

RITUAL ADVISOR

Another of the key positions on the Advisory Council is that of the Ritual Advisor. Please remember, these are tips only and if your chapter has a system set up that is working well for you, don't change it unless you see some benefit into tweaking your current procedures.

RITUAL ADVISOR: Here are miscellaneous thoughts on the various duties associated with the position of the **Ritual Advisor**.....

*** The Ritual Advisor should insure that all active members have a copy of the current edition of the DeMolay Ritual, which is the 15th edition (red cover). The Ritual Advisor should also have a copy of this edition for his or her use.

*** We use various Evaluation (Judging) sheets at the Annual P.R.I.D.E. Ritual Tournament. These sheets include some very helpful floorwork diagrams which would be very helpful in holding ritual rehearsals. You can obtain these sheets by contacting the DeMolay office at 1-800-432-6232 or at: office@norcaldemolay.com

*** Sometimes, Chapters schedule ritual practices on a Saturday or on an off-meeting night. If that works for you, that is awesome! If you have difficulties in having the officers attend these practices, you might want to consider making every chapter meeting a practice. Take 15 minutes at every meeting to rehearse one or more portions of the opening or closing ceremony.

*** Since young people are not always taught the skills necessary to memorize, it might be good for the ritual advisor to develop his or her system to provide tips for memorizing. Here are a few you might want to consider:

- a. Use your resources within the Masonic Family to obtain tips from Masons or Eastern Star members who do a lot of ritualistic work in their organizations. They can probably give you some good suggestions as to how they personally memorize various parts.
- b. Suggest your members take one sentence or paragraph at a time to get that firmly in their memory before moving on to the next section of the part.

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- c. They can memorize a portion or the entire part and then repeat to themselves as they stand in front of a mirror
- d. It is vital that they understand the meaning or the words and/or phrases in order to see how the thoughts flow together to form a complete thought.
- e. Say the part in front of an advisor or other member to gain confidence in speaking in front of others.
- f. Record the part on a cell phone and then play it back to see (and hear) the words and phrases come together
- g. Set up a system to offer rewards for doing well or in meeting certain benchmarks. This might include a gift card, pizza party, gift from the DeMolay and More Store, etc.

*** The learning of the obligations is an important step with new members to have them begin the process of learning the concepts of ritual as well as the how to verbally present those thoughts. Here are a few reasons why the learning of the obligations is important:

- a. It is required in order to vote or to hold office
- b. When a young man receives his degrees, it can be a confusing time so he may not fully understand what he said while kneeling at the altar. By memorizing the obligations, he can affirm what he vowed at the altar
- c. Learning and then repeating his obligations at a meeting of the chapter can be he first real experience at public speaking

*** It is very important that the member doing a part know **WHY** he is doing that part. A great example is the Marshal walking around the room at the beginning of a meeting. Make sure he knows the reason he is making the circuit of the room – probably the best reason is that he is looking for young girls or boys who are not authorized to attend a meeting. Adults can attend as parents and we find out if the young men are authorized to attend by collecting the Word of the Day.

Look at all of the parts and insure that each officer understands why he is performing that specific part, whether it is the Orator explaining the concept of

the DeMolay Degree or the Junior Deacon who makes sure that our meetings stay private.

*** Entering P.R.I.D.E. (Perfect Ritual Improves Ritual Everyway) can be “scary” for a chapter not used to participating in a ritual competition. Many chapters do not enter, claiming that they are “not ready.” If your chapter waits until you are “ready”, you will probably never enter!

You might consider entering one small team contest and at least one individual event, just to “test the waters.” If you request help from the Director of Ritual, he’ll be happy to try to arrange for one or more of the Ritual Evaluators to attend one of your practices to offer suggestions and comments about your presentation.

*** You should also encourage the young ladies involved as Sweethearts, Princesses or Little Sis to consider entering the “Sweetheart Crowning Ceremony.” They can obtain copies of this ceremony by contacting the Northern California DeMolay office at: 1-800-432-6232.

*** It is important that your chapter has all of the necessary regalia in order to open and close plus present either or both of the two degrees. If you are missing any of the required regalia, you should contact Nor-Cal DeMolay to check on the availability of replacement regalia.

ADVISOR’S ROLE: The role of the Ritual Advisor will vary from Chapter-to-Chapter. In any case, it is hoped that the Advisor will assume the role of “Advisor” and work with the young men involved to teach, inform and mentor them so they are doing the actual work with the Advisor’s support.