

PETITION FOR DEGREES

TO THE MASTER, WARDENS AND BRETHREN OF _____ LODGE NO. _____
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS:

I, _____ being of the full age of eighteen years, do acknowledge my belief in God, and do declare that, unbiased by improper solicitation, and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motives, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a candidate for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to my fellow creatures; that I am possessed of sufficient means to enable me to meet the charges of my admission and the support of my membership in the craft without detriment to my family; and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the fraternity.

(Sign all given names in full)

We, the undersigned members of this lodge, certify that we are personally acquainted with Mr. _____, for the length of time specified before our respective signatures. And that we have confidence in his integrity and respect his intentions and we cheerfully recommend him as a fit and proper candidate for Masonry; also that our acquaintance with the petitioner has been of such character as to give us ample knowledge of his life, morals, conduct and general reputation and standing in the community in which he resides, and that upon acting upon this knowledge we sign this recommendation.

I have known the petitioner _____ years _____ months _____
 I have known the petitioner _____ years _____ months _____
 I have known the petitioner _____ years _____ months _____

Questions to be Answered by the Petitioner

(Answers to the following questions must be in the Petitioner's own handwriting)

What is your name? _____ Wife's name: _____

What is your age? _____ years. Date of birth _____ day of _____, A. D. _____

Where were you born? _____
(City) (County) (State or Country)

Where do you reside? _____
(Street) (City) (Zip)

What is your business address? _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

What is your occupation? _____
(designate specifically and in detail, both with relation to yourself and to your employer if any)

By whom are you employed? _____ What is your employer's business? _____

Have you resided in the state of Illinois continuously for the six months last past? _____

Where have you resided for the six months last past? _____

Where have you resided for the ten years last past? _____ If in more than one place, state the particular years in each place.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony crime? _____

Have you ever previously petitioned any lodge for the degrees in Masonry? _____ If so, how many times? _____

Fill out and sign the following statement regarding last petition:

On or about, _____ I petitioned _____ Lodge _____ Lodge No., At _____

State of _____ and was _____ *(state definitely whether elected or rejected, of what disposition was made of your petition.)*

Record of other petitions _____

Are you a member of any organization, the regulations of which are incompatible with membership in the Masonic Family? _____

If so, specify _____

Do you know of any moral, mental, physical, or legal reason why you should not become a Freemason? _____

I have read all the questions contained in the foregoing petition, and all the answers thereto are in my own handwriting.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____, A. D. _____

Res. Phone _____ Bus. Phone _____

(Sign all names in full)

PETITION FOR DEGREES
of

Received at stated meeting of Lodge held

_____, 20____

Referred to

Committee

REPORT

Due _____, 20____

Action had _____, 20____

Result _____

Record of degree date

Initiated _____

Passed _____

Raised _____

Page _____ *of Records*

NOTE - this Petition must be filed and preserved in the archives of the lodge for reference.

(To be read by the petitioner before signing the attached petition, and to be detached and retained by him.)

To the Subscriber of the Attached Petition for the Degrees in Freemasonry

As the exact nature of the institution of Freemasonry is unknown to you, it is deemed advisable that before signing the attached petition you should be informed on certain features and phases of that institution which may affect your decision to apply for membership therein.

Freemasonry has in all ages required that men should come to its doors entirely of their own free will; not as the result of importunity nor from feelings of curiosity; but from a favorable opinion of the institution, a desire for knowledge, and a sincere wish to be serviceable to their fellow creatures.

Masonry is a system of morality based on the belief in the existence of God, the immortality of the soul, and the brotherhood of man; therefore no atheist can be made a Mason. It strives to teach a man the duty he owes to God, to his country, to his family, to his neighbor, and to himself. It inculcates the practice of every virtue and makes an extensive use of symbolism in its teachings. It interferes with neither religion nor politics, but strives only after light and truth, endeavoring always to bring out the highest and noblest qualities of men.

It should be clearly borne in mind that Freemasonry is not to be entered in the hope of personal gain or advancement. Admission must not be sought from mercenary or unworthy motives. Anyone so actuated will be bitterly disappointed. The aim of the true Freemason is to cultivate a brotherly feeling among men, and to help the distressed and afflicted to the extent of his ability.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that Freemasonry is not a benefit society, although the practice of charity is a fundamental virtue taught in Freemasonry. We do not pay so much a year to entitle us to draw sick pay, or other benefits, or to make provision for those we leave behind. There are other excellent societies founded for this purpose.

Loyalty to one's country is an essential qualification in Freemasonry, and those only are acceptable who cheerfully conform to every lawful authority. Disloyalty in any form is abhorrent to the teachings of Freemasonry and is regarded as a serious Masonic offense. Freemasonry is not contrary to the beliefs of any man of upright heart and mind, and has in it nothing inconsistent with his civil, moral or religious duties.