

Online Ceremony vs. Online Membership

Since we began using the Online Ceremony, there has been some confusion regarding its relationship to Online Membership (the “Online Join” process).

In its simplest form, they are not related and are not connected through technology.

Online Ceremony

The Online Ceremony was developed to help councils “on board” their candidates when social distancing requirements prevented in person ceremonies. Councils still follow their standard “on boarding” process (approving men for membership, help them participate in a ceremony, and submit new member information). Much like sending a candidate to a ceremony at another council, once a council is notified that the candidate completed their ceremony, the council takes the appropriate action to record the new member (e.g. Submitting form 100).

Online Membership

Online Membership was initially created to accommodate new members who have not found a council they are interested in joining. When a new member uses the “Online Join” process, they are placed in an “Online Council.”

There are councils that use Online Join process to funnel new members through the Online Council and then transfer them into their local council. However, the more streamlined method is for councils to “on board” their members in a conventional manner (approve them for membership, help them participate in a ceremony, and submit new member information).