

# Announcements and Reminders

March 2024

## FOR ELDERS

1. **Deaf Publishers Attending and Participating in Sign-Language Meetings:** Many deaf publishers are unable to attend sign-language congregation meetings in person because of distance. While it is preferred that publishers attend meetings in person with a local congregation, we understand that deaf publishers have unique circumstances. Therefore, it has been decided that a deaf publisher may regularly tie in by videoconference to the meetings of a sign-language congregation without transferring to that congregation. The local congregation will continue to hold the *Congregation's Publisher Records* (S-21). This arrangement is an exception to meet the unique needs of the deaf and is not approved for any other language.

2. The local elders should maintain regular contact with the deaf publisher and ensure that he receives regular shepherding and other in-person assistance. The deaf publisher is not expected to attend the meetings of both congregations each week. When possible, it is preferred that he connect remotely from an auxiliary room in the local Kingdom Hall to a sign-language meeting that is held at the same time as the local congregation's meeting. This will allow for in-person association before and after meetings.

3. When a deaf publisher wishes to tie in regularly to the meetings of a sign-language congregation, the elders should send a letter to the sign-language congregation to explain his circumstances. The letter should state clearly whether he is qualified to deliver student assignments on the midweek meeting and, if he serves as an elder or a ministerial servant, whether he is qualified to care for other parts on the midweek meeting and to deliver public talks. (*sfl* chap. 8 par. 14) The two bodies of elders should maintain good communication with each other. Please inform any deaf publishers in your congregation of this arrangement.

4. **Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service (A-2):** The *Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service* will be available only in the My Applications feature on JW Hub. The *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application* (DC-50) and the *Skills Questionnaire* (A-2) should no longer be used.

5. **Safety Precautions for Attending Theocratic Schools (S-294):** It is no longer required that a publisher be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend a theocratic school in person. Therefore, the use of the document *Safety Precautions for Attending Theocratic Schools* has been discontinued and the document has been removed from JW Hub.

6. **“Consent to the Use of Personal Data” Option on JW Hub:** The My Profile feature on JW Hub has been enhanced to obtain the user's consent for the processing of his personal data so that he may be considered and contacted for possible expanded theocratic service. An email will be sent periodically to users asking them to review or renew their consent. The brother(s) assigned to provide technical assistance to JW Hub users should inform publishers who are allowed to submit applications on JW Hub that if they receive this type of email, it should be given prompt attention.

7. **New Official Gazette (Amtsblatt) (only for Germany):** A new issue of the Official Gazette of Jehovah's Witnesses in Germany (Volume 2024, No. 2) has been published.—See [www.jehovaszeugen.de](http://www.jehovaszeugen.de), column Internal Law.

## **FOR COORDINATORS OF THE BODIES OF ELDERS**

1. **Announcement for Congregations:** Please ensure that the announcement for congregations is read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for at least one month.

## **FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY MEETING OVERSEERS**

1. **Convention Reminders, Campaign, and Review:** Please follow the instructions regarding conventions that appear in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 20, paragraphs 19-20. The video *Convention Reminders* is available in *JW Library* under LIBRARY > VIDEO > OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY > MEETINGS, ASSEMBLIES, AND CONVENTIONS.

## **FOR SECRETARIES**

1. ***Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service (A-2):*** If a publisher wishes to submit the new application and does not already have access to the My Applications feature on JW Hub, please see *Instructions for Congregation Use of JW Hub (S-135)*.

## **FOR SECRETARIES AND SERVICE OVERSEERS**

1. **Review of Pioneers' Field Service Activity:** Please review the field service activity and hour credit of all regular pioneers.—*sfl* chap. 9 par. 15.

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## FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. ***Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service (A-2)***: We are pleased to inform you that a new online application entitled *Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service* will be released in the My Applications feature on JW Hub on March 4, 2024. This new application replaces the *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application (DC-50)* and the *Skills Questionnaire (A-2)*. Exemplary baptized publishers 17 years of age and older who wish to make themselves available to assist with theocratic construction projects, maintenance projects, or disaster relief in the local area should submit the new application using JW Hub. Applications should be renewed every three years or when there is a change of circumstances that would affect the answers on the application. If a publisher currently has an active *Local Design/Construction Volunteer Application* on file, there is no need to complete the new *Application to Expand Your Theocratic Service*. Those who wish to submit the new application but do not have access to JW Hub should contact the congregation secretary. We are indeed grateful to have so many brothers and sisters who “offer themselves willingly.”—Ps. 110:3.