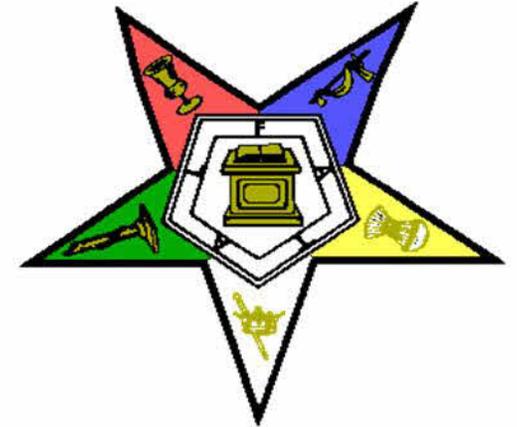


An Aid to the Investigating Committee



CHAPTER

Address

Phone:

E-mail:

**GRAND CHAPTER OF
NORTH CAROLINA**

An Aid to the Investigating Committee

When a member is selected to serve on an Investigating Committee, she/he is entrusted with a very real challenge and a most important duty. While all members must protect our Order, she/he becomes the special guardian of our very life-line. This duty, well done, is a distinct service to the petitioner, to the Chapter and to the Grand Chapter. She/he should exercise care to preserve the reputation of the Order.

While the primary duty of the investigator is to learn all she/he can about each applicant, she/he has a valid opportunity, and consequently, a duty to tell the applicant, her/his spouse and family, something about the Order of the Eastern Star and its mission. The applicant should be informed that she/he is expected to put time and thought into her/his Chapter as well as the fellowship and support that she/he may get in return for her/his contributions.

As the Committee members go about their investigation, the guide questions set forth below should never be asked directly of an applicant. These are suggestions only for the investigators and some of the things to be kept in mind by them during the investigation.

The first duty of a Mason on the Committee is to ensure proper Masonic affiliation of the petitioner (i.e. dues card or letter of certification).

It is logical, therefore, that the investigation should begin with a personal conference or phone call with each recommender.

How long has she/he been personally acquainted with the Petitioner?

How well does she/he know the Petitioner?

Visiting the petitioner in her/his home is a casual way to learn the petitioner's motives for wanting to join Eastern Star and what influenced her/him to apply. The Committee can also observe home life and talk to the petitioner's family members to gain additional information.

Be sure to schedule the interview at the convenience of the petitioner. The interview should be informal and in the presence of the family. Everyone should be made to feel at ease.

What is the family's attitude toward the Order of the Eastern Star?

The petitioner should be informed that she/he and the family will be expected to give some time to the Order each month and that portions of the Ritual work must be committed to memory. This may cause the petitioner to isolate herself/himself at times to accomplish this task.

The Committee should inform the family of some of the work that the Order does around the community, the state and the world.

Other aspects which the Committee should learn during this interview and visit include the following:

Does her/his home life appear to be happy?

How does she/he spend spare time?

Do the surroundings and appearance of the home indicate that she/he can financially afford the initiation fees and dues of the Order?

Does the applicant and her/his family clearly understand that OES membership does not carry with it any insurance or death benefits whatsoever?

Is the petitioner profane or foul-mouthed in speech?

Does she/he have a criminal record?

Does she/he believe in the sanctity of an oath, and would an oath of secrecy conflict with the teaching of her/his faith?

In what other organizations is the petitioner a member? (This is relevant only because some organizations are opposed to the Masonic Family, and the petitioner should be made aware of this in order to avoid future conflicts.)

Here are six little words that may help you in making a proper investigation:

Who, What, When, Where, Why and How

WHO - is she/he?
does she/he know?
Does she/he associate with?

WHAT - are her/his reasons for petitioning the Eastern Star?
is her/his profession?
Is her/his general reputation on the job?

WHEN - did she/he become interested in the Eastern Star?

WHY - is she/he petitioning at this time?

HOW - does she/he intend to serve the Order?
can she/he serve the Chapter?
does she/he spend leisure time?

These are just guidelines to assist in your investigation of a petitioner. Always remember to be courteous and polite with your questions. You are representing our Order and certainly want to leave the petitioner with an impression of an Organization that he/she would like to join.