




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 it, she/he becomes the special guardian of our very life line. This duty, well done, is a distinct service to its petitioner, to the Chapter and to the Grand Chapter she/he has exercised care 'to preserve the reputation of the Order unsullied.'


While the primary duty of the investigator is to learn all she/he can about each applicant for membership in the Order she/he has a valid opportunity and consequently 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 into her/his Chapter as well as what she/he may get in return for the contribution of time and thought.


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 born in mind by them during the investigation.


 Be sure to schedule the investigation at the convenience of the candidate (e.g. if the applicant is in college, do the investigation during vacation time.)


 The first duty of a Mason on the committee is to ensure proper masonic affiliation of the petitioner (i.e. dues card or letters of certification).


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


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


 How well does she/he know him?

 Visiting the applicant in her/his home is a casual way to learn the applicant's motives for wanting to join Eastern Star and what influenced her/him to apply.


 A visit with the applicant in her/his home to observe home life and to talk to the applicant's family members is the only way to find out some of the things that ought to be known.


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


 The interview should be informal and in the presence of the family. They should be made to feel at ease.


 The applicant should be informed that they and their family will be expected to give some of their time to the Order each month and

that portions of the Ritual work must be committed to memory. This may cause the member to isolate her/himself at times to accomplish this task.


 The investigator should tell the family some of the work that the Order does around the community and the world.


 Domestic and financial


 Does her/his home life appear to be happy? How does she/he spend spare time? Do the surroundings and appearance indicate that she/he can afford financially the initiation fees and dues of the Order?


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

 Moral Standards

 Is she/he profane or foulmouthed in speech?

 Does she/he have a criminal record?

 Has she/he ever been convicted of a felony?

 Belief in God – Does she/he believe in the sanctity of an oath and would an oath of

secrecy conflict with the teachings of  
her/his faith?

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  
Eastern Star?  
is her/his profession?  
is her/his general reputation on the  
job?  
is her/his attitude toward God?

WHEN-did she/he become interested in  
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?



Other Organizations – In what other  
organizations is the applicant a member?  
(This is essential only in that some  
organizations are opposed to the Masonic  
Family and the applicant should be made  
aware of this in order to avoid future  
conflicts.)



# An Aid to the Investigating Committees

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