



GRAND MASTER'S AWARD

APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Revised
March 14, 2018

GRAND MASTER'S AWARD

INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Concurrent with, or no later than thirty days following the Installation of Officers, a signed letter from the Worshipful Master, along with a detailed formal plan of action describing the programs and goals he intends to achieve to qualify for the Grand Masters Award, must be submitted to the applicable District Deputy Grand Master with a copy forwarded to the Grand Master's Office. The District Deputy Grand Master will review the plans and objectives, with recommendations for any changes necessary, to be certain that the application follows the guidelines established for the program.

This plan must be different than any plans submitted within the previous three years. Each year, two of the programs must be new from what was submitted the prior year (if you pursued the Grand Master's Award the prior year).

At the conclusion of the lodge's Masonic year, but no later than thirty days following, the Master will draft a letter to the District Deputy Grand Master, with a copy forwarded to the Grand Master's office, which will include a complete review of the lodge's attainment of all the necessary goals and objectives as described in the original application. The District Deputy Grand Master will review the accomplishments of the Lodge and forward a recommendation to the Grand Master regarding the award.

Upon the approval of the Grand Master, the award will be presented to the Master and Wardens at a Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication, where they will also be the guests of the Grand Master for lunch prior to the meeting. A specially framed Grand Masters Award Certificate will be presented for display in their Lodge, along with a personal memento from the Grand Master for their keeping.

The objective of this program is to help and prepare incoming Masters for their Masonic year, by having them develop goals and objectives in writing, that have proven to be the foundation of strong and successful Lodges. Every Master and Warden should make the application of this program a priority if they intend to have a successful term of office.

The following pages contain both the required and optional plans and objectives of the program. The Master should develop his program from these with the assistance of all his officers, in particular, the Wardens. Questions relating to any of the material should be directed to the appropriate District Deputy Grand Master, or the Training Department of Grand Lodge.

GRAND MASTER'S AWARD REQUIRED CATEGORIES

I. MEMBERSHIP: A plan must be established in writing which will address renewal of current members who rarely come to lodge, retention of the currently active members, revival of those members who have demitted or left the lodge, and recruiting of prospective members who meet the principles of membership. Objectives should be established for all of the above areas, with reporting of the achievement of those objectives at year-end.

II. COMMUNITY OUTREACH: A Masonic Awareness Chairman shall be appointed by the Master and a written plan of action will be established that describes the objectives of the lodge's Awareness Program for the year. The plan should detail programs that will cater to the Craft, as well as the community, with the primary objective of creating awareness among non-Masons. The report on this category should include specific programs that have been implemented, along with the net result of those programs, including attendance figures. Regular submissions to local newspapers, as well as social media outlets, should be a major focus of this program.

III. EXEMPLIFICATION: Every Line Officer and Ritualist of the Lodge are required to attend their District's Exemplification of the work, as conducted by the District Deputy Grand Master and Grand Lecturer. The Lodge will also provide at least one working Candidate, and when a Master Mason Degree is to be exemplified, at least three Gate Men must additionally be present. The District Deputy Grand Master has the authority to excuse up to four of the above with good and sufficient reason.

IV. QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS OF GRAND LODGE: The Lodge must be represented at every Quarterly Communication, with the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden present for at least one Quarterly, and with at least one of the above, or the approved Proxy, present for the remainder.

V. FUND RAISING FOR CHARITIES and/or YOUR LODGE BUILDING FUND: The Lodge must have, or appoint, a Chairman for Fund Raising. You are to institute programs to provide an amount of \$5.00 or more, per member, towards the support of Grand Lodge Charitable activities; such as the Masonic Education & Charitable Trust, the Brotherhood Fund, or your own Lodge Building Fund, if funds are needed to sustain your building.

VI. PROGRAM TO AVOID SUSPENSIONS AND DEMITS: Describe in detail your Lodge's program to avoid Suspensions for non-payment of dues and Demits. In each instance where a Suspension or Demit has occurred, you must show that the procedure for Suspension outlined by the Grand Master has been followed,

and you must fully explain the reasons for such a Demit or Suspension and provide a list of those Brethren affected.

VII. DEMOLAY OR RAINBOW SUPPORT: This may be support of either organization, and may be in the form of adult leadership, sponsorship of a Chapter, scholarship contribution or program, Leadership Conference participation, Conclave involvement, or other active service to these young people. Personal attendance by lodge members is encouraged. Describe your program, naming individual lodge representatives, and listing their specific activities.

VIII. VISITATIONS OF THE DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER: The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden must attend together at least one of the District Deputy Grand Master's Official, or Fraternal Visits, within the District, and at least two of the above must attend each of the remaining.

IX. WIDOW AND OLDER MEMBER CONTACT: A committee should be established to develop and maintain a current list of all Widows, and older members of the lodge (age 80 and older is recommended), including shut-ins, those with illnesses, etc., whereby regular contact is made to each person. A minimum of two contacts per year is required, and inquiries as to their health, if assistance is needed, and general overall well-being, are topics which should be discussed to ascertain if they are in need. Holidays, Birthdays, and certainly harsh weather, are times when contact would be most appreciated. Invitations to lodge events should be offered.

X. LODGE OFFICER ESSAYS: The Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden, shall each write their own essay, relative to their thoughts on our fraternity. The four points to address are:

1. The benefits of Membership
2. What are untapped (or better) ways we can expose our Communities to Freemasonry?
3. What do we need to focus on to improve this fraternity? What would you do?
4. Where do you see our importance as a fraternity in the future?

The essays should be no more than two pages each. They are expected to be insightful, and written with a personal interest for the betterment of our Craft.

XI. ROOKIE AWARD AND MASTER BUILDER AWARD: All candidates are expected to be introduced to, and pursue, the Rookie Award. If your lodge has no candidates, or a percentage of your candidates cannot participate for specific reasons, a minimum of two current members of your lodge are to enroll and pursue the Master Builder Award.

XII. GRAND LODGE REQUIREMENTS FULFILLED: In addition to the above, assure that all Grand Lodge requirements have been fulfilled in a timely manner, including the attendance of the Master and Wardens at the Master's Path Program (the Master must have attended the Master's Path Program during the 30-months prior to his Installation), the remittance of Grand Lodge dues, the filing of required forms and reports, the verification of membership lists, and the distribution of newsletters and communications in a timely manner.

GRAND MASTER'S AWARD OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

(Minimum of Six Required)

I. RELIGIOUS SERVICE PARTICIPATION: Plan and participate in a Service of Worship by opening Lodge, attending in regalia, and participating in said Religious Service as a Lodge, or as a part of a District-wide Service.

II. ATTENDANCE AT LODGE OF INSTRUCTION: The attendance of the eight line officers, including the mandatory attendance of the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, at a Lodge of Instruction, shall exceed fifty percent (50%) for the Masonic year. Attendance at other Lodges of Instruction will be counted as part of the requirement above.

III. LODGE OF QUALIFICATION PARTICIPATION: Describe the participation in the District Lodge of Qualification by Past Masters of your Lodge utilizing the Grand Lodge Ritual.

IV. SUPPORT OF COLLATERAL MASONIC BODIES: Describe your Lodges' program to support and provide information to your membership on the collateral Masonic Organizations, such as Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, Grotto and others.

V. ATTENDANCE AT FEAST OF ST. JOHN: At least two (2) Officers or members must be in attendance at the Feast of St. John. This number may not include Grand Lodge Officers or Permanent Members.

VI. FAMILY SOCIAL FUNCTION: Organize and describe any programs established or planned during the Masonic Year, relating to Masonic Family activities. These may include a Ladies Night, Father and Son Night, Family Nights, Holiday Parties, Family Picnics, Field Days, Mystery Rides, or any other function designed for family participation.

VII. SERVICE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY: Describe in detail the organization, and success, of your Lodge's Service Program. List the individual activities of the committee regarding Transportation assistance, Hospital and Veteran's Homes visits, your Lodge's C.P.R. (Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation Program), service to the elderly and youth in the community, work at the Scottish Rite Learning Centers, Shrine Hospitals, CHIP, Masonic Angel Funds, or any other areas of community service. Describe any Hospital Equipment Loan Program in place, or any other services provided by your Lodge.

VIII. INTERVISITATIONS: Describe in detail, visits by a minimum of four lodge officers and/or members, to lodges within your District, elsewhere in Massachusetts, or to other Masonic Jurisdictions.

IX. MASONIC BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: Describe in detail your part in a concerted effort toward the improvement of the building in which you are now meeting.

X. BLOOD PROGRAM: Describe in detail any blood program your Lodge has in place, including all planned activities and goals. Are you sending write-ups to your newspapers, or other outlets, informing them of your activities?

XI. LODGE MEETING AT GRAND LODGE: Lodges can hold one of their meetings at the Grand Lodge in Boston. Several beautiful lodge rooms are available at no charge (the only cost would be catering, and parking), and the Grand Lodge can also assist with providing regalia and other associated items. Tours of the building prior to the meeting(s), may also be arranged with due notice.