

DeMolay International 2026 Mid-Year Meeting Notice Corporate Body



DeMolay International Corporate Body

Pursuant to Article V Section 1 (b) of the Bylaws of DeMolay International, please be advised that the regular, mid-year meeting of the corporation will begin at 9:00 am CST on Saturday, the 21st of November 2026, at the Service and Leadership Center – 10200 N Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO 94153. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct regular business.

Remote attendees meeting information:

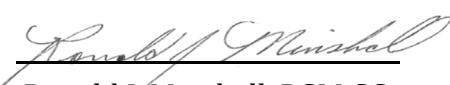
<https://zoom.us/j/98270095765?pwd=jqXUnwgMidnCQbaezSK0fcFojw6QVh.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 982 7009 5765

Passcode: 403776

October 20, 2026

Date


Ronald J. Minshall, PGM GC
Grand Secretary
DeMolay International

**DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL
2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL**

CALL ITEM #1

Purpose:

Proposed by: Jeffrey McMorris, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

**ARTICLE 11
ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS**

311.7 - Letters Temporary. (a) Upon receipt of a proper application, completed Advisory Council registration forms and payment of the fee for Letters Temporary, the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, shall issue Letters Temporary for the proposed Chapter. (2016) (b) The Letters Temporary are sent to the Executive Officer. (c) Upon receiving the Letters Temporary, the Executive Officer shall in writing authorize the Advisory Council to select and obligate the original members of the Chapter. (d) Under the supervision of the Advisory Council, members of the Chapter are selected, and the fees for candidates are fixed. (e) The Letters Temporary shall be signed by the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, **and the two Class 6 members of the Board of Directors** ~~International Master Councilor and the International Congress Secretary.~~ (2023)

Rationale:

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #2

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 15 MEMBERSHIP

315.10 (d)

~~(d) An applicant who does not present himself to receive~~ **A member who has not received** the DeMolay Degree within twelve months is placed in an inactive category and shall be so reported by the Grand Secretary. ~~Members in this category are~~ **is** not eligible to receive a Senior DeMolay certificate or card. **A Senior DeMolay may satisfy this requirement by witnessing the DeMolay Degree.**

Rationale: Section 315.10(a) is clear: when a young man receives the Initiatory Degree he is a member. Subsection (d) still calls him an “applicant” and then parks him in an “inactive” class that does not exist in eScribe and that Chapters cannot actually use. The rule and the membership system do not match.

The twelve-month clock was written for a time when every Chapter conferred both degrees on its own floor. Many jurisdictions now hold the DeMolay Degree at a conclave, a statewide class, or another Chapter. A member who is at every meeting, every event, and every fundraiser can still be branded inactive because the degree team has not yet come to town. That label is false, it is unused in the database, and it punishes the Chapter for a scheduling choice the rules elsewhere allow. This also provides a clear cut way a Senior DeMolay may satisfy this requirement.

This is not theoretical. At a recent multi-state leadership conference we had several young men who had been members for more than a year and had not yet seen the DeMolay Degree. They were chapter officers, ritualists, and the young men making DeMolay work in their communities. Under the present text they are “inactive.” They are not. The rule should describe the member we actually have, not a category we cannot record.

To be clear: this not being able to record the ‘inactive’ status is a problem we have had for decades, not something new to eScribe or the current office staff. They inherited it.

The only remaining consequence in (d) is the Senior DeMolay certificate (the card is no longer issued). That restriction should attach to the degree, not to a phantom status. This amendment therefore:

- Uses “member,” as 315.10(a) already requires.
- Deletes the inactive category.
- Leaves the Grand Secretary a report so headquarters still knows who has not taken the second degree.
- Holds the Senior DeMolay certificate until the DeMolay Degree is received.

The Order is not lowering the standard of the degree. It is stopping a rule that misnames working members and that the office cannot administer.

Keeping Track					
DeMolay International:					
☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended	
Board of Directors:					
☐ N/A	☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #3

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York

Amend: By-Laws

ARTICLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 5 (b) Forms of DeMolay International and other miscellaneous data may be appended to the rules and regulations ~~and shall be used unless changed at an annual meeting.~~ **. The Appendix of Forms shall be approved at an annual, midyear, or special meeting of DeMolay International. The Board of Directors may approve any amendments to the Appendix of Forms subject to confirmation at the next annual or midyear meeting.**

Effective Date: This legislation shall become effective upon passage.

Rationale: Article I, Section 5(b) currently permits changes to the forms and miscellaneous data only at an annual meeting. DeMolay International already conducts mid-year (semi-annual) meetings and may act at special meetings. The appendix is part of the published Bylaws, Rules and Regulations package (see I.5(c)) and should be amendable on the same schedule. This amendment also aligns subsection (b) with the noun “appendix” already used in subsection (c).

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #4

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York, David Kilmer, Northern California

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 3 COMMITTEES

203.22: Priory Committee. The Priory Committee shall promote the Order of Knighthood among the Jurisdictions, assist Executive Officers in establishing and sustaining Priories, and develop programs and activities for Knights.

Renumber remaining sections

Rationale: Since 1946, the Order of Knighthood has been DeMolay's principal program for older active members. It is a retention tool as much as a degree. In recent years, attention to Priories has been uneven across jurisdictions. Some Priories are strong; others exist only on paper or have gone dark.

Article 3 already provides standing committees for Congress, Alumni Relations, Youth Services, and similar program areas. Knighthood has no dedicated committee. Section 203.8(e) gives the Programs and Administration Committee general responsibility for appendant organizations, but that committee's charge is broad and its workload is immense.

A standing Priory Committee would give the program a single point of contact for curriculum, activity models, and jurisdictional support, without changing the authority of Executive Officers under Article 7 or the general appendant-organization role of Section 203.8.

This is also in line with ideas shared and debated during the last DeMolay Congress to bring more of a focus on priory and to improve the operations. I have consulted with both Congress Officer on this.

The amendment adds the committee to the standing-committee list in 203.2 and inserts the charge in numerical order, with the existing Special Committees, Committee Meetings, and Committee Reports sections renumbered accordingly.

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #5

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York, David Kilmer, Northern California

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 3 COMMITTEES

203.23: Squires Committee. The Squires Committee shall promote the Order of Squires among the Jurisdictions, assist Executive Officers in establishing and sustaining Manors, and develop curriculum and program plans appropriate to the age of the members.

Renumber remaining sections

Rationale: The Order of Squires is DeMolay's program for boys who are not yet old enough for Chapter membership. It is often a boy's first contact with the Order. That makes the quality of the Manor experience more than a local convenience. It is the on-ramp to Chapter, and it has to fit the age of the members.

This is also in line with ideas shared and debated during the last DeMolay Congress to bring more of a focus on priority and to improve the operations. I have consulted with both Congress Officer on this.

Squires are younger than DeMolays. Activities, ritual-adjacent work, leadership roles, and adult supervision that are suitable in a Chapter are not automatically suitable in a Manor. Program material has accumulated over time without a single body charged to keep it developmentally appropriate, sequenced, and usable by a new Manor Advisor. Jurisdictions that want to start or revive a Manor are left to assemble curriculum on their own.

Article 3 already provides standing committees for Youth Services, Education and Training, and Programs and Administration. None of those committees is charged specifically with the Order of Squires. Section 203.8(e) gives Programs and Administration general responsibility for appendant organizations, but that charge is broad and is not written around age-appropriate curriculum. A standing Squires Committee would give Manors a single point of contact for program planning, advisor support, and materials suited to this age group.

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #6

Purpose:

Proposed by: Leon Alderette, New Mexico; Peter Brusoe, New York; John Coulter, Oregon; Gianni Di Santo, Italy; T.J. Elliott, California; Adam Hinson, Mississippi; Tassos Kambouropoulos, Greece; J. Michael Larkin, Pennsylvania; R. J. “Jody” Meguiar, Florida; Brad Phillips, Arkansas; Arthur Stauff, New Hampshire; Shawn Vollmer, Wisconsin

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 4 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

204.3 (n)

(n) On behalf of DeMolay International, shall take possession of all books, records, **financial accounts, regalia, webpages, social media**, and other property of every description which are held or used by a Chapter, **Manor, Priory, Court of Chevaliers, Legion of Honor Preceptory, or other DeMolay entity in his jurisdiction** surrendering its Charter, or which ceases to exist, or withdraws its allegiance to DeMolay International, and shall dispose of and distribute all the property and assets within the Jurisdiction for the best interest of the Order and shall report the details to the Grand Master **and the office of the Grand Secretary**. (2001)

Rationale: Section 204.3(n) now speaks only of a Chapter that surrenders its Charter. Appendant and related units also close. Their books, records, accounts, and funds are DeMolay property in the same way Chapter property is under Section 313.3. This amendment states that duty for a Manor, Priory, Court of Chevaliers, Legion of Honor Preceptory, and other subordinate units, includes accounts and funds, and requires the report to go to the Grand Secretary as well as the Grand Master so the close-out is in the corporate file.

Sections 207.4(k) and 207.7(l) already say that, except as provided in those articles, procedures for Priories and Manors follow the rules for Chapters. Banks and other financial institutions still want the authority written out. Those two subsections also do not reach the honor bodies. Spelling the Executive Officer’s authority out in 204.3(n) makes the close-out usable with a modern bank, and it covers every unit that holds DeMolay assets.

This reduces the amount of time Executive Officers need to go back and forth with a bank or other company and the Service and Leadership Center and saves everyone time, effort, and energy.

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #7

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 7 APPENDANT ORGANIZATIONS

207.7 (m)

(m) A **tilde meeting of a** Manor may be attended by **Squires**, members of DeMolay International **and, the father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, and legal guardian of a candidate for the Squire degrees or of a member of a Manor or the Squire Mentor, any** other individuals **as approved who have attained the age of 21 permitted to attend** by the Executive Officer, **and Masons**. (2015) (2016) (2017) (2018) (2022)

Rationale: Section 207.7(m) now permits attendance in one sentence and does not say who may sit in a tiled Manor. For Priories, 207.4(l) names Knights, Senior Knights, parents and legal guardians of a candidate, other adults 21 and older whom the Executive Officer allows, and Masons. For Chapters, 318.9 covers Masons, parents and guardians, and the same 21-and-older Executive Officer rule. None of that is explicit for Manors. The current text does not name parents or guardians, and it does not say that a non-Mason who is not a member of DeMolay International must be 21 and approved by the Executive Officer.

This amendment follows 207.4(l). It names Squires and members of DeMolay International, who already visit Manors as members, mentors, and older brothers, then uses the Priory list for parents, guardians, Executive Officer–approved adults 21 and older, and Masons.

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #8

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 7 APPENDANT ORGANIZATIONS

207.7 (c)

(c) A Declaration of Intention must be made to the Executive Officer in the Jurisdiction in which the proposed Manor is located or if there be no Executive Officer, to the Grand Secretary. ~~The Declaration of Intention, if~~ **If** approved by the Executive Officer, **the Declaration of Intention** shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary ~~together~~ with any required fee. ~~An Annual A~~ Charter will then be issued by the Grand Secretary upon payment of fees **a one time fee** as prescribed in these rules and regulations. **Any Squire Manor established before 11/21/2026 shall be deemed to have paid the fee and no additional fees shall be required.** (2022)

209.2 - Fees Payable.

Add: **“Squires Charter” \$100**

Rationale: Manors have been charged an annual fee that does not appear in Section 209.2 with the other fees payable. The amount lives only on the Declaration of Intention form. That split has confused staff and manors, and the records of who paid are incomplete.

This amendment does three things. It replaces the annual Manor fee with a one-time Manor Charter fee of \$250, stated in 207.7(c) and listed in 209.2(a). It leaves the Order of Squires membership fee in 209.2 unchanged. It treats every Manor already instituted as paid, so no manor is billed again for missing years.

A stable, one-time charter cost makes it easier to open Manors without a recurring assessment on the program that serves our youngest members.

The \$100 is due to the Squires Charter not being calligraphed or as expensive as the Chapter Charter.

Keeping Track					
DeMolay International:					
☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended	
Board of Directors:					
☐ N/A	☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #9

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe, New York

Amend: By-Laws

ARTICLE IV MEMBERS

Section 5(d)

Honors. A Class 1 member, by virtue of his office, shall be invested with all honors which he would be entitled to receive if qualified, nominated and elected under applicable provisions of these By-laws and the Rules & Regulations of DeMolay International. **Upon election or appointment to Class 1 Status, the Grand Secretary's office shall update the member's record. The Class 1 member retains his honors regardless if he changes status within the corporation. The Class 1 Member shall be responsible for any regalia fees if they choose to have regalia.** (2004)

Rationale: First: This clarifies when the Class 1 members' records are updated to avoid them nominating themselves for honors.

Second: Several Class 1 Members have argued with our staff that they are entitled to the regalia for free. There is a cost for the cords and cross that they must bear.

Several questions have come up if a man is appointed EO and therefore elected to Class 1 status, but does not retain the office for five years. By virtue of having served as a Class 1 Member, they are entitled to those honors and those honors do not go away. "Dad" Land opined on this during the 33rd Session of the Grand Council

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #10

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe on behalf of the Honors and Awards Committee, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 6 HONORS AND AWARDS

206.3 (c) (2)

(2) Each Class 1 member may make one personal nomination each year **for the Degree of Chevalier, but it shall be submitted through the Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction where the nominee resides, to give him the opportunity to comment or object.**

Rationale: Section 206.1(e)(2) already states, with precision, how Legion of Honor nominations are made: each Class 1 member may submit one nomination of each permitted type each year, and the nomination must go through the Executive Officer of the jurisdiction where the nominee resides so that Officer may comment or object.

Section 206.3(c)(2) does not. It says only that each Class 1 member “may make one personal nomination each year.” It does not name the Degree of Chevalier, and it does not require Executive Officer review. The result is two honors of similar weight governed by two different standards.

This amendment does not create a new right and does not enlarge the number of nominations. It aligns the Chevalier rule with the Legion of Honor rule already adopted in 2023: one personal nomination per year, expressly for the Degree of Chevalier, submitted through the Executive Officer of the nominee’s jurisdiction. The change gives nominators, Executive Officers, and the Honors and Awards Committee a single, consistent process for both honors.

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #11

Purpose:

Proposed by: Peter Brusoe on behalf of the Honors and Awards Committee, New York

Amend: Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 6 HONORS AND AWARDS

206.1 (e) (2)

(2) Each Class 1 **and Class 2** member may make one Legion of Honor nomination, and one Honorary Legion of Honor, and one Civic Legion of Honor nomination each year, but it shall be submitted through the Executive Officer of the Jurisdiction where the nominee resides, to give him the opportunity to comment or object. (2023)

206.3 (c) (2)

(2) Each Class 1 **and Class 2** member may make one personal nomination each year

Rationale: Current Sections 206.1(e)(2) and 206.3(c)(2) limit Legion of Honor, Honorary Legion of Honor, Civic Legion of Honor, and Chevalier nominations to Class 1 members. Class 2 members, defined as Emeritus members, lost their nomination privilege when going emeritus, even though they remain active in the work of the Order and are well placed to identify adults and young men who are worthy and well qualified.

The Honors and Awards Committee recommends extending to each Class 2 (Emeritus) member the same limited nomination rights they previously held as a Class 1 member: one Legion of Honor, one Honorary Legion of Honor, and one Civic Legion of Honor nomination per year, and one personal Chevalier nomination per year. The existing safeguard is unchanged. Nominations must still be submitted through the Executive Officer of the jurisdiction where the nominee resides, so that Officer may comment or object.

This is a narrow grant, not an open expansion of the honors. It recognizes that Emeritus members continue to serve, continue to observe character and leadership in the chapters and communities they know, and should be able to place those observations before the Order in the same disciplined way Class 1 members already do. Allowing Class 2 members to nominate keeps experienced members engaged in one of the Order's most important responsibilities: identifying those who deserve distinction.

Keeping Track					
DeMolay International:					
___ Withdrawn	___ Amended	___ Defeated	___ Adopted	___ Adopted as Amended	
Board of Directors:					
___ N/A	___ Withdrawn	___ Amended	___ Defeated	___ Adopted	___ Adopted as Amended

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #12

Purpose: The purpose of this amendment is to provide continuity of Class 1 membership through the Annual Meeting following a member's seventy-fifth birthday. Under the current provision, a Class 1 member is immediately reclassified as a Class 2 member upon reaching age seventy-five. This amendment would instead permit the member to remain a Class 1 member, including voting rights, until his name is read at the Annual Meeting following his seventy-fifth birthday, at which time he would be reclassified as a Class 2 member.

Proposed by: Jeffrey C. Kitsmiller, Jr., Missouri

Amend: By-Laws

ARTICLE IV MEMBERS

Section 5 - Class 1 Members

(e) Mandatory Retirement. Notwithstanding the election provisions of Section 4 of the Article, except for Past Grand Masters of the Order, upon the **reading of his name at the Annual Meeting immediately following the** date that he attains the age of seventy-five years, a Class 1 member shall be ~~immediately~~ reclassified a Class 2 member. (2010) (2015) (2016)

Rationale:

Keeping Track					
DeMolay International:					
☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended	
Board of Directors:					
☐ N/A	☐ Withdrawn	☐ Amended	☐ Defeated	☐ Adopted	☐ Adopted as Amended

DEMOLAY INTERNATIONAL 2026 LEGISLATIVE CALL

CALL ITEM #13

Purpose: To amend the Rules and Regulations to establish the Strategic Planning Committee as a standing committee of DeMolay International, and to amend the By-laws to mandate the adoption and maintenance of a rolling ten-year enterprise strategic plan

Proposed by: Russell A. Scanlan, Illinois; Brad J. Northcutt, Oklahoma; Paul E. Mossberg, New Jersey; Steven L. Yeffa, Northern California; Ralph C. Shelton, Southern California

Amend: By-Laws and Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 3 COMMITTEES

PART I: AMENDMENT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 3 — COMMITTEES

1. Amend Section 203.2 of the Rules and Regulations as shown:

203.2 – Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of DeMolay International are:

(a) through (r) [Current text remains unchanged]

(s) Strategic Planning

2. Create Section 203.22 of the Rules and Regulations as shown:

203.22 – Strategic Planning Committee

(a) Composition and Appointment: The Strategic Planning Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of seven (7) members. The committee members shall include the Grand Master, the Grand Senior Councilor, and the Grand Junior Councilor. The remaining four (4) members shall be appointed annually by the Grand Master from a pool consisting of Class 1 members, Class 3 members, and Past International Congress Officers.

(b) Duties and Responsibilities: The Strategic Planning Committee shall be responsible for preparing, maintaining, and updating a rolling ten-year enterprise strategic plan for DeMolay International. The Committee shall evaluate enterprise health indicators, review chapter health metrics, and annually present the updated ten-year strategic roadmap to the Board of Directors for approval.

**ARTICLE VI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PART II: AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE VI — BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amend Section 8 of Article VI of the By-laws as shown:

Section 8 – Powers. The Board of Directors:

(a) through (f) [Current text remains unchanged]

(g) The Board of Directors shall adopt and maintain a rolling ten-year enterprise strategic plan for DeMolay International. This strategic plan shall be reviewed, updated, and adopted annually by the Board, dropping the completed first year and adding a new tenth year, to ensure a continuous ten-year organizational roadmap.

Rationale: Establishing the Strategic Planning Committee as a permanent Standing Committee ensures long-term institutional continuity and resolves historical challenges associated with annual strategic resets

By combining executive leadership (Grand Master, Grand Senior Councilor, Grand Junior Councilor) with experienced advisors and youth leaders (Class 1, Class 3, and Past International Congress Officers), this proposal creates a balanced, dedicated custodian for the organization’s multi-year vision

Amending Article VI, Section 8 of the By-laws structurally aligns the Board of Directors to maintain and update a rolling 10-year plan annually, ensuring that while leadership transitions bring fresh energy, organizational direction endures across administrations