

Dear (____)

I'm writing on behalf of the Friends of Lorine Niedecker, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of the Wisconsin poet Lorine Niedecker (<https://lorineniedecker.org/friends-lorine-niedecker/>). [name], a current board member, has recommended you as a potential board member because ... [provide relevant personal details].

The Friends of Lorine Niedecker (FoLN) is a small organization that has operated for several years on a very modest budget. The organization publishes a semiannual newsletter, which includes poetry written in the spirit and (sometimes) style of Niedecker, a monograph series featuring essays by Niedecker scholars, and an informational website. In recent years we have overseen the production of Niedecker poetry murals in Fort Atkinson and the creation of educational programs for K-12 classrooms. We also sponsor other initiatives including poetry workshops, talks, and exhibits, some of them in conjunction with other arts organizations. Finally, we help scholars and interested members of the public access archives and other educational materials located in Fort Atkinson.

Each of these activities are coordinated by a volunteer board of directors. Board members commit to:

- Attend and participate actively in board meetings
- Plan and help promote the organization's events and activities
- Stay alert for opportunities to help us advance our mission
- Review the annual financial statements prepared by the Board's treasurer and support fundraising efforts to sustain FoLN activities.

This is a particularly exciting time to join our board. Like many small nonprofits, we have realized that our organization needs to solidify its financial position by professionalizing our fundraising and development efforts. We are also poised to extend our profile beyond Fort Atkinson by sponsoring initiatives that engage new constituents across Wisconsin and further afield. We haven't exactly hidden our light under a bushel but want to increase the wattage, as it were, showcasing the unique work and legacy of Lorine Niedecker.

We've developed a brief skills and experience survey to get an overall sense of our board's current strengths and interests. If serving on our board is something you're interested in, we'd appreciate it if you could complete it: <https://forms.gle/KoxmkzfWZ9TZU35R9/>.

Our board president, Ann Engelman, will be contacting you soon to talk about your interests and answer any questions you may have about our organization.

We look forward to hearing from you!