



Investigating Applicants for Membership

Office of the General Governor

Moose International, Inc.

Reinforcing our fraternity's history of investigating applicants for membership, the Application Review Committee has been formalized as a standing committee of the lodge. Immediately following installation, the Governor must appoint the chairman of all standing committees required by the General Laws including the Application Review Committee. The Governor should exercise great care in selecting Application Review Committee members and only those who can be fair and impartial, and maintain confidentiality, should be chosen.

The thorough and impartial investigation of applicants for membership is a very important part of preserving our constitutional right of privacy and freedom of association. Frequently asked questions are, "Just what should the committee investigate?" and, "Just how does the committee go about the investigation of applicants?"

Information provided by the applicant on the application form is a good place to start. The Application Review Committee must determine if this information is accurate. The form includes the home address of the applicant and his place of employment. The applicant's sponsor, or a lodge brother living in the applicant's neighborhood, should be able to provide background information. In addition, the member who endorsed the application may have some knowledge of the applicant and his family. The applicant's co-workers at his place of employment may be known to the committee, the sponsor or the endorser and may be able to provide additional information.

One of the most effective means, however, is an orientation program that occurs prior to the vote of the Application Review Committee with the applicant and his spouse/ladyfriend invited to attend. This is the best way to meet and become acquainted with them in order to determine if the Application Review Committee should report favorably to the lodge.

The internet, public records, court and police records are a good source of information. Also, every state has a registry for sex offenders that is very easy to search on the internet. Registered sex offenders must have dispensation before joining any fraternal unit.

The Application Review Committee must carry out its function without prejudice as to race or religious preference. The applicant must meet the qualifications for membership set out in the General Laws. Members of the Application Review Committee must sign the application form and report their decision to the lodge Board of Officers. The report is made to the Board of Officers, but the Board of Officers does not vote on the application.

If the applicant is rejected, he should be advised by letter that his application was not approved at this time, but he may be proposed for membership again in six (6) months. His dues and fees should be refunded by check with no other explanation necessary, as the letter should be brief and to the point.

When approved by a majority vote of the membership, the applicant shall be declared elected to membership.

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