

## What Does It Matter?

*"Dad" Thomas R. Labagh, Executive Officer*

Sometimes we ask ourselves, "Why do I do this?" Members and Advisors both have asked this question-are STILL asking this question. (Hint: It's OK-you wouldn't be normal if you didn't at least THINK about it...) So let me share with you a story that "Dad" Williamson (Past Executive Officer) related to me:

"Dad" Williamson was in his local bank in November 2001 when a man approached him and said, "I know you, but you probably don't remember me." He introduced himself as a member of an area Lodge, and said, "We were in McKinley Chapter together, 50 years ago. I'm Ken Easha." This took "Dad" W. a little bit by surprise. "Dad" W. remembered that Bro. Easha had been somewhat active in the Chapter, but he wasn't a PMC, or a Chevalier, or even a former officer. He was "just a member."

Then came the real surprise. "Bet you haven't seen one of these for a while," said Bro. Easha, as he started to dig through his wallet. A moment later, he pulled out his DeMolay Membership Card-a card he had been carrying for the past 50 years!



Fifty years since he had participated as a member, still proud to carry the card, still interested enough to talk about his DeMolay experience, still excited to share his pride in his membership.-and yet, he was "just a member."

So, "Why do I do this?" Because, for you, and for me, as members and advisors, and for those guys who will never be officers, who only participate occasionally, and even for some of those guys who are initiated but seldom show up, and are "just members," this stuff means something! What you do in DeMolay really matters. You may never know who you affect, or how. But then, someday 50 years from now, you might just get a hint...