



BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN MULTIPLES OF AMERICA **WHY BELONG?**

GENERAL BENEFITS

The benefits of membership in Multiples of America aka National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. (NOMOTC), stem from Multiples of America's Mission Statement:

The Multiples of America aka NOMOTC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting families of multiple birth children through education, research, and networking. In partnering with local support groups, health care providers, researchers, and educators, and with the highest standards of integrity, respect and professionalism, we endeavor to aid parents of multiples and to raise public awareness of the unique qualities of multiple birth families.

Multiples of America has history of over 60 years of education, research and support. This continuity as an organization is a benefit. It gives us credibility, respect, and recognition in the public and in the media.

We offer year-round service to our members.

We are not a “large club”; we are a **professional organization**, a national non-profit, that operates year-round to service our member clubs, members, affiliates and potential members.

We are the foremost authority regarding the world of multiple birth children and their parents and those who support them, like educators and physicians.

We are often contacted by the media, casting directors, researchers and public for our expertise and knowledge regarding the world of multiple birth children and their parents and those who support them including educators and physicians.

Media also comes to our organization for information, research, statistics, etc.

We assist researchers in finding subjects for their research. Multiples and twins in general are the perfect research subject as there is an automatic control subject. Research helps the public in general and leads to finding causes and cures of many diseases and other medical issues. We can help make a difference with our participation in research.

By tapping into our network of member clubs, we are able to provide information on best practices based on over 60 years of club networking.

We offer local clubs and members an opportunity to be a part of a larger group of local clubs or state organizations nationwide, as well as part of a worldwide network of multiple birth organizations.

Parents of Multiples can be a member of a local club or an Affiliate Member if there is no club in their area.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND KNOWLEDGE

WORLDWIDE CONNECTIONS

Multiples of America is a collective charter member of the International Society for Twin Studies (ISTS) www.twinstudies.org and member of the International Council of Multiple Birth Organizations (iCOMBO) www.ICOMBO.org.

Membership in ISTS and iCOMBO gives the opportunity to connect with other multiple birth parents worldwide. Together, we work to educate people and families with multiples, and the media and public on the joys and challenges of raising multiples.

We have also partnered with Multiple Birth Organizations around the world on surveys that impact multiple birth children and their parents globally.

CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

Multiples of America partners with other organizations and companies. In recent years, we have been pleased to partner with TWINS Magazine, Sidelines, Inc, Fetal Health Foundation, Lily's Hope, Twins Talent (Ganz Twins), Fertility IQ, Twin Talk podcasts, Texas Children's Hospital and Bed Rest Life Coach. We are always seeking new partnerships. Links to our partner organizations are on the website.

STATE CONTACTS

Multiples of America assists State Multiple Organizations throughout the year. We are able to answer questions and give information to the state organizations. A State Organization Directory lists all state organizations, contact info and state conventions. This directory is posted on the website.

EDUCATION

Education of Multiple Birth Children is the number one topic of information that is requested from Multiples of America.

Multiples of America has been one of the main organizations that aided in developing surveys on how best to educate multiple birth children. We compiled research and established guidelines on keeping multiple birth children together or separating them in classrooms to help parents and educators alike. A position paper, available through the website, details those guidelines.

We have helped supply information that assisted states in passing “Twin Laws” that give the parents the right to have a say in whether multiple birth children should be together in the same classroom.

RESEARCH

We have assisted with important research and surveys including *Depression in Post-Partum Mothers of Multiples*, *Incontinence in Mothers of Multiples*, *Post Pregnancy Complications and Delivering Multiples* (international survey).

INFORMATION ON PARENTING WITH MULTIPLES

Multiples of America has booklets (*Placement of Multiple Birth Children in School*), electronic pamphlets (*Your Multiples and You*) and other online and printed materials that provide information to the public and parents of multiples.

BENEFITS FOR CLUBS

NEW MEMBERS THROUGH ‘FIND A CLUB’

Growth of local club’s membership through “Find a local club” (<http://www.multiplesofamerica.org/find-a-club/>) database located on Multiples of America website (www.multiplesofamerica.org).

Each year thousands of prospective parents of multiples looking for local clubs click on our “Find a Local Club”. As a member club of Multiples of America, your club and club contacts are listed in our database. When a parent of multiples inputs their zip code or city in the “Find a Local Club section”, links to a listing of local clubs and their websites are displayed. They can contact Multiples of America’s Executive Office for club contacts. (To prevent spam and protect the privacy of our club contacts, we do not post club contact information on the website.) Our Executive Office responds to all email requests to assist with questions and give out contact information about finding a local club. Additional personnel in the Research & Membership Department follow up to make sure members are “connected” with the local club in their area.

ORGANIZING A NEW CLUB

Multiples of America assists parents of multiples in organizing a local club through our booklets “*How to Organize a Club*” (HTO) which we send out electronically by request from our Executive Office. In the last few years, we have sent out over a hundred HTO booklets. The booklet for download in the Members’ Only section of the website.

Our Membership volunteers are available to assist with questions or help problem solve challenges throughout the organizing process and throughout the formation of the new club. The Membership volunteers continue to keep in contact periodically with prospective new member clubs throughout the process of organizing the club and after the club is formed to answer questions and assist as needed.

GROUP EXEMPTION

Group Exemption for non-profit 501(c)(3) status under Multiples of America's umbrella. As a member club, your local club can receive 501(c)(3) status through Multiples of America as a subordinate chapter/club. Plus, your club gains the advantage of avoiding individual application for exemption. This tax status and the benefits it accords are not automatic, though. Documents must be filed every year by every club requesting this status. Multiples of America is then required to submit information on behalf of each of its subordinate chapters (clubs). Multiples of America reports any changes in purpose, character or method of operation, changes in name or address, and any withdrawals and/or additions of subordinate chapters.

With Multiples of America's classification, its subordinates receive the following benefits:

- a) The IRS will recognize your club as a subordinate chapter of Multiples of America.
- b) Then assignment of a Group Exemption Number (GEN) happens.
- c) With this ruling, subordinates may receive gifts and donations that are tax deductible by donors.
- d) A subordinate may apply for state tax exemption, if applicable. Most states will not classify a local chapter for sales tax exemption, unless federal exemption has already been granted.
- e) If club mailings are 200 or more pieces, a subordinate may apply for postal nonprofit rates, a substantial savings from regular bulk postal rates.
- f) Officers and committee chairmen can deduct out-of-pocket expenses in personal income tax returns, including mileage in conducting business. Further information for individuals is available in the IRS 1040 Packet, under instructions for Schedule A (contributions).
- g) Multiples of America will complete the Form 990-N, e-Postcard, on behalf of clubs with gross receipts less than \$50K. Clubs with gross receipts exceeding \$50K are required to file Form 990 and will thus meet the reporting requirements related to Form 990-N. (For the definition of gross receipts, contact the Executive Office info@multiplesofamerica.org)

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANCE

Access to Multiples of America's Parliamentarian is available to personally and confidentially speak with members and clubs who have questions or issues within the club or to help clubs with Bylaws and Standing Rules. Our Parliamentarian can work as a mediator or neutral party to help with resolution.

ANNUAL MEETING

Multiples of America's Convention or Summit held in July is an opportunity to network with members and clubs from around the country to learn best practices and get answers to questions you may have; make your voice heard in elections, bylaw changes and other business at the General Session; and so much more.

CLUB NETWORKING

Clubs have the chance to network with other clubs through share shops and workshops at our annual convention, through a Facebook Leadership page, and/or through zoom connection

meetings. These opportunities provide a forum where clubs can share ideas for fundraising, member retention, dealing with tough issues, and more.

SPECIAL FUND GRANT FOR CLUBS

Clubs with a dream about a special project can apply for a grant, administered through our EDGE (endowment) Committee, to help make that become reality. A TIPS sheet for applying for grants is available and can be utilized when applying.

TIPS SHEETS FOR CLUBS

Club Tips sheets are available on a variety of topics to assist club leaders, including:

Club Tips for Local Club Presidents; Club Tips for Treasurers; Club Tips for Membership Chair; Club Tips for National Representatives; Club Tips for Secretary; Club Tips for Newsletter Editors; Club Tips for Program Chair; Club Tips for Installing Officers.

Club Tips in Handling School Issues; Club Tips for Keeping Experienced MOMs as Members; Club Tips for Social Media Policies; Club Tips for Smaller Clubs; Club Tips for Electronic Communications and Internet; Club Tips for Tough Issues Groups Face; Club Tips for Bereavement Support; Club Tips for Group Exemption.

MARKETING/PUBLICITY

Multiples of America provides national exposure for your local club, as well as access to press releases and marketing materials that can be used in building membership locally.

BENEFITS FOR CLUBS and INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

PERSONALIZED SUPPORT THROUGH EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Multiples of America's Executive Office (EO)

- a) Professional administrative office. The EO is the first impression that potential members, the public, researchers, and media receive for our organization and its local club members.
- b) The EO provides information and assistance to new members and current members.
- c) EO provides consistency for all paperwork including for Group Exemption, Dues Renewals, Electronic Mailings to Clubs and club referrals for new prospective members.
- d) The EO gathers all Group Exemption information, files all paperwork, reminds clubs if paperwork is past due and assists with all questions as able. Filing of Group Exemption to IRS is a very long process that your club doesn't have to do. You only need to send in your paperwork each year to us.

CONNECTIONS DURING DISASTER

When disaster or tragedy strikes, Multiples of America is able to help clubs and individuals connect with the clubs in those areas to offer support and assistance. When the tornado went through Moore, OK, or the fires in California were burning, many clubs wanted to help and were able to easily connect because of our national membership.

MULTIPLE CONNECTIONS

Multiples of America's e-publication, *Multiple Connections*, which comes out quarterly, has informative articles and a column "Member Club Spotlight" which highlights club ideas and events from around the country. It also gives clubs the opportunity to submit events, outings and best practices to be published. This is emailed to every member of your club.

WEBSITE

Multiples of America's website is a mobile friendly site that provides a wealth of information to members and the public.

Access to the Members Only section of our website, available only to members, provides information and resources in one convenient location including:

- a) Annual Reports
- b) Downloadable flyers and brochures for individual information and club use
- c) Dues Renewal guidelines/forms and dues payment via PayPal
- d) Membership forms to aid in joining or renewing membership
- e) Group Exemption guidelines and forms
- f) Multiples of America Support Services Information
- g) State Organization Directory including state convention information
- h) Bi-Monthly newsletter "*Club Connections*" with information to help club leaders in their work on the local level.
- i) Multiples of America Bylaws and Standing Rules posted to assist local clubs in developing or revising their own Bylaws/Standing Rules. Assistance from Multiples of America's Parliamentarian is also available, if needed.
- j) Archived Multiples of America *Multiple Connections* and former issues of MOTC's *Notebook*.
- k) Multiple Birth Awareness Month activities
- l) Research Reports done by Multiples of America and professional research studies completed by outside researchers about or involving multiples are available on request. We have over 125 studies and this continues to grow. If you would like a listing of archived studies, email the Executive office (info@multiplesofamerica.org).

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

Membership Assistants can provide support for parenting in special situations, such as Higher Order Multiples, Single Parenting, Bereavement, Special Needs, and more.

The majority of smaller clubs do not have members with experience in all these areas and being able to tap into our larger membership and experience to offer assistance and resources is invaluable to members. Even large clubs who typically have these type of support positions as part of their officers, will see there is definitely added value when extra support and resources are needed. Think of a rare diagnosis or adoption of multiples or having multiple multiples. Having over 10,000 members allows us to give information, support and resources that many local clubs need, but cannot offer.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs and individual members can participate in studies conducted by approved outside researchers. Only approved researchers are posted. They can also join in internal surveys written by our own Research Assistants under the direction of the Research & Membership Vice President. These are posted on Survey Monkey for all members to anonymously complete.

Read our Research Reports which are the results of all outside research projects and internal surveys. Reports are written in layman terms and reported to the membership in *Multiple Connections*.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Multiples of America Educational Scholarships are available to all members, their spouses, and multiple birth children. To qualify, the sponsoring member must have belonged to a member club for at least the last three years.

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

For those unable to connect face-to-face or want more opportunities to connect, the public and private groups available on Facebook and on Twitter have shown to be very beneficial to the individual member. These avenues provide a place for parents to seek advice from thousands of parents that know what they are going through versus the 20 to 100 they may have in their local club. **And they can connect 24/7!**

Multiples of America hosts seven Facebook groups/pages, including:

[Members Only Page](#) – private group for members of Multiples of America

[Convention Page](#) – for sharing the latest information about convention

[Higher Order Multiples](#) – private members only group page

[Special Needs](#) – private group page

[Single Parents](#) – private group page

[LGBT Support Page](#) – private Members Only group page

[Leadership Shareshop](#) – private page for up to three club leaders to maintain club equity and network with other club leaders across the country to ask questions, discover best practices, and more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Multiples of America offers members the opportunity to give back to other parents of multiples by becoming a National Worker volunteer. Benefits of volunteering include:

- Using your talents and skills to impact clubs across the nation.
- Creating inter-generational connections and friendships.
- Developing new skills and learning new tasks.
- Reaching out to help another parent of multiples.

We come from many different backgrounds, but we have a common bond. Finding friends and support through convention, volunteer opportunities, or articles in Multiple Connections allows everyone to see that they too can survive and succeed parenting multiples from pregnancy, to infancy, to school-age to adults. Our collective experiences weave a rich, diverse tapestry giving hope and useful information at every stage in the lives our multiples.

All the benefits listed and more for just \$15 a year for a member in a member club.

***Being a member of Multiples of America is a wonderful deal
and great value for both individuals and clubs.***

Affiliate memberships are also available.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact us info@multiplesofamerica.org