

## The Membership ABCs

A – Adolescents (How are we making contacts with our youth organizations?)

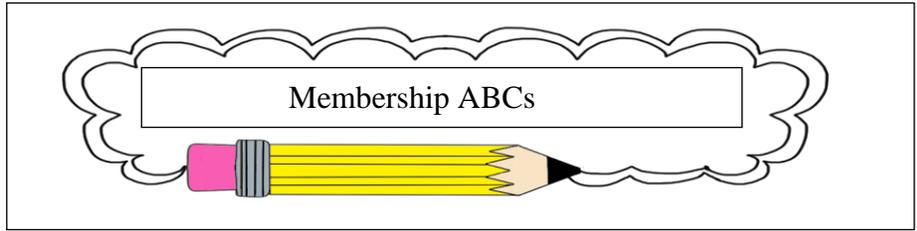
B – Bring Them Back (How can we encourage our inactive members to participate? How can we reach out to former members and perhaps get them to come back?)

C – Connect and Communicate (In what ways are we connecting to our members and communities? How are we communicating with our membership? How do others know the good things we are doing?)

D – Dive In and Participate (What activities are we doing that keep our members wanting to come to meetings and events? How are we encouraging our newer members to get involved and stay active?)

This program is designed to give Chapters ideas on ways to boost membership and spark enthusiasm to retain new members and hopefully get inactive members to return. The format for the program is a checklist. Items listed in red refer to an additional document in the packet. Ideally a membership committee would be responsible for overseeing the program and filling out the checklist. Items accomplished should also be documented in the Chapter's minutes to be checked at the time of Inspection of the books.

Items with (\*) are also listed in The Bee's Knees Program.



**A - Adolescents**

Use the links to identify the Rainbow, Jobs, or DeMolay organization nearest your Chapter.

Contact their leadership to establish a connection through: phone, email, social media, website links, etc.

If possible, arrange to visit the Rainbow Assembly, Job's Bethel, or DeMolay Chapter.\*

If possible, become involved in the leadership of these groups.

If possible, arrange a "Meet and Greet" with the youth organization(s).\*

Identify projects, fundraisers, events in which your members can assist the youth.

Establish ongoing communication.

Ask for a majority members' contact information for possibly recruiting members.

Provide information on how eligible youth members can join OES.

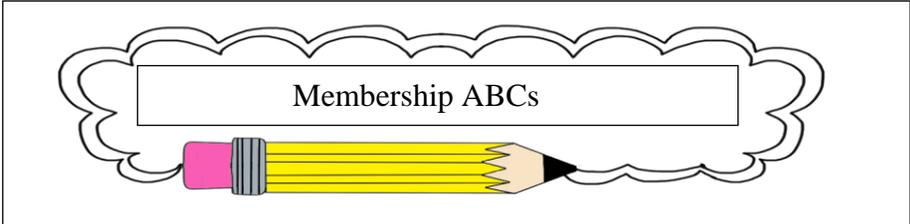
Inquire how your Chapter can become more inviting to current youth groups.

Ask current members about inviting family members, especially grandchildren,

nieces, and nephews with Masonic affiliation who may be eligible to join OES.

*We understand that not all Chapters are in close proximity to youth organizations in order to visit with them, but it is possible to support these organizations in other ways.*





**B – Bring Them Back**

Obtain a list of former members and establish a calling committee to contact them with information on what the Chapter is currently doing and how they can easily rejoin.

Divide a list of current inactive members among those willing to contact them on a regular basis and offer rides to meetings/events.

Offer Zoom meetings for members who are shut-in or out-of-town/state to keep them connected to the Chapter and its active members.\*

Email/mail newsletters and updates to all members and former members who show interest.



Provide babysitting during meetings for parents with younger children.

Consider changing bylaws to start meetings earlier for those who need to be home earlier.

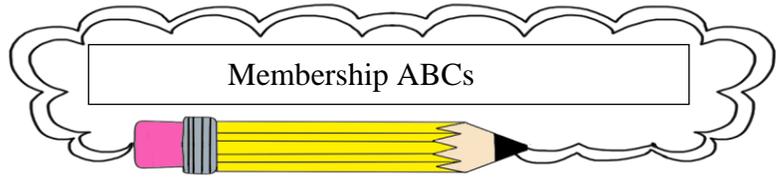
Have the social time/refreshments prior to the meeting to allow for getting home earlier.

Survey inactive members to find out why they are not coming to Chapter and address these concerns.

Establish a membership committee and make sure at least one newer member is a part of this committee.\*

Have an Awesome Twosome or Terrific Threesome event that involves the initiation or return of two or more members at the same time. Be sure to celebrate the event.\*





**C – Connect and Communicate**

Connect with all types of media (website, email, phone calls, Facebook, Instagram, newsletters, newspapers) in order to inform members of upcoming events and news within the Chapter.\*

Establish a cheer committee to send cards and call members as needed.\*

Publish a listing of birthdays and anniversaries and celebrate them with cards, calls, etc.

Create a communication committee to help create newsletters, website, internet posts, etc.

Ask your new members to be a part of this communication committee.

Set up a mentor program or Mother Hen program and follow up to be sure the mentors are doing their job.\*

Provide a comprehensive list of what new members need to know and provide training.\*

Avoid cliques in your Chapter and be inclusive of all members, especially during social times.

Give the new member quiz and go over the answers.

Make sure your cheer committee calls members who miss a meeting to let them know they were missed and find out if everything is ok or if they need anything.

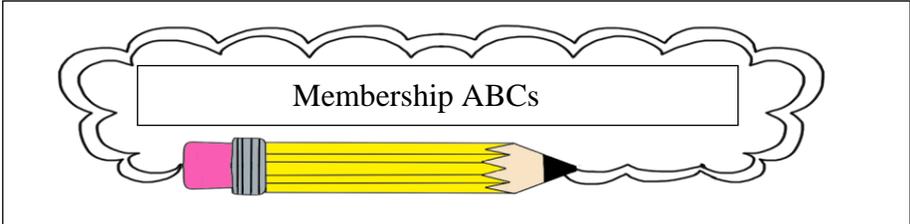
Text members to remind them of upcoming meetings.

Secure items to publicly promote OES (license plate frames, bumper stickers).

Encourage members to wear their OES jewelry and bling when out in public.

Create a business card with your Chapter's contact information and your mission statement to leave at places where members frequent or if questions are asked about OES.

If your community has a public event, sponsor a booth with items to support a charity and give information about joining your Chapter.\*



**D - Dive In /Participate**

Question/survey your membership to get an idea of activities/events/charities they would like to see as a part of your meetings or on the yearly planning calendar.

Interview new members about what would encourage them to get involved and stay active.

Ask newer members to be on an activities committee and plan at least two events in a calendar year.

Survey membership as to their talents and skills they would be willing to share with others.

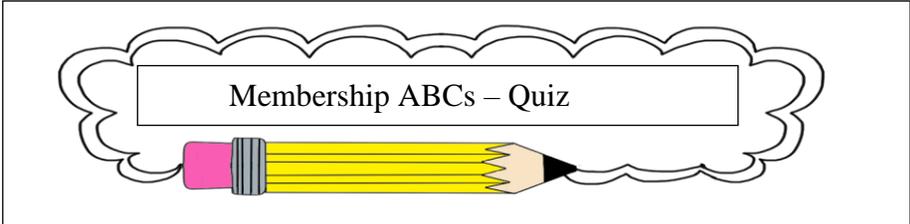
Have a memorization party. Invite members to come and pair up to work on/practice ritualistic work.

During a meeting ask members to state why they joined Eastern Star. Have someone record the answers.

During a meeting, define what would make a Happy Chapter. List the responses. Act on them.

Set measurable goals to see that the above items are achieved and maintained.





**Quiz for New Members**

What is the proper name of this organization?

What are the three bodies of government in the Order?

What are the 12 Landmarks that are the foundation of our Order?

What is the first requirement of membership?

Who are the elected officers?

Who are the appointed officers?

Which officers must be ladies? Which officers must be men?



When are the Chapter meetings?

Which officers must be present to have a quorum?

There are two types of meetings. What are they?

When must dues be paid to maintain membership?

How many copies of the Secret Work are distributed and who gets them?

Who are we?

Our lessons are:

Our purpose is:

Who does the initiation of a new member?

What is the Reverent Attitude of Prayer and when is it used?



What is the Salutation Sign and when is it used?

What is the response from the East?



## Membership ABCs – Quiz Answers pt 1



The proper name of the organization is the Order of the Eastern Star.

The 3 governing bodies are the General Grand Chapter, the Grand Chapter, and the Subordinate Chapter.

The 12 Landmarks are listed on pages 162 and 163 of the Ritual.

The first requirement of membership is to have eligibility through affiliation with a Master Mason in good standing or through majority or three years of active membership in Rainbow Girls or Job's Daughters.

The elected officers are: Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Associate Matron, Associate Patron, Secretary, Treasurer, Conductress, and Associate Conductress.

Appointed officers are: Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, Adah, Ruth, Esther, Martha, Electa, Warder, and Sentinel.

The officers that must be ladies are: Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Conductress, Associate Conductress, and the five Star Points. The officers that must be men are Worthy Patron and Associate Patron. Of the three elected trustees, at least one must be a Brother.

The Chapter meetings are set in the By-Laws and are listed in the yearly program.

The officers that must be present to have a quorum are: Worthy Matron (or Worthy Patron), Associate Matron, Secretary, Conductress, Chaplain, Warder, and Sentinel. If balloting is being conducted, the Worthy Patron or his protem must be present.

The two types of meetings are stated and special.

Dues are paid anywhere between June 1 to October 1 in order to maintain membership.

Four copies of the Secret Work go to the Worthy Patron, Associate Patron, Conductress, and Associate Conductress.

We are a fraternal organization, comprised of women and men, who reflect the spirit of fellowship and are dedicated to work together on many projects that benefit mankind throughout the world.

Our lessons are fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love.

Our purpose is to inspire good.

Our Initiation is performed by the Worthy Patron and the degrees are given by the five Star Points.



## Membership ABCs – Quiz answers pt. 2



The Reverent Attitude is a position assumed by clasping the hands loosely, left palm up, the right palm down and holding the hands at the waist level. This position is assumed during devotionals during the opening and closing of the Chapter when the Conductress or Chaplain enter the Labyrinth, all Obligations, draping of the Charter or Altar, and other prayers.

The Salutation Sign is holding the hands in the same position similar to that of holding the Bible at the Altar when taking the Obligation during Initiation. It is used by the Conductress when saluting the Bible during the opening and closing of the Chapter, during members when balloting at the Altar, and when entering or leaving the Chapter when in session.

The response from the Presiding Officer in the East is an open hand offered back to you.



## Membership ABCs – Skills Sharing



### **Adulting 101** (Copied from the 2019 Oregon Grand Proceedings from Ashley Helleman)

We started an outreach program called Adulting 101, where my hope was to bridge the skills that a lot of our older, long-time members have, like sewing and cooking and auto mechanics and basic budget balancing. So, we held classes at our lodge to ages 15 and up. I had two 35-year-old women sign up for my basic auto mechanics class, both of whom unfortunately had to cancel due to sick children, but I taught four people about an internal combustion engine, how to change a tire, how to jump a car...and I had four Masons, who I did not invite, but they came to support us. They came to help. They helped and engaged with young people, and it got people out of their comfort zone, and it helped us a little bit to bridge that gap between our common ground, because as most of you know we don't have home economics class, we don't have basic auto mechanics or budget balancing or basic cooking skills, basic sewing skills...we don't have those skills. A lot of women my age I encounter, who are mothers - they don't know how to cook. They don't know how to boil water. They don't know how to make scrambled eggs or omelets and it's not necessarily that that is their function, but if it was something that they knew, or something that someone had taught them before they went off to college or when they were a young person leaving high school or entering the workforce on their own – if they had just had the opportunity to learn these things from someone, they would've taken it. Our members were really enthusiastic about it.

The purpose of including this excerpt from the Oregon Grand Proceedings is to give Chapters an idea of what is possible when we pair up our older members who have skills and talents to share with those of us who would love to learn from them. Including members of other Masonic groups in this endeavor is a great way to build communication and friendship. I'm not sure how this would look in your Chapter but sharing your ideas and attempts at this would be wonderful.



Membership ABCs – Youth Links



## Links to finding Youth Organizations in Ohio

Job's Daughters:

<http://ohiojdi.com/Bethels.html>

Rainbow Girls:

<https://www.gorainbow.org/zip-code-locator>

DeMolay:

<http://www.ohiodemolay.org/index.php?ch=list>