

# **KANSAS FREEMASONS**

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## **ON THE LEVEL**

### **RITUALIST PROFICIENCY PROGRAM**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2013, the Grand Lodge of Kansas Council of Administration upgraded the proficiency awards available to those members who have earned a ritualistic proficiency pursuant to By-Law § 3-616. Heretofore, those brethren were awarded a plastic lapel pin featuring the letter designation of the proficiency achieved: B, A, M or U. The upgrade is designed to increase the prestige and recognition of those brethren who have proven themselves proficient in our work, but it does not change the requirements for earning those proficiencies. Proficiency award winners will henceforth be awarded a breast jewel eligible for wear at all Craft functions (See below).

The upgraded jewels and indeed the titles of the proficiency awards themselves reflect the importance of ritualistic proficiency in Freemasonry itself, and particularly in local lodges, where lackluster ritual is often the first sign of lodges in trouble. As part of the upgrade, the Council has also embarked on a promotional campaign designed to highlight awareness not only of the importance of ritualistic proficiency, but of how to go about earning it, as well.

The Grand Lodge Brochure that accompanies this handout explains how to arrange for a proficiency committee by contacting your District or Area Deputy. In the unlikely event you receive no response from them, you may contact any Grand Lecturer, or the Grand Secretary (email: [om@kansasmason.org](mailto:om@kansasmason.org)).

#### **UNIFYING THE STANDARD**

Although the Grand lodge draws its pool of Grand Lecturers from the ranks of Master Ritualists (formerly *Unlimited* card holders), the proficiency program has not previously been deliberately linked with the proficiency system. This oversight must be corrected, and beginning Ritualists

**THE PURPLE OF  
THE FRATERNITY**

The new Ritualist Proficiency program renames the old proficiency cards as follows:

|        |        |                       |
|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| B Card | is now | Ritualist             |
| A Card | is now | Ritualist First Class |
| M Card | is now | Senior Ritualist      |
| U card | is now | Master Ritualist      |

*Learn the* **RITUAL**

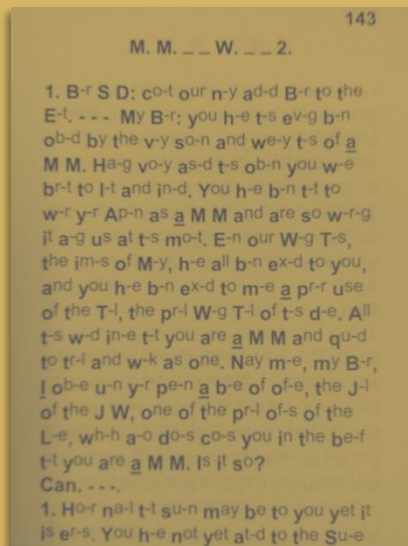
**BECOME A GRAND LECTURER**

should clearly understand that the proficiency system is the pathway to becoming a Grand Lecturer.

It is for this reason that the jewels adopted by the council retain the same style from Ritualist all the way to Grand Lecturer. The Council of Administration and the Grand Master will continue to emphasize the value of this program. Local lodges will be supplied with the Ritualist Proficiency brochure and are encouraged to share this information with their members.

## THE REQUIREMENTS

Proficiency standards are listed in By-Law § 3-616 as follows:



**Certificates of Proficiency**--The Grand Master may issue certificates to especially proficient Master Masons, reciting, in substance, that the Brother therein named has passed the examination to receive same. Such examinations shall be under the supervision of the Grand Master, who shall prescribe the rules and regulations therefor. The certificates shall be regarded as recognition of merit, and shall in no way authorize any such Mason to instruct a Lodge or act as a Lecturer, by reason of having received the same unless specially authorized by the Grand Master. Certificates issued shall be continued in effect until revoked or surrendered, subject to re-examination as required by the Grand Master.

A Class "B" Certificate is issued to a Brother who passes an examination showing proficiency in the Work Lectures of the three Degrees. This will include the questions and answers, the obligations, and the working tools of the three Degrees.

The examination when taken shall cover all three Degrees at the specific time. It shall not be taken in stages, days or weeks apart.

This examination will be conducted by a committee of at least three proficient Brothers who hold "B" Certificates or higher.

A Class "A" Certificate is issued to a Brother who possesses a "B" Certificate and passes an examination showing accuracy and proficiency in the ritual, floor movements, and language of all officers in opening and closing Lodge, calling off and on, and conferring the first section of all three Degrees. This will include the interrogatories as given by the Senior Deacon in the conferral of the first Degree.

The examination, when taken, shall cover all three Degrees at the specific time. It shall not be taken in stages, days or weeks apart.

This examination will be conducted by a committee of at least three proficient brothers who hold "A" Certificates or higher.

Examinations for "B" and "A" Certificates may be taken individually or two or more at the same time. For "B" Certificates, if two or more Brothers take the examination, candidates will

alternate in asking question and giving answers. However, each candidate shall give the obligation and the working tools, individually. For "**A**" Certificates, if two or more are taking the examination they will alternate in the work. In other words, one would be Master, one Senior Warden, and so forth.

A "**Master's**" Certificate is issued to the holder of "**B**" and "**A**" Certificates who passes the required examination on the charges of all three Degrees and the second section of the Fellow Craft Degree, excluding the Stair Lecture as given by the Senior Deacon. The requirements for a "**Master's**" Certificate shall also include the second section of the third Degree, excluding the second and third section lecture but including the floor movements therein.

This examination will be taken individually and conducted by a committee of at least three proficient brothers who hold "**Master's**" Certificates or higher. If the lodge is unable to provide three proficient brothers to conduct the examination, contact the DDGM, the District Lecturer, a Grand Lecturer or the Ritualistic Committee Chairman.

An "**Unlimited**" Certificate is issued to a Brother who is the holder of "**B**", "**A**" and "**Master's**" Proficiency Certificates and who passes an examination showing proficiency and accuracy in the remaining esoteric work of all three Degrees, including floor movements, and who is able to confer the monitorial work of all three degrees.

The extended cipher work is as follows:

1. EA Lecturer 2, Narrative, cipher pages 68-72  
FC Work, cipher pages 100-117  
MM Lecturer 3, Narrative, cipher pages 165-177
2. Secret work in:  
EA Lecture 3, Narrative, cipher pages 72-84  
MM Lecture 3, Narrative, cipher pages 177-187

Brothers holding the "**B**," "**A**," and "**Master's**" Certificates may request the Master or the DDGM to have the chairman of the Ritualistic Committee arrange for them an examination by an Unlimited Proficiency Committee. The chairman will appoint an examining committee and arrange a time and place. Upon completion of the examination, the committee will report to the chairman of the Ritualistic Committee, and upon his approval the Grand Secretary will prepare the Unlimited Proficiency certificate, which will be presented to those passing the examination, as ordered by the Grand Master.

This examination is to be taken individually and is to be conducted by a committee of at least three proficient Brothers holding Unlimited Proficiency Certificates.

In the "**A**," "**Master's**," and "**Unlimited**" examinations no more than six errors will be permitted in the wording and floor movements. Errors not charged for monitorial wording. (Amended 1989)

## AWARD CEREMONIES

Proficiency awards should be treated as a high honor earned after much diligent study and effort, and should on no account be casually given. The approved awards ceremony for Ritualist and Ritualist First Class is included below in the appendix.

Although the Grand Master may personally present any proficiency award to any member at his discretion, Ritualist and Ritualist First Class jewels are normally presented by the District or Area Deputy at the member's home lodge, or at a District or Area meeting. Senior and Master Ritualist jewels are presented by the Grand Master at the Annual Communication.

## THE JEWEL



Each jewel is suspended on a bi-colored ribbon symbolizing *From Darkness to Light*. The Ritualist, Senior Ritualist and Master Ritualist jewel hang from a black and white ribbon; the Assistant Grand Lecturer and Grand Lecturer jewel is suspended from a blue and grey ribbon.

The Medallion features a Cipher, surrounded by a wreath and covered by two crossed swords. The Inscription on each medallion notes the name of the awardee and the date the jewel was awarded.

Ritualist features the jewel and ribbon alone.

Ritualist First Class features the jewel and a bronze star.

Senior Ritualist features the jewel and a silver star

Master Ritualist features the jewel and a gold star.

Assistant Grand Lecturer features the jewel and ribbon alone.

Grand Lecturer features the jewel and a gold star.

For awardees after January 1, 2014, there is no cost to the award.

## DISPLAY AND WEAR

The Ritualist Jewel is worn with business or formal attire on the left breast of a suit coat, dinner jacket, or sport coat, pinned at the pocket. The jewel is authorized for wear at all Craft functions (with appropriate attire). The jewel should never be worn on a shirt. The award shall be worn by the recipient only.

The Ritualist jewel for Grand Lecturers and Assistant Grand Lecturers is second in order of precedence for breast jewels. It is worn to the right of all jewels but to the left of the Distinguished Service Medal. The Ritualist jewel for recipients of Ritualist (or Ritualist First Class), Senior Ritualist (M Card Holders), Master Ritualist (U Card holders) is fourth in order of precedence for breast jewels, being worn to the left of Distinguished Service Medal and the Master's Achievement Award.

## EXISTING CARD HOLDERS

Holders of any Grand Lodge of Kansas proficiency card are entitled to wear a corresponding Ritualist jewel and may upgrade their card to jewel at no cost by re-proving their proficiency. Otherwise, they may present their certification to the Grand Lodge along and purchase the jewel for \$65.

# APPENDIX A

## RITUALIST & RITUALIST FIRST CLASS CEREMONY

by Tony Borum, Area Deputy Grand Master, Area 2

*Attire:*

*Presiding Officer - Suit or coat and tie. Jewel.*

*Awardee -- Coat and Tie, sport coat. Note – the jewel cannot be pinned on a shirt. In the event awardee is not wearing attire to permit the jewel to be pinned on the breast, the jewel shall be handed to the awardee.*

*Stagecraft: The presiding officer (Area or District Deputy) from the East (or podium in an untiled setting) directs the Senior Deacon to escort the awardee to the East (or podium).*

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PRESIDING OFFICER: Brethren, please rise.

As members of the Ancient and Honorable Order of Freemasonry, we recognize that informed Masons derive some of our greatest rewards from our esoteric work and in turn, from the broader understanding of its purpose. Masons contribute greatly to the fraternity through their active participation in the solemn rituals we use to conduct our business and confer our degrees.

By its teachings, Freemasonry seeks to impress upon the minds of its members the principles of personal responsibility and moral living and to give each an understanding of a feeling for charity. It endeavors to encourage every Mason to put these lessons into practice in his daily life. It is our constant goal, therefore, to communicate to our members, particularly to our new initiates, a concept of Masonry that makes their minds receptive to the deep and meaningful lessons of the Craft.

When a proficient brother is mentoring, conferring a degree, giving a lecture or conducting a lodge meeting what we hear is not the random opinion of one individual but rather an organized, solemn, and memorable ritual that is accepted by the Craft and when effectively delivered is both instructive and sincere.

With this goal in mind, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Kansas has developed and adopted a Ritualistic Proficiency program that rewards our brothers who have labored with skill, industry and zeal to achieve perfection in the noblest of our arts -- the important Esoteric rituals handed down to us through the centuries. We recognize our Brothers for their dedication to our craft and their commitment to memorize and recite its lectures and all its important lessons.

It is therefore my honor and privilege to recognize this/these brothers here tonight who have earned the distinction of the title of RITUALIST (or RITUALIST FIRST CLASS), and who are proficient in these particular aspects of our rites according to our ancient Masonic traditions.

HERE PRESENT EMBLEM(s)

Therefore, by the power and authority vested in me by the Grand Master of Masons in Kansas, I formally declare that you are hereby and henceforth entitled to all the respect and deference due a RITUALIST learned in our noble art, and I hope and pray that the course upon which you have embarked is merely the beginning of your proficiency in our Great and Glorious Work.

HERE INVITE AWARDEES TO MAKE REMARKS (if any).

Brethren, join me in congratulating this/these brother/brethren for their tremendous achievement.

APPLAUSE

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Brother Senior Deacon, escort our honored brother/brethren to his place in the lodge.