

Following are 26 questions frequently asked by existing members or those who are interested in joining Flagon & Trencher. Remember, though, the best place to get answers regarding application matters is from our *Application and Instructions* document, downloadable at the bottom of the Membership page, and the answers to most of the following questions are included in that document.

1. Is there a fee to join?

Yes. The cost to join is \$200, which includes lifetime membership, review and registration of your application, your small insigne and certificate of membership. Consult our *Application and Instructions* document about payment details.

2. I've completed my application. What's next?

Please go back to the *Application and Instructions* document and follow the process carefully. We find that usually when people are unsure about what to do next, they have inadvertently overlooked a portion of the instructions and information.

3. I've submitted my application and haven't heard anything. How long must I wait until I have word of my membership approval?

Processing time is generally about 90 days (three months) from the time your application is received.

4. My ancestor's name isn't included on the lists on this site. Does that mean he/she doesn't qualify me for membership?

Certainly not. We estimate there are more than 25,000 ancestors who would qualify applicants for membership. We've only identified a fraction of those. Consult our downloadable *Application and Instructions* document for particulars about who qualifies. The link can be found at the bottom of the Membership page.

5. What kinds of evidence are needed to document my lineage?

Flagon & Trencher requires standard genealogical proof documentation in order to establish a sound genealogical connection. Consult the *Application and Instructions* document for details about what is acceptable and how to cite your evidence properly.

6. Where can I find documentary evidence of my ancestor's service?

Consult our *Application and Instructions* document, which gives guidance on the best places to look for documents that will serve as evidence of your ancestor's service. The link can be found at the bottom of the Membership page.

7. How should I send my application once I have completed it?

It is best to send your application by first-class mail. Do not send it registered or otherwise request a signature. This procedure only serves to slow down the process, and special handling instructions will result in delays for not only your application but for others as well. Mail will not be retrieved from the post office. If you wish to know where your package is at any time, we suggest obtaining a tracking number, which will enable you to know when your application has been received.

8. My check has been cashed. Why haven't I heard anything yet?

We cash your check *before* your application is reviewed and approved. This prevents your check from becoming stale and allows you to know your application has been received. Remember, though, depositing your check does not guarantee your application has satisfactorily met all requirements.

9. Will I receive an e-mail message letting me know when my application is received?

Generally, no. This is yet another step that requires time to complete. The more steps there are, the longer it takes to complete the process. Again, be patient. You will have word when your application has been reviewed, and whether additional information is necessary in order for it to pass.

10. Once my application has been approved, may I obtain a copy?

Of course! E-mail the Society ([TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com](mailto:TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com)) and request a copy of your approved application. A PDF Record Copy will be e-mailed to you.

11. If something is wrong with my application, will someone contact me?

Yes. If additional information and/or documentation is necessary to make your application good, the Keeper of the Tavern Records will contact you. This is usually done by telephone so that a fair discourse of questions and answers can be had.

12. If my application fails to pass, will I lose my money?

Only a portion of the money you sent may be retained. Before concluding absolute failure of your application, however, the Keeper of the Tavern Records will do his best to assist in making your application successful. This may require a telephone conversation. Be sure to accept the telephone call. Failure to do so will result in further delay or a possible determination of failure of your application.

13. Does Flagon & Trencher accept Record Copies from other societies?

No. Every generation must be fully documented.

14. When was Flagon & Trencher founded?

In 1962 in New York City by the late Walter Lee Shepard and the late Kenneth Stryker-Rodda.

15. Does Flagon and Trencher have subordinate chapters and state societies?

No. Our Society is not large enough to warrant this kind of structure.

16. Is my personal information safe with the Society?

Absolutely! We do not sell or make public any portion of your personal information; nor do we provide a copy of your application to anyone but YOU, and you must request it in writing.

17. Now that I've joined the Society, may members of my family join?

Absolutely! They may join through the same ancestor you used (assuming they are also descendants of that ancestor), or through a different qualifying ancestor. The process for joining is the same.

18. Is there a discounted rate for my family members to join?

Unfortunately, no. While your family members are *always* welcome to join, your lifetime membership is for you alone. Each person's membership is exclusively theirs and for their lifetime.

19. Are my adopted family members eligible to join through my ancestor?

No. Flagon & Trencher requires blood-line descent. If your adopted family members are able to identify a biological descent from a taverner, they may prove their line of descent that way.

20. I haven't heard anything from the Society for a while. Is it still active?

Absolutely! An annual newsletter is circulated each Spring announcing our membership meeting and other items of interest to our members. If you aren't receiving it, perhaps your contact information is old. Please update your contact information using the form on this site and send it to the officer listed either by e-mail or postal mail.

21. I can't find my membership number or date of approval. Who can I contact?

Your membership number is on your Membership Certificate. The specific date of approval can be found on your letter of acceptance. Always retain these items for your records. Please look for these items *first*. If you no longer have them, e-mail [TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com](mailto:TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com) and request a copy of your application, which will contain this information.

22. My certificate has been lost or damaged. How may I obtain a new one, and is there a fee?

To obtain a replacement certificate, send a check or money order in the amount of \$25, payable to “Flagon & Trencher,” to the Keeper of the Tavern Records. The address can be found in the *Application and Instructions* document, downloadable at the bottom of the Membership page.

23. I’ve lost my insignia pin. How may I obtain a new one, and is there a fee?

To obtain a replacement insignia pin, send a check or money order in the amount of \$35, payable to “Flagon & Trencher,” to the Keeper of the Tavern Records. The address can be found in the *Application and Instructions* document, downloadable at the bottom of the Membership page.

24. I have received my certificate, but not my insignia pin. Why?

These items are mailed separately by US mail. Although they are always mailed out on the same day, often one is received several days after the other. Please be patient.

25. I’ve e-mailed the Keeper of the Tavern Records, but have not heard back. Why?

Remember that Flagon & Trencher is serviced by *volunteers* who also have private lives. Chances are, your application is not the only one pending. Be patient. Someone will always get back to you as time permits.

26. How may I volunteer to help the Society?

Occasionally, we have opportunities for our members to help the Society. If you have a specific skill or wish to assist in some way, e-mail the Keeper of the Tavern Records at [TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com](mailto:TavernRecordsKeeper@gmail.com). Volunteerism is how the Society thrives.