

# Announcements and Reminders

January 2020

*Coordinator of the body of elders:* The announcements and reminders for the congregation should be read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for one month.

## FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. **New Online Application Features:** An updated home page now appears after logging in to jw.org. The new features supporting online applications as well as all existing features can be accessed from the new home page. Please inform any ministerial servants with access to the congregation's jw.org domain of this adjustment.

The new features that support online applications include My Profile, My Applications, Congregation Persons, and Review Applications. The Congregation Persons and Review Applications features will be used primarily by the Congregation Service Committee and the circuit overseer to review and approve online applications.

Publishers who still desire to make themselves available for local theocratic construction projects or disaster relief are **required to resubmit a *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application (DC-50)* by March 31, 2020, using the new online features.** This applies to all publishers who have previously submitted a DC-50 or an *Application for Volunteer Program (A-19)* in hard copy or PDF form, even if they have done so recently. If a publisher has submitted an online application, they do not need to reapply. Any volunteers who do not resubmit an application by March 31, 2020, will no longer be able to assist on local theocratic projects until a new DC-50 application is submitted. **Please be proactive in ensuring that previous applicants reapply in good time.**

**Providing Instructions to Applicants:** The secretary should provide *Instructions for Accessing My Profile and My Applications Features on JW.ORG (S-131)* to (1) new applicants, (2) those who wish to update information on an application that has already been submitted, and (3) all who are resubmitting applications to be involved in theocratic construction.

**Processing of Online Applications:** *Instructions for JW.ORG Local Domain Administrators (S-135)* has been revised and renamed *Instructions for Congregation Use of JW.ORG*. This document now includes direction on the use of the Congregation Persons feature and on the processing of online applications.

**My Profile:** Elders and ministerial servants may update their information in the My Profile feature on jw.org by means of the following steps:

- (1) Log in to jw.org with **[username]@jwpub.org** and your jw.org password.
- (2) Select "My Profile."
- (3) Verify that your profile is complete and up-to-date.

Some of the information that a publisher enters in the My Profile and My Applications features will be visible to the elders in the Congregation Persons feature. Elders should guard this confidential information as a trust and not reveal it to unauthorized individuals.—Prov. 11:13.

If after consulting the documents noted above there are questions regarding the use of the new features, the secretary may contact the jw.org Help Desk for assistance. Please do not contact the Local Design/Construction Department for assistance with these features.

2. **2020 Special Talk:** Please consult the *Assignment to View Special Talk (S-52)* form to verify which recording of the special talk your congregation should view. If it is not possible to play video at your meeting place or if no recording will be available in the language of your congregation or group, you should assign a qualified speaker to give the special talk in the usual manner.

3. **Disaster Preparedness:** Starting in May 2020, the midweek meeting will include an annual part about disaster preparedness. In that part, time will be allotted for reminders from the branch office and the body of elders, if any. Thus, it is no longer necessary to schedule a local needs part about disaster preparedness each year. However, each body of elders should continue to review the local arrangements for disaster preparedness and response annually during an elders' meeting. (*sfl* chap. 26 par. 5) If your congregation will be attending a circuit assembly or a convention the week that the part is scheduled, you should schedule the part sometime in the weeks that follow so that all will benefit. In due course, the *Shepherd* book will be updated to reflect this direction.

4. **Auxiliary Pioneering during Memorial Season:** As a reminder, November's *Announcements and Reminders (S-147)* form directed that elders should meet with field service groups during January to encourage auxiliary pioneering in the spring, using the outline provided in the "Forms" section of jw.org.

5. **Do-not-calls:** Please remind brothers leading ministry arrangements of the need to be vigilant in ensuring that publishers do not visit homes listed on the territory record as do-not-calls.—*sfl* chap. 23 par. 21.

6. **Literature Deliveries:** One year ago, following direction from world headquarters, the change over from branch trucks to commercial deliveries was completed. Although the level of service has been acceptable for some, we realise that in other areas there have been ongoing issues. Following feedback, investigations have continued at a European level to find a better alternative. Unfortunately, the uncertainty with Brexit has caused logistics suppliers to hold off from entering serious negotiations. It will likely still be some time before an alternative can be implemented. If you have experienced difficulties, we express our gratitude for your patience. Should the situation reach the stage that you feel it is unsustainable, please write to the Shipping Department.

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## FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **New Online Application Features:** As previously announced, various jw.org features have been made available to exemplary baptized publishers who wish to submit applications for special privileges of service. Use of these online features is now the primary means to submit applications for regular pioneer service, assisting with theocratic construction projects or disaster relief, Bethel service, and attending the School for Kingdom Evangelizers. If publishers wish to submit one of these applications or update the information on an application that has already been submitted, they should approach the congregation secretary for further direction. Such updated information could include contact information, skills, availability, or languages spoken. Where possible, it is preferred that publishers who have access to the Internet use the online application features.

Publishers who still desire to make themselves available for local theocratic construction projects or disaster relief are **required to resubmit a *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application (DC-50)* by March 31, 2020, using the new online features.** This applies to all publishers who have previously submitted a DC-50 or an *Application for Volunteer Program (A-19)* in hard copy or PDF format, even if they have done so recently. Those who have already submitted an online application, do not need to reapply. Any volunteers who do not reapply by March 31, 2020, will no longer be able to assist on local theocratic projects until a new DC-50 application is submitted.

Jehovah inspired King David to write: “Your people will offer themselves willingly.” (Ps. 110:3) Jehovah’s people have always wholeheartedly responded to the need! We hope that this online application feature will help you to support the Kingdom in whatever way you can.

**The following announcement is for Irish Gaelic congregations, groups and pre-groups only:**

2. ***Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook Videos:*** Starting January 2020, the sample presentation videos will be available in Irish Gaelic.

**The following announcement is for Spanish congregations only:**

3. ***Use of Revised New World Translation:*** Now that most Spanish-speaking congregations have a modest stock of the revised *New World Translation* on hand, please proceed with offering this translation of the Bible to those studying the Bible, regular return visits, or other *sincerely interested people* in the field ministry who express a desire to have a Bible. Of course, we would not leave our precious literature with those who do not appreciate it. (Matt. 7:6) When engaging in public witnessing using a table or a cart, publishers should not display Bibles. However, they may have Bibles available to offer to individuals who request one or who demonstrate sincere interest in the truth.

If you would benefit from having additional copies for your personal use, there is no restriction on requesting them at the literature counter. The regular-size and pocket-size editions are not special-request items, and efforts will be made to maintain a modest supply at the Kingdom Hall so that Bibles are readily available for use in the ministry.