



# GRAND MASTER'S AWARD

## APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Revised  
December 27, 2004

This 12/2004 edition is still the most current update of the Grand Master's Award requirements as of August 2011.

# **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.

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 reward.

Upon the approval of the Grand Master the award will be presented to the Master and Wardens at a Grand Lodge Quarterly 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 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 yearend.

II. **MASONIC AWARENESS**: A Masonic Awareness Chairman shall be appointed by the Master and a written plan of action established describing the objectives of the Lodge's awareness program for the year. The plan should establish 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 established and the net result of those programs including attendance figures.

III. **EXEMPLIFICATION**: Every Line Officer and Ritualist of the Lodge are required to attend their districts 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 GRAND LODGE CHARITIES**: The Lodge must have or appoint a Chairman for The Campaign for Masonry and also institute programs to provide an amount equal to at least \$5.00 per member towards the support of Grand Lodge Charitable activities. Any Lodge which does achieve or has exceeded its goal for the Campaign for Masonry is exempt from this requirement.

VI. **PILGRIMAGE TO MASONIC HOME**: Describe in detail your Lodge's Pilgrimage to the Masonic Home in Charlton, at a time other than the Grand Masters Fair, and the plans made in preparation thereof. The plan must include the number of officers and members of your Lodge who will attend along with a detailed explanation of the planned program for the residents while there.

**VII. 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.

**VIII. 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. Describe your program naming individual Lodge Representatives and listing their specific activities.

**IX. 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.

**X. 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 communication 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, processing 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 by candidates shall be counted as two persons present but may not be included as part of the previous requirement. 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 in due form by Past Masters of your Lodge utilizing Grand Lodge Ritual.

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

**V. WIDOWS PROGRAM:** Describe in full your Lodge's Program to maintain contact with and service to the widows of deceased members of your Lodge. This program should also include the maintenance of contact with the spouses of shut in members.

**VI. 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.

**VII. COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM:** Describe in full your program to serve the community and its citizens in the name of Freemasonry. The programs may include 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.

**VIII. 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.

**IX. SERVICE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY:** Describe in detail the organization and success of your Lodge's Service Program. List the individual activities of the Committees for Service, Transportation, Telephone, Hospital, Veterans Homes and Visitations. Describe any Hospital Equipment Loan Program in place or any other services provided by your Lodge.

**X. INTERVISITATIONS:** Describe in detail visits by groups of Lodge Officers and Members to Lodges within your District, elsewhere in Massachusetts or to other Masonic Jurisdictions.

**XI. 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.

**XII. BLOOD PROGRAM:** Describe in detail any blood program your Lodge has in place including all planned activities and goals.

**XIII. MASONIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE:** At least one line officer must be a participant or enrolled to be a participant in a Masonic Leadership Institute Class during the Lodge's Masonic year. Describe what financial assistance the Lodge is or will provide to the class participant.