



---

# **The Society of American Magicians**

---

# **Assembly Handbook**

---

2010 Revision

---

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## Table of Contents

<b>Part I – Starting an Assembly</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Application for Charter	Committees
Inactive Assembly Reactivation	Meeting Time & Place
Model Assembly Bylaws	Checks & Balances
Assembly Officers and Duties	Tax Filing
<b>Part II – Getting Involved</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Volunteering	Regional Deputy
Assembly Volunteer	Regional Vice President
Donations	National Council
<b>Part III – Making Assemblies More Active</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Meetings	Workshops
Meeting Themes	Library
Attendance	Social Activities
Newsletter	Installation Ceremony
Assembly Web Site	Awards
Publishing Assembly Reports	Assembly Scrapbook/Picturebook
Lectures	The SYM
<b>Part IV – Fundraising Ideas</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Raffles	Auctions
Lectures	Gifts & Donations
Magic Day or Magic Week	Magic Flea Market
Public Shows	
<b>Part V – Membership</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Membership Classifications	
Benefits of Membership	
<b>Part VI – Revision Information</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Part VII – Glossary</b> .....	<b>16</b>

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## PART I - Starting an Assembly

### A. Application for Charter

A compeer interested in starting a new Assembly should contact the National Administrator or their Regional Vice President (RVP), who can answer questions, provide direction, and contact the New Assembly Coordinator to see that the a New Assembly Kit is sent out.

For minimum requirements and other information about Charters, see Article VII of the General Bylaws of the S.A.M. (Available as a separate publication.)

Contact information for the New Assembly Coordinator, National Administrator, all RVPs, and National Officers may be found online at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

### B. Inactive Assembly Reactivation

An inactive Assembly is an officially chartered Assembly whose membership no longer meets regularly. These Assemblies can be reactivated through a less involved process than the chartering of a new Assembly.

The National Administrator or your RVP can tell you if there is an inactive Assembly in your area, answer your questions, and provide materials and direction for reactivating an inactive Assembly. In most cases, the only requirement to be met is the minimum number of Assembly members.

Contact information for the New Assembly Coordinator, National Administrator, all RVPs, and National Officers may be found online at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

### C. Model Assembly Bylaws

A set of suggested Bylaws for S.A.M. Assemblies is available as a separate document. They may be adopted just as they are, or changed to suit the membership of your particular Assembly. For new Assemblies, it is recommended that these “model” Bylaws be adopted, and then later amended or changed if the Assembly membership so desires.

Always keep in mind Article VII, Section 2 of the S.A.M. Constitution, which states: *The Constitution and Bylaws of an Assembly shall not be in conflict with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Society*, meaning, the S.A.M.

Model Assembly Bylaws can be found online at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

### D. Assembly Officers and Duties

**President** – Presides over meetings, serves as a contact point for the National Council. Other duties as defined by the Assembly

**Vice President** – Assists the President (and President-Elect), presides over meetings in the absence of the President (and President-Elect).

**Secretary** – Records minutes of meetings, keeps Assembly records, responsible for most contacts with the National Council, sends meeting reports to *M-U-M*.

**Treasurer** – Responsible for control of Assembly finances

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

Some smaller Assemblies choose to combine the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer into one office.

Some larger Assemblies choose to elect more officers, such as a President-Elect, a Second Vice-President, a Sergeant-at-Arms, and a Chaplain. These officers perform duties as directed by the bylaws of the Assembly.

## E. Committees

Committees are appointed by the local Assembly President as needed. In some Assemblies, appointment may be made by an executive or governing board. It is desirable to have the rules governing committee creation, appointment and duties in the individual Assembly's Bylaws.

Many Assemblies appoint committees such as hospitality, good and welfare, initiation, steering (to oversee long-term activities), communication, and publicity. Other committees may present themselves on a unique basis by individual Assembly. It is suggested that each committee have a Chair, and at least one designated member to act as Chair should the official Chair be unable to attend a given meeting.

## F. Meeting Time & Place

“Routine” is important in establishing a consistent pattern of attendance by Assembly membership at meetings. Choose a day and time that will be convenient for the greatest number of members. Obviously, not everyone will always be able to attend each meeting, but it is important to establish a day and time that will be most convenient for the greatest number of members.

As far as locale, many communities offer free meeting space in libraries, hospitals, churches and community centers. Failing that, various fraternal organizations have space available for a nominal charge. If some of the Assembly members are also members of said fraternal organization, the charge may be reduced or waived.

Alternatively, some assemblies arrange a “trade” with certain venues *in lieu* of a monthly fee. The club may perform a fund-raising show once (or several times) a year in exchange for free meeting space.

When publishing a club newsletter, be certain that the location, date and time of the monthly meeting is prominently displayed. If your Assembly has a web site, you can provide directions and/or a map to the meeting location.

## G. Checks and Balances

The club Treasurer carries a great responsibility upon his/her shoulders. Regardless of the amount of money, certain club members may be reluctant to hand over fees on a continual basis without some sort of accountability.

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

The Assembly finances should be audited on a yearly basis. This may be conducted by an outside firm or party, or it may be conducted by someone inside the Assembly. In either case, it should be carried out by someone other than the regular Assembly Treasurer. Any discrepancies should be duly noted and immediately brought to the attention of the Assembly President and/or Board of Directors. If the Assembly sponsors a convention, it is also advisable to audit the finances immediately following the convention, if for no other reason than to stay on top of any shortfalls that may occur.

As an added security measure, many banks will allow Assemblies to set up accounts where two signatures are required for withdrawals.

## H. Tax Filing

Information on how your Assembly may apply for non-profit status without being a 501(c)3 tax entity is obtainable on the S.A.M. website, [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

Alternatively, your Assembly may have within its ranks an accountant who may handle the necessary paperwork for the club *gratis*.

## Part II – Getting Involved

### A. Volunteering

The purpose of the S.A.M. is to promote and protect the art of magic. Monetary donations do a lot of good (see section C), but if you really love the art of magic and wish to do even more to advance it than simply joining the S.A.M. (although this in itself is a good start!), then you should consider volunteering time and talents to the S.A.M.

There are many places in the S.A.M. that need quality volunteer help, such as volunteering as an Assembly officer or an S.Y.M. leader. Those wishing to contribute to the Society on a larger scale should consider serving as a Regional Deputy or Regional Vice President. All our National Officers volunteer their time and talents. Only our National Administrator and *M-U-M* editor are paid for their efforts.

The annual convention uses volunteers to assist with registration, hospitality, performing, liaison with local venues and media, judging, and numerous other duties. We are thankful for many qualified amateur and professional compeers who write articles for *M-U-M*, as well as contribute effects and ideas. It's all about volunteering, and giving of one's talents: giving something back to magic.

There are many more volunteer possibilities. If you have a skill or talent that you think would benefit the S.A.M. on a national level, please contact your RVP or National Council member for consideration. (See the S.A.M. web site [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com) for contact information.)

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## B. Assembly Volunteer

Your local Assembly is a great place to begin volunteering your time. You could volunteer to serve as an officer, a committee chair or member, an SYM leader, or give of your time by performing on a club show, as a part of a Magic Week or Veterans' Program, or simply helping your fellow compeers improve their magic. The possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Most all of our National Officers, Past National Presidents, and other National volunteers began by volunteering their time in their local Assembly. Many continue to volunteer locally even as they serve the Society nationally.

## C. Donations

Donations are welcome from individuals and from local Assemblies. These could be portions of proceeds from auctions, public shows, conventions, etc. Donations may be made to the S.A.M. Magic Endowment Fund, Inc., where they will be used in the area they are best suited. The Assembly may request that donations be "earmarked" for certain areas or projects within the S.A.M. These requests will be considered by the Board of Trustees of the Endowment Fund.

Donations from individuals are tax deductible.

Donations should be sent to the National Administrator at the address found in *M-U-M* or at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

## D. Regional Deputy

The job of a Regional Deputy is to assist the Regional Vice President (RVP) in keeping in touch with Assemblies in areas where the RVP has fewer opportunities to travel. They act as liaisons between the membership and the National Council. Current Regional Deputies and Regional Vice Presidents are listed on the S.A.M. web site [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

The S.A.M. is always looking for motivated volunteers who are willing and able to devote some of their time to helping the Society and the magicians around them. Compeers interested in serving as a Deputy should contact their Regional Vice President. Many RVPs began as Regional Deputies.

## E. Regional Vice President

The position of Regional Vice President (RVP) was created to help bridge the communication gap between the National Council and S.A.M. membership. They inform compeers in their geographic region of the activities of the National Council and represent the compeers in their region at National Council meetings. This is accomplished directly and/or through the services of a Regional Deputy.

RVPs serve as members of the National Council and are encouraged to visit Assemblies in their region. To request a visit from an RVP or other National Officer, contact the Assembly

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

Visit Coordinator (contact information available at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com)) or contact the RVP personally.

So that all interested compeers can have the opportunity to serve, RVPs may serve a maximum of three consecutive years in the position. Upon completing their third consecutive term, RVPs must step down, but can serve again following a hiatus of one or more years.

The organization is always looking for new RVP volunteers. We need self-starters who care about magic and the S.A.M. and who can realistically devote a fair amount of time to communicating with the members and Assemblies in their area. Many RVP's choose to publish a newsletter for their region.

The office of Regional Vice President can also be a training ground for higher offices in the S.A.M. You might someday be the Most Illustrious National President yourself!

Current Regional Vice Presidents are listed on the S.A.M. web site [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com) and in the *National Council* section of *M-U-M* Magazine.

## F. National Council

All the previous words about volunteering and contributing to the S.A.M. certainly hold true for all the many duties of the Officers and Committee members of the National Council.

There are many Committees who could always use extra assistance. We are all volunteers, serving the S.A.M. and the art of magic. The National Council is made up of compeers just like you who have the best interests of the S.A.M., all Assemblies, and all members at heart.

The S.A.M. web site, [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com) and *M-U-M* Magazine contain current contact information for the National Council and Officers. Contact an officer and volunteer. The first step is up to you!

## Part III - Making Assemblies More Active

### A. Meetings

It is important that the monthly meetings appeal to as many of the members as possible. It is desirable to have as short a business meeting as possible without slighting the necessary business. The remainder of the monthly meetings should be devoted to magic performances, lectures, workshops, media presentations, or perhaps even instruction classes.

Many Assemblies appoint certain members at a given monthly meeting to handle the magic portion of the following meeting. This gives the Assembly members a full month to come up with something new and intriguing to offer Assembly compeers the following month. Another solution is to have someone responsible for planning the "themes" for an entire year and to publish these themes in the newsletter from time to time during the year. This could be the Entertainment Committee, or anyone appointed by the President.

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## B. Meeting Themes

By having a monthly meeting theme, members are more apt to read new books and obtain new material to present or perform at the meeting. These themes tend to generate more interest on a monthly basis and keep creative juices flowing in Assembly members.

Here are some possible meeting themes:

- Rope Magic
- Silks and Scarves
- Money Magic
- Cards and Coins
- Impromptu Magic
- Great Escapes
- Magic with Thread
- Mathematical Magic
- Paper Magic
- Magic with Rings
- Tricks from Tarbell
- Children's Magic
- Thumbtip Tricks
- Strictly Stage Magic
- Close-up Night
- Mental Magic
- Magic from *M-U-M*

With a little thought, many more themes may be developed and utilized. Read other Assembly Reports in *M-U-M* Magazine to see what themes others are using.

## C. Attendance

To ensure steady attendance, the Communication Committee may be utilized by phoning and/or e-mailing each Assembly member several days preceding the monthly meeting. Some Assemblies mail monthly newsletters to their members. Many Assemblies also post meeting information on their web site.

## D. Newsletter

Most Assemblies publish a monthly newsletter informing members of the Assembly activities. These newsletters range in scope from a simple flyer or postcard-type affair to a full-blown 8-page small "magazine."

For ideas on newsletter production, check your local bookstore or library. There is also a wealth of material available online for the desktop publisher.

## E. Assembly Web Site

The Internet is a powerful communications medium, and most Assemblies maintain a web site. Web site can be established and maintained for very nominal costs. An Assembly can often find within its membership a volunteer or volunteers who will develop and maintain a web site for the Assembly at no charge.



# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

Once established, a web site offers a chance to communicate information instantly to a large number of members with little cost or effort. Information can be posted on upcoming meetings, magic on television, local shows, or any late-breaking magic news. Directions and maps to meeting and show locations can be displayed. Photos from recent Assembly meetings or events could be used to enhance the web site.

With so many compeers being Internet active, an Assembly can establish an e-mail group to send news, reminders, and messages to others in the Assembly. The web site can provide links to individual Assembly members' e-mail and/or web sites. (Permission should be obtained from each member before posting any individual links or other contact information on the web.)

Once the web site is up and running, the Assembly webmaster should notify the webmaster of the national S.A.M. web site ([www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com)). A link to your local Assembly site will then be placed on the national site.

Remember that, unless your site utilizes a password-protection system, it is open to view by anyone on the Internet. Therefore it is important to keep in mind your S.A.M. oath of membership and the code of ethics. This means no exposure of magic secrets, no negative remarks about other magicians or magic organizations, etc., should be allowed.

## F. Publishing Assembly Reports

Assemblies are encouraged to submit monthly meeting reports for publication in *M-U-M*. This allows other S.A.M. members and Assemblies to learn about the activities and meetings of your Assembly. It is a wonderful resource of ideas for Assembly meetings and other activities.

The report should be submitted to the Assembly Reports Editor of *M-U-M* at regular intervals to ensure monthly publication. Information regarding report submissions (format, content, where and how to submit your reports) are published in every issue of *M-U-M*, at the beginning of the Assembly reports.

Guidelines and suggestions for writing and reports are available at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

## G. Lectures

Many of the finest performers and creators in magic today make their services available to local Assemblies in the form of a "lecture." Rather than what its name implies, a "lecture" is in actuality a performance followed by a complete discourse and explanation on the effects performed and the methods, psychology and theatrical technique used to accomplish them.

There is no shortage of lecture talent available. The Internet is a rich source of lecturers.

Lectures are available from a wide range of performers, with a range of fees almost as diverse. In most cases, the Assembly will also be responsible for overnight lodging for the guest lecturer. Do your guests a favor and place them into a comfortable hotel or motel.

From time to time the S.A.M. Magic Endowment Fund sponsors world-class lecturers to benefit S.A.M. Assemblies.

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## H. Workshops

Workshops are another interest builder. They may be taught by the more advanced Assembly members or from time to time by visiting magi or even lecturers. In workshops, usually one topic is covered in depth. Workshops may cover balloon animals, card controls, the many methods of cutting and restoring a rope, etc. Topics are plentiful. Take a vote in the Assembly and see what the majority would like to learn.

The workshops may be held in conjunction with a regular meeting, or they may be scheduled on a special night.

## I. Library

Each Assembly is encouraged to build a library for its members. This may be done by soliciting contributions from Assembly members as well as allocating funds from the Assembly treasury to purchase books and tapes at conventions, via mail-order concerns, etc. There may be a dealer or two willing to sell books and other media to Assembly libraries at a reduced rate. It never hurts to ask.

The Assembly President can appoint an Assembly Library Director who is to handle the acquisition of materials and subsequent lending transactions. Lending procedures, fines, etc., should be developed and maintained by the Library Director with approval of the membership.

The library should be located in an accessible location, but should, of course, be secured and locked when not in use. Most common library locations are in a member's home or at the meeting location.

## J. Social Activities

Social activities held periodically throughout the year tend to bring the members and their families closer together and to cement the bonds of friendship. These activities are also an ideal way to increase membership in the Assembly, as friends, prospective members, etc., may be invited to attend without fear of "exposure" to magic secrets.

The activity may be as simple as a picnic in a local public park, to something as elaborate as an evening on board a local riverboat (as attested to by Assembly #36 in New Orleans) or a weekend in the country at an Assembly member's home.

Many Assemblies also hold an Annual Banquet for members, family and guests. The Annual Banquet is usually semi-formal to formal in nature. There is often special entertainment consisting of one or more magic or variety acts. These can consist of anything from performances by Assembly members to the hiring of professional magic acts. In some cases, certain awards are presented. This is also a time for many Assemblies to hold the formal installation of their officers.

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## K. Installation Ceremony

Many Assemblies “install” incoming Assembly officers at their annual banquet. The banquets usually include a show given by Assembly members (and perhaps a special guest or two) following the banquet meal. A model Installation of Officers Ceremony is available as a separate document at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

## L. Awards

Most often, awards are given out at an annual banquet or a holiday party. Some Assemblies have a “President’s Trophy” or “Certificates of Appreciation” for work done during that particular President's tenure.

Many Assemblies have a ceremonial wand that is passed from President to President, with an additional wand that is presented as a permanent gift upon a given President’s completion of term of office.

The Assembly President, Regional Vice President, and National President generally are given discretionary powers to bestow awards and/or certificates of appreciation to individuals or groups deemed to be deserving.

Some Assemblies conduct year-long "Magician of the Year" contests. Guidelines for the selection of honorees vary by Assembly. The award can be given based on participation in meetings, number and/or quality of performances for club meetings and activities, helpfulness to other Assembly members, charitable works, votes from Assembly members, or any criteria approved by an Assembly.

Some Assemblies also present awards to recognize Compeers for advancement in their magical knowledge and skill (such as the “Climbing the Wands” program) or for work done for the benefit of the Assembly (such as the “Medals of Merit” program). Details of sample programs are available as separate documents at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

## M. Assembly Scrapbook/Picturebook

Some Assemblies will elect or appoint a Historian (officer or committee) to maintain a scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photos, programs, brochures, etc., as an ongoing history of Assembly activities. Over the years, an Assembly’s collection of scrapbooks becomes a valuable treasure, a “time capsule” of magical history.

Some Assemblies also appoint a photographer from within the Assembly to take pictures during meetings and functions, with the intention of including the best ones in the scrapbook. The scrapbooks are normally kept in the Assembly library or in a special archive.

Photos and news articles may also be posted on an Assembly web site.

## N. The S.Y.M.

Your Assembly should seriously consider sponsoring or starting an S.Y.M. Assembly in your area. This enables the sponsor Assembly to cultivate new members for the S.A.M. at a later

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

date. The Assembly can make a financial donation or ongoing financial commitment to support the S.Y.M. Assembly.

Contact information regarding the S.Y.M. may be found at their web site:  
*www.magicsym.com.*

## Part IV - Fund-Raising Ideas

### A. Raffles

Raffles should only be used in areas where they are applicable (legal). Use the contacts that members in your Assembly have and obtain an item that the Assembly members feel would be attractive enough to have people want to purchase raffle tickets for it.

Always remember to ask if Assembly members have any useful contacts for a given project. One Assembly in Florida obtained a big-screen television for a raffle by agreeing to perform a series of shows for a particular charity (which they subsequently did). They also obtained the raffle tickets for free, as one of the Assembly members had a relative who was a wholesale printer.

Raffle tickets may be sold at Assembly functions (banquets, etc.), or they may be sold on a wide-scale basis to the general public.

#### **50/50 Raffles**

Consider holding a “50/50 Raffle” during Assembly meetings. Sell chances to the members in attendance for “X” amount, then pick a name (from slips in a hat, etc.). Alternately, rolls of tickets can be purchased for this purpose from most office supply “superstores.” Another “quick and dirty” alternative is to have participants write their names clearly on a bill and place the bill or bills into a bowl for a blind draw. In each case the winner splits the “pot” with the Assembly treasury. This is a very effective way of generating a small amount of money on a regular basis.

#### **“Door Prize” Raffles**

Assembly members may donate magic items (props, books, tapes, etc.) to the Assembly for raffles during the regular meetings. Sometimes dealers and lecturers will donate items for the raffle. Often items that dealers or lecturers have in excess or slow sellers make great prizes. It never hurts to ask, but remember that good relationships should be maintained, and dealers or lecturers should never be pressured into donating items against their will.

With a little thought, other sources for raffle prizes can be found.

### B. Lectures

Most Assemblies sponsor lectures from time to time. If attendance is high enough, the Assembly can make a profit on the lecture in addition to helping their members expand their

## S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

skills and knowledge. When deciding whether to sponsoring lectures, Assemblies should consider lecture fees, lodging costs

However, there are some Assemblies who have great lecture turnout and support and are able to make a profit from their lectures. If you boost your area support for visiting lecturers, it may be that your Assembly will also find itself in this enviable position.

### C. Magic Day or Magic Week

Create activities such as stage shows, lectures, sales booths for magic dealers, etc. Invite magicians from other clubs or organizations to attend. Place an ad in the *M-U-M* inviting other magicians to attend your mini-convention. Be aware of the lead-time of publication in the magazine, and get your ads in as early as possible (at least 3 months before the event).

It is important to have a lot of support when your goal is to put on a successful event. Whether for a portion of a single day, or several days, the event should have a committee of people willing to work for its success. Usually one person does not have enough time, energy and resources to make such an event a success. Delegate responsibilities wisely, such as obtaining the venue, publicity, bookkeeping, etc.

### D. Public Shows

Hold an annual public show at your meeting location, a ward at your local children's hospital, a nursing home, boys or girls club, etc.

This may be a charitable show, wherein all money raised goes to the hosting facility, or it may be strictly a fund-raiser for the Assembly wherein all monies go to the Assembly treasury. Most often, this type of program is a "partial," meaning that a portion of the profits will go to the hosting organization, with the Assembly keeping a share for providing talent, etc. The hosting organization takes care of providing the venue, selling tickets, etc.

If your Assembly is ambitious enough and has a strong volunteer base of members, it is possible to produce the show completely. Just remember there is a lot of work and planning for a show producer, and a strong campaign of ticket sales by members is a must.

An alternate event for a public show fund-raiser would be to produce a "Close-Up Show." This is much easier to produce, host, and perform. The show may be organized just like a magic convention close-up event, where the audience is divided into several small rooms or spaces, and the performers "rotate" their performances. Again, this requires a robust ticket sales campaign, but the production "overhead" is much less than that of a stage show.

Such self-produced events always carry a risk of loss of money, and, at the least, should not be attempted without sufficient monies in the club treasury to cover the production expenses up front.

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## E. Auctions

Organize an auction where members have the opportunity to auction off books, illusions, tricks, videos, etc., they no longer need or want. Most magicians have boxes of items they could put up for auction. Remember, “one person's trash is another's treasure!” An opening or minimum bid may be placed on each item by the owner. The club would then take a predetermined percentage of each item auctioned.

A suggested percentage is 10%. If you can find an entertaining auctioneer among your membership (or a “friend” of the S.A.M. willing to help), you can make the bidding higher and the auction a really fun and entertaining “event.”

## F. Gifts & Donations

Ask for gifts and donations from the membership. Members may donate items to stock the Assembly library or they may donate items for the auction so that the Assembly receives 100% of the realized price.

## G. Magic Flea Market

Another great fund-raising idea is to hold a magic flea market. Publicize the event for a weekend date, and sell table space to compeers and magic dealers or other local/regional magicians with items to sell.

## Part V - Membership

The Constitution of the Society provides that “*membership shall be available to any individual of good character without regard to race, color, creed or sex who has expressed a sincere and genuine interest in magic, and agrees to uphold the purpose and objectives of this organization.*”

### A. Membership Classifications

The S.A.M. offers many different classifications of membership for magicians fourteen years of age and older. Most compeers are either Assembly members, meaning that they are an official member of a local Assembly, or Associate members (S.A.M. members, but not official members of a local Assembly). Although members are welcome to be members of more than one Assembly, only one is officially counted by the National Council because Assembly membership is used to calculate Assembly votes and growth awards.

A full list of membership classifications and complete descriptions of each can be found in Article III, Section 2 of the Society of American Magicians National Constitution (available at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com)).

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## B. Benefits of Membership

Essentially, The Society of American Magicians is a social organization. Its members will tell you that, above all else, they prize the fellowship which it has opened to them. The Society has fostered friendship and association with magicians great and small. Personalities in all walks of life, prominent and humble, have been brought together on an equal basis by an equal love for an entrancing art. However, the aims and advantages of the Society go far beyond its social benefits.

Personal association with experts in the art and craft of magic is almost essential to anyone who hopes to develop one's own knowledge and skill. The Society promotes the exchange of information and ideas. It keeps members abreast of new developments. It provides opportunities for seeing other performers, and it fosters a desire to emulate those who have developed outstanding ability in some aspect of magic.

Any traveling magician who holds a membership card in our Society is a welcome visitor in most magical societies around the world. However, this is not a right of the visitor; it is a courtesy to our Society and must be respected as such.

The Society has done much to gain favorable public attention for our art. It has frequently succeeded in aiding both the press and the public to understand and respect the ethics of our profession. Its efforts on behalf of the public are equally noteworthy. By its educational campaigns against the use of magical principles for fraudulent purposes, it has led the press to regard magicians as public benefactors. The prestige that The Society of American Magicians has acquired in the minds of the public is the best testimonial to what it has achieved in these phases of its programs. This prestige also benefits the individual member, as he or she receives a measure of public recognition by virtue of being a member.

Finally, the proceedings of the Society are dignified by certain initiatory and symbolic agreements, secrets, and ceremonies.

There are a great many other benefits of membership in The Society of American Magicians. A listing and explanation of these benefits can be found at [www.magicsam.com](http://www.magicsam.com).

## Part VI – Revision Information

Many people have put a great deal of time and effort into creating this handbook. It has been their goal to create a resource that is accessible and helpful to all Compeers of our Society. Updates to this and other documents referenced herein will continue as we work to keep the information relevant and up to date. Following are committee chairs who have led these efforts thus far.

Margaret Dailey (1990)

Dan Garrett (2001)

Christopher Bontjes (2011)

# S.A.M. Assembly Handbook

## Part VII – Glossary

**Assembly** – A chartered group of Compeers of the Society of American Magicians who live near one another and meet regularly to discuss, perform and learn magic, and to share and improve their magical knowledge and technique.

**Assembly Visit Coordinator** – Compeer who helps to facilitate visits of National Officers and Regional Vice-Presidents with Assemblies

**Board of Trustees** – An elected group of Compeers charged with management of and disbursements from the Magic Endowment Fund

**Bylaws** – The set of rules governing the operation of the Society of American Magicians or one of its Assemblies.

**Charter** – Official document from the National Council of the Society of American Magicians granting Assembly status to a group of Compeers.

**Compeer** – A member of the Society of American Magicians. A colleague, peer, or equal.

**Delegate** – Compeer elected by an Assembly to represent the Assembly at a meeting of the National Council of the Society of American Magicians

**Magic Endowment Fund** – A non-profit foundation established by the Society of American Magicians to administer several programs designed to promote magic and aid magicians.

**Most Illustrious** – Term of respect referring to the National President of the Society of American Magicians.

**M-U-M** – Official monthly publication of the Society of American Magicians. The letters “M-U-M” refer to the motto of the Society: Magic, Unity, Might

**National Administrator** – Compeer charged with overseeing the day-to-day business of the Society of American Magicians

**National Constitution** – The fundamental principles according to which the Society of American Magicians is governed.

**National Council** – Governing body of the Society of American Magicians made up of the National Officers, Past National Presidents, Regional Vice-Presidents, and Delegates from Assemblies

**National Officers** – The National President, President-Elect, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Society of American Magicians who, having been duly elected by vote of the National Council, are charged with governing the Society.

**New Assembly Coordinator** – Compeer charged with aiding in the formation of new Assemblies of the Society of American Magicians.

**Regional Deputy** – A compeer appointed by the Most Illustrious National President to aid a Regional Vice-President in the performance of his/her duties

**Regional Vice President (RVP)** – A compeer, elected by vote of the Assemblies in his/her geographic region, charged with facilitating communication between the National Council and the Compeers of the Society of American Magicians.

**Society of Young Magicians (SYM)** – An organization founded by the Society of American Magicians whose purpose is to promote the art of magic among children from 7-17 years of age.