

**OMIK is ethnically diverse and holds the following purposes:**

Promote fellowship among those interested in the advancement of amateur radio, communications, electronics, and related technology.

Expand and upgrade the ranks of trained amateur radio operators, and to further international goodwill.

Serve as the national organization for a network of local amateur radio clubs.

Encourage and motivate youths to aspire to higher goals in their respective fields by offering scholarships to deserving youths.

The OMIK Scholarship Fund is a tax exempt, 501(C)(3) organization.

**OMIK Nets**

All nets meet on Sundays

75 Meters 3.920 MHz 1200 UTC

40 Meters 7.185 MHz 1230 UTC

20 Meters 14.295 MHz 1600 UTC

Subtract one hour during Daylight Saving Time

**Recent Significant Achievements**

- OMIK Scholarship Fund has awarded nearly \$120,000 in financial assistance to college students
- Conducts special event honoring President Obama’s Inauguration
- Raises more than \$2,000 in assistance following earthquake in Haiti
- Formally recognizes the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen

# Application for Membership



**and  
Historical Perspective of the Organization**

## Personal Data

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

License Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Applied For:

Regular \$20

Family \$25

Senior (80 yrs+) \$10

Associate \$15 (Not licensed)

Life (The Life Membership quota of 50 has been reached.)

However, you may contact the OMIK secretary to have your name placed on the Life Member waiting list.)

## Special Explanations

Regular members receive all publications, vote and have all member privileges.

Family membership includes up to three members in same household. One Blue Book and Communicator are received per family.

Senior members receive all publications, vote and have all member privileges.

Associate members receive all publications, but do not vote.

Mail in this page only to:  
**Steve Schmitz, WØSJS**  
**754 Lantern Lane**  
**St. Louis, MO 63132-3511**

## OMIK in the Beginning

In the early 1950s, black amateur radio operators often faced harassment on the air as the voice transmissions (versus Morse code) became the predominate operating mode. Black operators for the most part were easily recognized by their distinctive speech patterns. White hams generally would not talk to them, and some would seek out Black hams on the air and interfere with racial invectives.

Thus, it became clear that a black ham organization, with nets and other activities were sorely needed. In addition, it also became clear that radio could be used to assist black hams in their travels, as hotels and restaurants were generally closed to them. Lists of places to stay and places to eat were maintained by these hams and shared with hams and non-ham friends.

Llewellyn Searce, W8TKE, of Detroit, Michigan inspired the hams that he knew to take steps to form a regional association of black hams within the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. Lawrence D. Sallee, W8ZAW, promoted a meeting of eleven hams in the on-campus home of Henry Garcia, an instructor at Wilberforce College, now Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

Thus on August 12, 1952, the first meeting of this association was held. Lawrence Sallee, W8ZAW, became the first president; James A. Smith, W8CZD, secretary/treasurer; and Llewellyn Searce, W8TKE, net control coordinator. Many names were suggested: Ohio Valley Radio Association, Amateur Radio for Defense, and United Radio Association. After much debate, they were all discarded—and the first letter of each participating state were used to form a name sounding much like the electrical unit of resistance—ohm.

Thus, was established the OMIK (“O-Mike”) Electronic Communications Association. It was later incorporated in the state of Michigan. This name was sustained until it was proposed and changed to OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc. in 2001.

OMIK has grown rapidly from regional to international, and is the largest predominately black amateur radio association in the country. Although the conditions that caused the formation of OMIK have largely passed away, the need for the organization remains.