

Brotherhood Of The Coast – U.S.A.

“THE GUIDE”

October, 2003

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Brotherhood Of The Coast – USA The Guide

This document provides three functions for the U.S. Brotherhood Of The Coast:

1. An overall description and perspective on the USBOC.
2. A straightforward procedural guideline that addresses structure, traditions, and protocols of the organization.
3. The connecting link of the U.S. Brotherhood to the International Brotherhoods.

The BOC is a fraternity of individuals focused around a common love of the sea, and interests in boating. Webster's defines "fraternity" as a male social organization. The USBOC is very much a social organization made up of (mostly, but not exclusively) males who have committed to each other their friendship, integrity, and service in nautical and social affairs.

As a member in the world community of the Brotherhood Of The Coast, the National and local tables of the United States value their autonomy and also the history and protocols of the international Brotherhood. Accordingly, the U.S. Brothers have adopted the following procedures to guide our organization.

The U.S. Brotherhood recognizes three levels of organization:

1. World international level coordinated by the Assembly of National Captains and it's bureau, SECOIN.
2. National Level, as coordinated by each country's National Captain and staff.
3. Local Level, consisting of local tables within the United States.

This document addresses the United States National and Local levels of jurisdiction. All brothers pledge to follow the Octalog, and honor the Brotherhood flag upon induction.

Section 1 – The Principle of the Octalog

The original founders of the Brotherhood Of The Coast intended to bring together seafarers sharing a love of the sea... and a sense of honor and humor... into a fraternity. They carefully chose and worded eight statements of moral conduct called the "Octalog". (Chile; 1951) With variations due to language and custom, the Octalog is today sworn to

and followed by the Brothers of 27 nations worldwide.

Within the USBOC the Octalog is considered the only “law” of behavior of Brothers.

The U.S. Brotherhood Octalog:

1. Execute with respect the orders of the Captain as they were those of your spiritual father or your older brother.
2. Never bear arms or attack with bad words the brother of the same bay or those of the littoral.
3. Receive in your boat the Brother who visits you; offer him the food from your table and the best hammock in your cabin.
4. As you treat your Brethren, so will you be treated and the Captain will celebrate your fraternity, or will punish you.
5. Do not envy the ship of your Brother, nor his sails, nor his motor.
6. Bring the Brother without harbor to your bay, and should he own no other riches than his heart, take him aboard your yacht and consider him as your Brother.
7. Do not be conceited or violent; if you are, you will cause your Brethren to keep away from you, and you will be quarantined with your plague.
8. Love of the Sea must be the Cult of your days; make sacrifices for her, and obey her laws.

Section 2 - Organizational Structure of the U.S. Brotherhood

The USBOC is directed, or governed by three bodies:

U.S. National Captaincy:

Consisting of a Captain and his officers, the National Captain is elected to a four-year term by the Assembly of Table Captains (Legislative Body). The National Captain is a U.S. Brother with a demonstrated knowledge of the history and protocol of the world brotherhood and the U.S.B.O.C.. He may be reelected for a second four year term and , when outgoing, shall vote to break a tie. While National Captain, he cannot be the Captain of his Local Table, or a member of the Council of Sages.

The National Captain may appoint Officers who serve at his discretion. While there is no time limit to the officer’s appointment, the terms may be carried over to a newly elected Captain at his sole discretion. Appointed officers are required to remain active with their local table in addition to serving the National Captain. The Captain and Officers retain their voting rights at their Table of origin.

Typical Officer assignments may include International Vigie, a National Scribe and National Bosun, as well as other roles as required by the National Captaincy. This group acts as the Captain's Cabinet.

From time to time the National Captain may appoint Brothers or committees of Brothers for specific tasks limited in scope and time.

It is the responsibility of the National Captaincy to implement decisions made by the Assembly of Table Captains. The National Captain may give orders to insure good management of the Brotherhood, subject to confirmation or revocation of the Assembly. His orders must conform to common law, the Octalog, and not endanger Brothers

The National Captaincy is the only Body responsible for international affairs, liaisons, and communications. The National Captain and Vigie may appoint Emissaries for duties overseas by "Letter of Marque" or commission.

Assembly of Table Captains

Representing each of the Local Tables, the Table Captains and their appointed Second are expected to attend an annual National meeting of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing, analyzing, and making decisions concerning the business and/or procedures of the U.S.B.O.C.. The meeting is moderated by the National Captain (or designee) and follows an agenda published and distributed to the participants at least 60 days in advance. That agenda consists of items proposed by the Captains or the National Captaincy. The Assembly may also use electronic or other means of communication if urgency or importance is appropriate. The National Scribe will record all proceedings.

Its Captain and a Second represent each Table. (Often, but not required, a former Table Captain). Therefore, each Table has two ballots on each vote. Each vote is carried by simple majority, and the Assembly will follow "Roberts Rules Of Order". Any active Brother may attend the meeting. Only by invitation of the National Captain may a Brother address the Assembly.

If the result on an issue is suspected of not reflecting the will of the majority of all the Brothers of the U.S.B.O.C. because of too many abstentions, the National Captain has the right to call a referendum to that issue.

The Assembly of Table Captains is the only Body authorized to amend the present "THE GUIDE". The National Captain, in consultation with the Council Of Sages, may veto any amendment deemed contrary to the spirit of the Octalog, law, public morality,

Brotherhood Doctrine or worldwide Brotherhood usage. The Assembly of Table Captains can override the veto by a 2/3 vote of all Assembly members.

The Council Of Sages

Having no Executive or Legislative power, the Council of Sages is a group of 3 or 5 Sage Brothers chosen by the National Captain for their knowledge and experience with domestic and international Brotherhood affairs. They serve at the disposal of the National Captain and Table Captains as an advisory board on Brotherhood doctrines and disputes. They are appointed for a 6-year term.

Section 3 - Organizational Structure of Local Tables

A Table is a unit of a Brotherhood's organization, geographically defined, constituted by 7 or more Brothers. A Table is a "Chapter" of the Brotherhood. A Fleet is a group of Tables sharing the same geographical area, such as all the Tables of the USA. A Table on probation or another Table's Satellite shall be known as a Provisional Table (PT).

Creation of New Tables

History has shown the continued growth of the U.S.B.O.C. through the creation of geographically diverse additional tables. It is required to have the agreement and active participation of the National Captain or his Emissaries, and approval of the Assembly of Table Captains to start a new Table. No fewer than 4 Brothers are required to create a Table in an area where no other Table exists. The Table will be provisional until it has attained a membership of 7 Brothers. At least one person, a Brother for more than 2 years in the U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast, must be a mentor to the new Table. New Brothers, named "Co-Founders", must be sponsored by more than one legitimate Brother, be in compliance with the Octalog. A petition to create a Table shall be submitted by the National Captain to the Assembly of Table Captains who will decide if it is proper to register the new Table in the National Roster.

The creation of a new table outside of the United States shall be in accordance with the established guidelines set up at the 1998 World Zaf by the Assembly of National Captains.

Table Organizational Structure

Tables of the USA Brotherhood of the Coast organize themselves freely as autonomous units of the Brotherhood. Tables are free to, and frequently do, establish their own “Guidelines” based on local traditions, ceremonies, names, etc., so long as they comply with current BOC-USA standards. Tables defer to the National Captainty on all International matters, and may not issue Letters of Marque in the name of the U.S. Brotherhood nor commissions to its members for tasks involving other Brotherhoods without the National Captain’s or National Vigie’s written approval.

Table Captain – Election and Responsibilities

Brothers of a Table elect or appoint their Table Captain for a 2-year term. Should a Table Captain cease his function before his normal 2 years, his Scribe will become Acting Table Captain until a new Captain is elected or appointed. The Table Captain candidate needs a majority of votes by all the active Brothers of the Table. Table Captains may propose a successor if there are no other candidates for the position. A Table Captain may be reelected indefinitely for good performance. He may also be removed for poor performance. The procedure to remove a Table Captain from his position is named “mutiny” and is subject to vote from all active members of the Table. To remove a Table Captain from his charge, a vote of 75 % in favor is required. The removal takes effect immediately after the vote.

The Table Captain has the responsibility to maintain the Spirit of the Brotherhood life within his Table. He represents the Brothers views at the National Assembly of Table Captains. The Table Captain is responsible for the good management of the recruiting process of Engagés, their instruction on the objectives of the Brotherhood, their compliance with the Octalog. He is responsible for the good behavior of his crew of Brothers. In case of repeated improprieties he will pass the case to the wisdom of the National Captain. He will seek to follow a democratic process in consulting his Brothers in the affairs of the Table. He will discourage any debates on religion, politics, and business. The Table Captain is qualified to resolve, in first instance, any Table level litigation. The Table Captain is accountable to the National Captainty and Assembly of Table Captains for his crew’s initiatives at the Local, National and International level.

Table Officers help in managing the Table. The Table Captain will appoint a Brother to the position of Scribe. Optionally he may also appoint a Bosun, a Purser, a Surgeon-Barber and a Chaplain. In the event a Table possesses properties, the Bosun manages them and a Purser is appointed to handle financial matters.

Table Meetings and Social Functions

At least 6 times a year the Table Captain will call the Brothers of his Table to a meeting. Commonly the meetings will have a nautical theme, and include fun, good food and grog.

Brotherhood history defines three types of meetings:

1 -“Business Sessions”, where Brotherhood and Table matters are discussed and where votes are taken. At these sessions only active Brothers may vote. At the Tables’ discretion, Brothers of other Tables and First Mates may attend, but have no vote. Guests are discouraged from attending these meetings.

2- “Boucan” is a social gathering where Captives (First Mates), Guests and Engagés are invited. Special guests and future prospects may also be invited. Pirate or casual attire may be worn.

3- Zafarrancho is a special gathering where Brothers wear formal or casual attire, and may be attended by Brothers, First Mates, Engages, special guests and others.

Section 4 - Brothers, Captive, Engage’, Guests, Prospects

The Brother

The Brother is a fully inducted member who has pledged his commitment to abide by the Octalog, and is a voting member of his local table and the worldwide BOC. Becoming a Brother is an honorary and real indication of a member’s qualifications both nautically and socially. Brotherhood status is conferred on the member for a lifetime. Women may only be inducted as Brothers in special or unusual circumstances.

Any Brother can (and frequently do) call upon any other Brotherhood Table in the world, and will be accepted in the full and open manner of a trusted brethren. Because of this explicit credential, the process of becoming a Brother is necessarily elongated and undertaken seriously. The process described in the following paragraphs allows the Table to meet and assess through frequent contact, the ethical and social fiber of a prospective Brother.

Tables may include fully Active Brothers, Cruising Brothers and lifetime Brothers who may have requested an Inactive status (called Lost In The Fog). While a relocating Brother may seek to move his flag from one table to another, all brothers are required to fly the flag of only one table. Dual memberships are not permitted.

One of the duties of all Brothers, and particularly for the Table Captain, is to look for possible new Brotherhood members for their Table. A Brother who has identified a good prospect will be his Sponsor. The Sponsor (for evaluation by the Table’s members) will invite the prospect and his significant other to one or more Boucans. The Sponsor has the responsibility to acquaint the prospect with an overview of the BOC, determine the prospect’s interest, and then present the prospect’s credential to his table.

The Engage

The first formal step in a prospect's becoming a brother is to become an engage. A prospect becomes an "Engagé" after a vote, at the Table level, with a vote of 100% in his favor from all active Brothers. Sponsors of Engagés should be one or more active Brothers who will attest to the eligibility and suitability of their candidate as to character and nautical experience. The Sponsors are responsible for the accuracy of the information submitted.

The prospect will traditionally become an Engagé after a short informal ceremony at a "Boucan". An Engagé is under the indentured protection of his Sponsor who is accountable to the Table for the Engagé's activities, progress in nautical sports and respect of the articles of the Octalog. Engagés are registered in the Table Rosters with the title of "Engagé". They receive a copy of the Octalog and other relevant documents to acquaint them better with the U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast.

The indentured period is set to last the time necessary for the Engagé to be proficient in a nautical activity, to prove his fraternal qualities and his respect to the principles laid out in the Octalog. The time of the indenture period with a minimum of 6 months is subject to a review after two years. It is generally accepted that if the Engagé is not inducted within 2 years the table should review his status and decide whether to continue the indentured period or drop the Engagé from the roster.

Exception to the Engage Process

The establishment of a new Table requires one active mentor Brother from another Table. He may become the Captain and Founder of the Table for a period of two years. At least 6 qualified "Lovers of the Sea" will be directly inducted to the Status of Brother by a delegation appointed by the National Captain. Affidavits as to their eligibility must be supplied to the National Captain and three other sponsors. These Brothers will bear the title of Co-Founders in the Table's Rosters and replaces the Engagement step. Newly inducted Brother Co-Founders are on probation for two years.

From Engage to Brother

The passage from Engagé to Brother must be seen as a very critical step for the Engagé and also for the Table and the Brotherhood as a whole. All of the table's active Brothers need to feel they've had adequate exposure to the Engage to make an informed decision.

At a table meeting, principal Sponsors, who believe their Engagé, possesses the necessary qualification to become a Brother will present a formal request to the Table Captain to induct their Engagé into the Brotherhood. The Table Captain will submit the candidacy to the Table's active Brothers for vote. All active Brothers of the Table must be given the

opportunity to vote on all candidates. 100% of all active Brothers of the Table must be in favor of the Engagé for him to be accepted as a Brother.

Brothers and Sponsors are cautioned that this process need be undertaken seriously, and the candidacy of an Engagé must stand on qualifications and the open free will vote of all the Table's active Brothers. If an Engagé's suitability requires lobbying or other undue sponsorship efforts it may not be a good match. After the discussions the vote is held, and the outcome must be honored.

The Induction Ceremony

The induction ceremony is composed of several steps, which are traditional in all Brotherhoods of the World. The Table Captain is responsible for the solemnity of the ritual and the Table flag should be erected close to where he will officiate. The induction ceremony includes the following steps:

- 1- Presentation of the Engagé by the Sponsors;
- 2- A symbolic ordeal testing the bravery of the Engagé;
- 3- A free-will commitment from the Engagé, by Oath on his Honor, to abide and uphold the Octalog;
- 4- Presentation of the numbered Table Flag to the new Brother.

Nickname: A Brother is identified by his nickname. The new Brother may choose his nickname, and, in case he does not, Brothers of the Table will select one for him. It may be humorous but not embarrassing to the recipient.

The Captive

Historically, the Brother's spouse or significant other is called the "Captive". Tables may elect to call their Brothers' Mates by a name other than the traditional. An example is "Sook" as chosen by the Chesapeake Table.

The Captive, Sook, First Mate or other is an important and valued part of the Brotherhood. While that person is not a Brother, a Brother's life partner will typically be involved in many of the social aspects of the Brotherhood. Many tables consider the Captive when assessing the suitability of a prospective Brother.

The Honorary Member

By decision of the National Captain, with the agreement of the majority of the Assembly of Table Captains, a person who is not a Brother may be made an Honorary Member of the U.S. Brotherhood of the Coast for service rendered to the Fraternity. An Honorary Member is not a Brother. He or she may not fly the Brotherhood flag or wear the Brotherhood buttonhole pin, or badge. They will receive an Honoraria Certificate.

Honorary Members may be invited to attend National Zafarranchos.

Guests of the Table

B.O.C. Prospects are received as Guests at their first “Boucan”. In addition, Brothers may bring Guests to any “Boucan” of his Table after consulting with the Table Captain.

A Brother from another Table is called a Visitor and holds all the privileges of an active Brother. He is invited to attend “Boucans” or meetings of the Table but will not hold a vote in business sessions of the Table. At “Boucans”, the visitor is welcomed with his Captive or First Mate.

The Cruising Brother

A Cruising Brother is an active Brother sailing or voyaging out of his home waters for an extended period of time and distance flying the Brotherhood Flag of his Table. Cruising Brothers keep all Brotherhood rights, including voting by accepted Brotherhood communication channels. A cruising Brother is entitled to any assistance from local Brothers of the Country he visits. To keep his position and entitlements of Cruising Brother the voyager will keep his Table Captain posted on his travel plans. A special note “Cruising” will be set next to his name in the Roster, and he will be exempt from any dues or fees provided he is away 6 months or more.

Section 5 - Authorities & Discipline

Discipline of offenses committed by a Brother will, and should be, settled at the lowest level of authority possible within the Brotherhood. The local Table Captain in consultation with the other Brothers of the Table can handle most offenses.

Sometimes an offense is of such nature as to require advice of those more experienced and higher in authority. Such offense would have consequences far beyond the local table level- perhaps impacting the USBOC in its entirety. It is then appropriate for the Table Captain to consult with the National Captain and/or the Assembly of Table Captains for advice on a just, and prompt handling of the situation. If discipline is deemed necessary, the person lowest in authority should impose it.

The National Captaincy in consultation with the Council of Sages will handle offenses by Tables, Table Captains or Table Officials. The Assembly of Table Captains in conjunction with the Council of Sages will deliberate on matters involving the National Captain and/or his Officers.

It is noted that an outline of serious breeches of behavior, and the historical discipline followed is provided for the use and direction of the National Captaincy. That document is beyond the scope of this Procedures & Guidelines, and is available to any Brother upon request to the National Captain.

Should an offense be of a nature impacting the worldwide Brotherhood, it may be dealt with at the highest levels of U.S. and International authority.

Any level of discipline will be recorded in the official records of the local or national Brotherhood.

Any Brother receiving Discipline is entitled to the right of appeal at the next higher level of authority in the USBOC. The decision at that level is binding. Additionally, any Brother receiving discipline has a right to expect the authority to not broadcast the case beyond what is locally necessary.

Section 6 – Honors and Awards

The USBOC recognizes and honors the accomplishments of Brothers in nautical endeavors and service to the Brotherhood.

Nautical Achievements

Green Star: May be awarded by his Table Captain to a Brother for having completed a cruise “offshore” to a foreign country. (E.G. a Bahamas cruise), or any other recognized achievement at sea.

Red Star: May be awarded by the National Captain on proposal of a Table Captain to a brother who has completed an ocean crossing of a vessel flying the Brotherhood Flag. The Red Star may also be awarded to a Brother winning a metal in the Olympics or World Championship in any nautical sport.

Red Star on a white or gold circle background: May be awarded by the National Captain to any Brother who has achieved, as skipper, a circumnavigation or has won a gold metal in a nautical sport in the Olympics.

Recognition for Merit

Blue Star: Universally recognized as an award of for services or accomplishments to the National or International Brotherhood of the Coast. The Assembly of Table Captains presents this award.

For Merit: Is the highest distinction in the USBOC. “For Merit” is an order of distinction that may be awarded to any U.S. Brother for his contribution to the honor of the USBOC. The award is not limited to only one Brother, and may be awarded posthumously. The bearer of a “For Merit” is allowed the logo of the USBOC on his flag, and is awarded a metal and certificate from the Assembly of Table Captains. He is allowed to add “FM” behind his name in the National Roster. The National Captain and the Assembly of Table Captains award the “For Merit”.

Foreign Distinctions

Brotherhoods of other countries can make presentations to U.S. Brothers. These honors are noted with pride within the USBOC.

Positional USA Marks

Three Gold Stars: with U.S. Logo pin are worn by current and previous National Captains.

Two Gold Stars: with the U.S. Logo pin are worn by current and previous National Officers.

Three Silver Stars: are worn by Table Captains.

Two Silver Stars: Are worn by Table Bosuns or Scribes. Other table officers may wear one silver star.

How Marks are Worn

Each of the foregoing marks and awards are to be worn on the port side of the Tricorn hat and/or on the left side of the cape.

Emblems, pins and badges of other Tables may be set on the starboard side of the Tricorn.

Members or former members of the Council Of Sages may wear a small badge in gold representing the justice balance under USA Logo. A similar badge may be placed on their personal flag.

A National USBOC logo is flown in the fly of the personal flag of current and past National Captains and bearer of the “For Merit”.

Section 7 – Brotherhood Ceremonies, Traditions and Protocols

The International and U.S. Brotherhoods are rich with tradition. It is important that these traditions continue, and are understood and observed by all Brothers and Tables. Some rituals or formalities are regulated; others are informal and left to the imagination of the Bosun.

Important rituals are observed when opening or closing meetings, induction ceremonies, bereavement, receiving foreign visitors and when observing international protocols. It should be understood that Brotherhoods of many other countries are significantly more formal in their protocols than is the fashion in the U.S.A. A fine reference booklet entitled “The BOC GRRREATEST DICTIONARY “(Pub. 2000) is available, and provides much greater detail as well as definitions of terms and protocols.

Attire:

When announcing a meeting, the Captain or his delegate will advise the Brothers about which attire is suitable.

Formal: Consists of Tricorn, blue or black blazer with Brotherhood patch on left breast pocket, Brotherhood necktie, and gray or beige trousers. Optionally, a cape may be worn. An Engage may wear the same attire except that the hat is replaced by a headscarf or bandana with the Brotherhood logo. The Engage may not wear the blazer patch or cape. Formal attire is required at National Zafarranchos, formal affairs or on occasions requiring some solemnity.

Business: Consists of a suit with jacket. Table insignia or pin should be positioned on the left lapel. Business attire is requested at bereavement and non-brotherhood occasions.

Pirate: Casual attire reminiscent of the Historical Brotherhood. It may replace the formal attire at induction ceremonies, and may be optional attire at National Zafarrancho banquets.

Casual: May be any boating or sporting attire appropriate to the occasion. A Brotherhood article (pin, hat, scarf, Tee-shirt) should be worn to identify one as a Brother.

Octalog and Proceedings

Each meeting of the USBOC starts with a reading of the Octalog by the Captain or his delegate. It is suggested that the Brothers will take the “Boarding Position” during the reading, which is standing at attention with the arms crossed on the chest, palms out to resemble the two oars of the Brotherhood logo.

“Cheering Broadside” is a traditional Brotherhood cheer or toast. It is the cry for hauling one’s wind after firing a broadside. Often improved upon with additional Yeehaas!

Welcoming Visitors is an important consideration at meetings. Foreign Brothers and dignitaries should receive special VIP attention, with time allotted for exchange of speeches. Token gifts are exchanged between dignitaries, emissaries and National Captains or Vigies at official ceremonies. Within the USBOC Brothers visiting another Table will sometimes exchange a token gift from their Table.

Bereavement

With family consent, a discreet bereavement ceremony may take place at the funeral of a deceased Brother. Brothers attending will be in business attire. Brothers may place the Table flag on the casket with permission of the family. Traditional Brotherhood prayers may be recited.

If the preceding is not appropriate, the deceased Brother’s Table may conduct a similar ceremony at their next meeting. In some Brotherhoods, at National Zafs the names of departed Brothers are read, and one minute of silence is observed.

US Brotherhood Assets

The USBOC retains ownership of numerous intangible assets including Emblems, Logos, Flag designs, newsletter publications and websites. These designs and any variances are the property of USBOC. A brief listing follows:

International Emblem: The USBOC shares with all other Brotherhoods an official emblem in the form of an anchor surmounted by two white stars with two crossed oars below. Three white stars on the fly are displayed on the flag. This emblem is reproduced on a variety of USBOC articles.

USBOC Logo: The International Emblem within two circles with the words “Brotherhood of the Coast – USA” is the official emblem of the USBOC.

USBOC National Logo: Is made up of the International emblem inserted in a circle with colored Stars and Stripes background. Various refinements to this design are used in special circumstances.

Table logos: May be customized provided they respect the following: 1- The International Emblem must be represented in white, silver or gold at the hoist on a black background. 2- The Table’s own emblem is placed at the fly, and be less than 60% in dimension of the International Emblem, and be in white, silver or gold. 3- Room should be left at the fly for 3 white stars signifying a Brother in International waters. 4- Any new designs should be submitted to the National Vigie to ensure no international duplication prior to submittal to the Assembly of Table Captains for approval.

Brother’s Personal Flags: Consist of the International Emblem, Table logo, Flag number and award stars flown at the fly. National Officers flags also contain the U.S. National emblem.

Communications: The USBOC owns various communications systems including “First Watch” newsletter, “Brotherhoodofthecoast.org” website. The National Captain shall appoint committees to manage the different forms of communication.

National Treasury: Are funds retained from assessments, contributions, sales of BOC signature items, and other funds raised at Zafarranchos. The National Bosun manages the national treasury funds.

National Membership Bounty: Are funds regulated by decree from the Assembly of Table Captains. Cruising Brothers abroad for more than 6 months are exempted. A Brother who is delinquent in paying his share may be subject to punishment or deactivation if his account is not settled within 12 months of the payment due date.

Logs and Record Keeping: The National Scribe maintains a logbook recording meetings, decrees, vote outcomes, Letters of Marque, and all other relevant communications at the National level.

Local Tables and the Council of Sages likewise maintain records.

National Roster and Directory: Is updated once each year, and includes all pertinent data on all Brothers. The directory is distributed to all Tables.