

PENNSYLVANIA DeMOLAY

Issuance of Obligations Cards (Revised 10/15/17)

In accordance with Section 315.13 of the DeMolay International Rules and Regulations which allows an Executive Officer to specify the requirement for an Obligations Card, the following policy shall be observed in all PA DeMolay Chapters: An Obligations Card shall be issued to any active DeMolay who can prove a working knowledge of the Obligations and Examination Queries of the Order.

A working knowledge is defined as the ability to name the important concepts in each Degree Obligation, to prove an understanding of the promises made, and to demonstrate the Step, Signs, Password and Token of the Order. The method followed must be consistent for all Chapter members, and may be decided by Advisory Council policy or by amendment to the Chapter's bylaws. However, the DeMolay does not need to prove proficiency during a meeting, in front of all the Chapter members. It is recommended that the Chairman of the Advisory Council assign to an Advisor the duty to examine and approve the issuance of Obligations Cards.

In the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, it shall NOT be necessary to hold an Obligations Card in order to vote or hold office. Members shall NOT be denied the right to vote on applications for membership, motions, or election of officers. In particular, members should first be encouraged to learn the ritual work assigned to their office, to ensure that the Chapter can properly open and close its meetings, and confer degrees.

This is not to minimize the value of memorization of the Obligations. Members should be encouraged to memorize the Obligations, prior to running for an elective office in the Chapter, as a demonstration of their leadership and ability to serve.