

Policy and Procedure for Obligating New Members in Pennsylvania DeMolay (02-25-03)

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of DeMolay International, the Executive Officer has authorized the obligating of candidates by having them take the Initiatory and DeMolay Degree Obligations only, without the balance of the Degree ceremonies, with the understanding that the candidate will receive his full Degrees at a future statewide or Chapter class.

Because there have been so many variations on this process, the following policy will govern how it is to be done in the future.

When candidates are obligated and reported on a Form 10, they immediately become FULL-FLEDGED MEMBERS of DeMolay, even if, by chance, they never receive the full Degrees. They MUST be *immediately* reported on a Form 10, and with the proper fees paid. A second Form 10 may be submitted later to provide the Degree dates for record-keeping purposes, but for insurance purposes, the reporting cannot be delayed.

The purpose of this procedure is to allow interested new members to join our organization and participate in activities, while waiting for the planned membership class. This allows a Chapter the flexibility to plan and work towards quality Degree conferrals without losing interested candidates. It will also assist a Master Councilor in meeting the PMC-MSA membership requirement.

Chapters are not required to obligate in lieu of the full induction ceremonies, but this option is for the benefit of the Chapters, who need participating members, and the candidates, who do not wish to wait several months to view the full Degrees. What IS required is the following:

Procedure:

1. A membership application must be received with full fee; the applicant must be visited in his home, and balloted upon, as required by the DeMolay International Rules and Regulations. Every applicant must receive the same treatment in this respect.
2. Once elected, the candidates *must be given the option to choose* the immediate Obligating Ceremony, or to wait for the full degrees.
3. The Obligations must be administered with proper solemnity at a stated or special meeting of the Chapter, whether meeting formally or informally.
4. Candidates must repeat the Initiatory Degree Obligation (and preferably ALSO the DeMolay Degree Obligation) at the Chapter Altar at a regular or special chapter meeting. The candidates must also be taught the step, sign and token, the word of emulation, the grip, and if obligated in the DeMolay Degree, the grip, sign and password of a DeMolay. This may be done in ritualistic fashion or informally.
5. Any member, officer, PMC, or State Officer, may administer the obligations, as long as they are done **from memory**. An Advisor must NOT do this, and the Obligations must not be read to the candidates. The process of Obligating must be well-planned, and must not appear to be an after-thought, or a hurried affair. To the candidate and his parents, it should be seen as a proper and normal way to join the Order, with a fuller explanation and more formal ceremony to come later.
6. The new members must be immediately reported on a Form 10. The degree date or dates recorded are the dates the obligations were administered.
7. The newly obligated members may then participate as full-fledged members in good standing, with the knowledge that they have the privilege of participating in the conferral of the full Degrees as soon as possible thereafter.