introduction.
- Be sure all application documents are complete before submitting them to the Membership Chairman.

## Conclusion

Our Annual Meeting is a much anticipated occasion for the display and discussion of newly-discovered antique Kentucky rifles, pistols, and /or accouterments. We look forward to becoming acquainted with fine examples that have long been in collections which are seldom available for specific comparison.

Regular annual attendance and display of arms is expected of our members. Two of the outstanding benefits of membership is the opportunity for sharing of fellowship and knowledge with kindred enthusiasts at the Annual Meeting or other informal gatherings and the satisfaction of Fair and Honorable Trade Practices.

Sponsors and endorsers are OBLIGATED TO KNOW the applicant, and must accept full responsibility for recommending only qualified candidates. Only with a full understanding of the adherence to the above guidelines will we continue to maintain our status as one of the finest organizations of its type in the world.

*Send only the application and coversheet to the applicant for completion*

**Please request that the applicant describe their interest in a personal typewritten letter on the back of, or attached to his or her form, titled, "Letter of Introduction."**



# THE KENTUCKY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

## Proposal for Membership

(Please print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK WHICH AREA(S)\* MOST REFLECT(S) YOUR INTEREST(S):

1. ( ) COLLECTOR - Do you own antique Kentucky rifle(s), pistol(s), and/or antique accouterments at the present time?  
( ) yes ( ) no Approximate Number of Antique Kentucky Rifles ( ) Antique Kentucky Pistols ( )
2. ( ) RESEARCHER ( ) STUDENT ( ) PROFESSIONAL - Have you written or had published any articles concerning the Kentucky rifle, it's history, gunsmith's, or accouterments, etc.? PUBLISHED ( ) yes JUST WRITTEN ( ) yes  
If NOT PUBLISHED, are you willing to submit your manuscript (s) with this application? yes ( ) no ( )
3. ( ) GUNSMITH ( ) STOCKER - How long have you been engaged in the restoration ( ) or re-creation ( ) of antique Kentucky rifles and / or pistols" ( ) less than ONE YEAR ( ) ONE to FIVE Years ( ) over FIVE YEARS
4. ( ) OTHER - Such as a Spouse, Daughter or Son of a collector, a descendant of an antique gunsmith or etc. **Explain in detail on the reverse side.**

**\* Categories 3 and 4 are not qualifications for membership, but requested for our information only.**

Please list the names of any current members of the Kentucky Rifle Association with whom you are personally acquainted and who would have knowledge of your collection.

I certify that I agree with the principles set forth in the accompanying information letter, that I am at least 18 years of age, that I am not a member of any organization which has any part of its program an attempt to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence, that I do not have a criminal record, and that if admitted to membership, I will abide by the by-laws of the Association, and will fulfill the obligation of good fellowship and good citizenship.

Sponsored By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member in good standing  
for 3 years or more

Endorsed By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member in good standing  
for 3 years or more

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Candidate

### LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY SPONSOR AND ENDORSER

*An initiation fee of \$50.00 by check is **required** for consideration of an application, which. will be cashed upon acceptance for membership, or will be returned with a notice of regret.  
Applicants may reapply after a period of one year.*

#### Official Use

Date received  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date acknowledged  
\_\_\_\_\_

Board Action  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETE FORM ON THE REVERSE SIDE**



**To be filled out by Applicant**

With **100 words** or more, please type a description of your collecting interests below (pertaining to antique Kentucky rifles, pistols, and accouterments.) If you have no collection describe your special circumstances that you feel would make you a worthy asset to the Association. Please include any other information about yourself that you feel would be of interest to the membership committee. If your expertise is restoration or re-creation of long rifles, or their accouterments, what are the ethics that guide your treatment of old or new rifles? What are your future plans or hopes with regard to antique rifles, their history and the KRA? How will your membership benefit our organization?

**NOTE: This information will remain strictly confidential.**

(Use additional pages if necessary)

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO YOUR SPONSOR**

***Be aware that Applications received three weeks or later before a Board Meeting will not be considered at the next scheduled Board Meeting to allow sufficient time for mailing and Board review.***



## Sponsor's Letter of Introduction

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

The Candidate and I are:

Just met ( ) Friends for: 1 year ( ) 2 + years ( ) 5 years ( ) More than 5 years ( )

Fits the Profile of a Dedicated: Collector ( ) Student ( ) Novice Collector ( ) Professional ( )

Collector of Antique: Kentucky rifles ( ) Pistols ( ) Powder horns ( )  
Accouterments ( ) Ephemera ( Correspondence, Journals, Photos, Paintings, etc. ( )

Character above reproach ( ) Extremely Knowledgeable ( ) A Skilled Restorer ( )

Dedicated Researcher of Kentucky Rifles or Associated Lore: ( ) Published ? Yes ( ) No ( )

Descendant ( ) or spouse ( ) of a collector A direct descendant of an Antique Era Gunsmith ( )  
Marginally acceptable to KRA Standards ( ) A Dealer ( )

To your very best knowledge describe in **no less than 50 words** your relationship to the Candidate and their collection, collecting, interests, academic and or mechanical interest. Describe how his or her profession and future plans enhance the KRA. **Will you host** the Candidate during their first visit to the Annual Meeting and **introduce** them on the floor? How did you meet? Have you discussed the Candidate with the Membership Committee Chairman and other Board Members?

### COMPLETE YOUR LETTER ON REVERSE SIDE:

*Please be aware that Applications received three weeks or less before any Board Meeting will not be considered at the next scheduled Board Meeting to allow sufficient time for mailing time and Board Review. Please do not send an e-mail or fax. The KRA prefers to retain the original application for their records.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Sponsor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name of Sponsor

**NOTE: Sponsor\***, forward this form and your letter, and fully executed application to the Membership Chairman after receiving the endorser's letter. **Endorser\***, in the event you have been forwarded his or her form and letter, and the **completed application**, return the same to the applicant's sponsor, or mail your form and letter, the sponsor's form and letter and the fully completed application directly to the current Membership Chairman and Vice President of the KRA:

Mark Tyler  
130 Wren Lane  
Bellwood, PA 16617

\*Must be 3 year member



## **Sponsor's Letter**



## Endorser's Letter of Introduction

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ The Candidate and I are:

Just met ( ) Friend for: 1 year ( ) 2 + years ( ) 5 years ( ) More than 5 Years ( )

Fits the Profile of a Dedicated: Collector ( ) Student ( ) Novice collector ( ) Professional ( )

Collector of: Antique Kentucky rifles ( ) Antique Pistols ( ) Antique Powder horns ( )

Antique Accouterments ( ) Ephemera (Period Correspondence, Journal, Photos, Paintings, etc. ( )

Character above reproach ( ) Extremely Knowledgeable ( ) A Skilled Restorer ( )

Dedicated Researcher of Kentucky Rifles or Associated Lore: ( ) Published ? Yes ( ) No ( )

Descendant ( ) or spouse ( ) of a collector A direct descendant of an Antique Era Gunsmith ( )

Marginally acceptable to KRA Standards ( ) A Dealer ( )

To your very best knowledge, describe in **50 words or more** your relationship to the Candidate and their collection, future collecting, interests, academic, and, or mechanical interests. Describe how his or her profession and future plans enhance the KRA. How did you meet? Have you discussed the Candidate with the Sponsor?

### COMPLETE YOUR LETTER ON REVERSE SIDE:

*Please be aware that Applications received three weeks or less before any Board Meeting will not be considered at the next scheduled Board Meeting to allow sufficient time for mailing and Board Review. Please do not send an e-mail or fax application. The KRA prefers to retain the original application for their records.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Endorser

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Endorser

**NOTE: Endorser\***, forward this form and letter to the applicant's sponsor, or directly to the Membership Chairman with a fully executed application and the sponsor's letter. **Sponsor\***, if returned, forward this form and letter, and fully executed application with your completed form and letter to the current Membership Chairman and Vice President of the KRA:

Mark Tyler  
130 Wren Lane  
Bellwood, PA 16617

\*Must be a 3 year member



**Endorser's letter**