

Brothers, based on the passage of Resolution 2016-5, we have made changes to our By-Laws, National Regulations, "What's It All About" Brochure and various other Handbooks. All military members who were previously in Honorary status were automatically changed to Active status. Our National Secretary/Treasurer is taking care of that administrative change. The final item that needs to be resolved is the inclusion of the words "honorable service" in the Resolution. This is the first time that the type of service of applicants was called into question. We will accomplish the task of ensuring that those applying for Active status are serving or have served by adding the requirement for applicants to show proof. This will be done through showing either an ID Card for Active Duty Brothers or Discharge Documents for those Retired or Discharged. This action is not to restrict membership, but to completely comply with the requirements set out in Resolution 2016-5. The following verbiage will be added to our Membership Application:

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

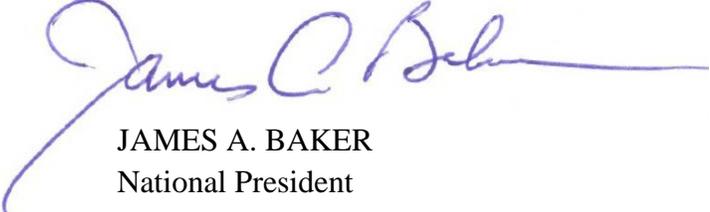
Active and Honorary Membership - I certify that I have examined the current "Blue Lodge" membership card of this applicant.

Active Membership Only - And proof of honorable military service for Active membership (ID Card – Active Duty, Discharge Documents – Retired or Discharged),

and sincerely believe him qualified and eligible for membership in this Chapter.

For those Brothers who do not have their discharge papers to show, take their applications, but not their money, until they are able to obtain the document. Inform them, that when they produce the documents (Masonic ID Card and Discharge documents), they will be considered for membership. I am tasking our National Third Vice President Brother Bob Roth to develop instructions for our Chapter Secretaries to follow to provide these Brothers with the information they need to locate their Discharge document. This information will be disseminated to all Chapter Secretaries, as soon as it is available.

One last comment on membership; Brothers, we must all be diligent to Guard the West Gate and ensure that only those who are fully committed to joining us in our task of promoting Americanism and patriotism are elected into our Order. In 2005, GM Elmer Murphy made a statement about the task of bringing men into Texas Masonry. He emphasized, "We are looking for quality, not quantity. If we focus on quality, the quantity will come." This equally applies to National Sojourners, Incorporated. When everyone performs their job, beginning with the sponsor of the applicant, to ensure only qualified Master Masons enter our ranks, we may all rest assured in the high quality of those joining us and hence our future success. I remain positive that we WILL Guard the West Gate by adhering to our Purposes.



JAMES A. BAKER
National President