



awards

grand lodge of kansas a.f. & a.m.





AWARDS

Grand Master's Order of Merit



The Grand Master's Order of Merit is the highest award that can be conferred by the Grand Master. It is given in recognition of exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of leadership duties, or exceptionally meritorious service to the Grand Master deserving of exemplary recognition. The Grand Master alone nominates for this award, and he may only award one Order of Merit during his term of office, and the Council of Administration must ratify the award by majority vote.

The Grand Master's Order of Merit entitles the recipient to a Pre-Paid Perpetual Life Membership (PPLM) for any lodge in which he is a member during the year preceding the award's conferral. Said stipend (up to \$1500) will be paid by Grand Lodge and is not transferrable. If the recipient is already a Perpetual Life Member of his lodge(s), the amount of the stipend will be donated to the Kansas Masonic Foundation's Kansas Freemason's Endowment in the recipient's name.

This award is limited to Past Masters, District and Area Deputies, Grand Lecturers, or Grand Lodge Officers who are members in good standing of a warranted lodge in Kansas who conform to the requirements listed above.

The Order of Merit is personally presented by the Grand Master at the All-Masonic Banquet during the Annual Communication.

Distinguished Service Medal



The Distinguished Service Medal honors superior achievements in furthering the strategic plan of the Grand Lodge of Kansas in the areas of: Masonic Education, Esoteric Work, or Communications. No Grand Master may confer more than three (3) such awards during his term in office, and the Grand Master's selections must be ratified by majority approval of the Council of Administration. Additional awards may be conferred with the unanimous consent of the Council of Administration.

The Distinguished Service Medal entitles the recipient to a lifetime waiver of all fees for attendance at the Grand Lodge of Kansas Annual Communication, as well as any Grand Lodge-sponsored Masonic seminar or school. The recipient shall not pay for any lunch or banquet costs associated with the Annual Communication.

District or Area Deputies may nominate recipients by forwarding the appropriate form to the Grand Secretary. Recommendations for awards must be received by December 1. The distinguished Service Medal is personally presented by the Grand Master at the All-Masonic Banquet during the Annual Communication.

Ritualist Jewel



The Ritualist jewel replaces the plastic lapel pins given for proficiency (B,A,M, and U), and incorporates them into the Grand Lecturer system. B cards holders will henceforth be titled Ritualists. A card holders have been retitled Advanced ritualists. The old M card is now referred to as Senior Ritualist, and the former U card is now a Master Ritualist. Upon earning his proficiency according to the specifications of By-law § 3-616, any of these ritualists are entitled to wear the Ritualist jewel with the black/white ribbon. Ritualist and Advanced Ritualist jewels are present by the District or Area Deputy in the honoree's home lodge or Area Meeting. Senior and Master Ritualists receive their awards at the All-Masonic Banquet during the Annual Communication.

Grand Lecturers and Assistant Grand Lecturers are entitled to wear a Ritualist jewel with a blue and gray ribbon. These are awarded at the All-Masonic Banquet during the Annual Communication.

Master's Achievement Award



The Grand Lodge of Kansas *Master's Achievement Award* was established in 2010 to recognize superior performance in leadership by Worshipful Masters. Special recognition is given to those Masters who exhibit program excellence by undertaking various activities that support, enhance, and build this great Fraternity by meeting minimum prescribed requirements as well as participating in additional activities that achieve a superior performance level.

The Lodge Secretary is responsible for submitting the application for the award, and the Master or his representative should be present at the next Grand Lodge session when the awards are announced. There is no limit to the number of Masters who may earn this award.

Qualifying Masters will be judged in three critical categories: Leadership, Membership, and Communication. Participation in these key events per category earn points. Masters who achieve the required scores in each area are eligible to receive the award. The Master can choose some or all of the criteria to devote his energies to in order to be eligible for the award, but several categories are mandatory for eligibility.

Beginning in March of 2014, the Master's Achievement Award has been retooled to conform with the Strategic Plan and will consist of only one class of award – the gold medallion. Masters who earn the award will be formally recognized at the Grand Lodge session, presented with a handsome jewel which is authorized for wear at all Craft functions with appropriate attire. The Master who receives the most points each year will receive a cash stipend of \$500 to be used for the benefit and improvement of their lodge. Cash stipends should be used to improve the lodge, for repairs, minor remodeling, furniture, or for equipment.

Achievement of this award is in direct support of the strategic plan of the Grand Lodge.

CRITERIA

The following criteria must be completed within the Master's year in office to qualify for the award. Award winners must attain a point total as defined on the application.

Participation

The importance of attendance at the annual communication and other statewide events cannot be overstated. Vibrant, healthy lodges make every effort to attend and contribute to these events, while lodges in trouble are rarely seen.

Attendance at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge by the Master of your Lodge.

This criterion is mandatory and must be completed to be eligible for the award.

Many important issues are discussed and voted upon at each session of Kansas Grand Lodge and important Masonic fellowship is enjoyed by all in attendance.

Attendance at an Area Meeting by at least two lodge officers.

This criterion is Mandatory and must be completed to be eligible for the award.

The purpose of our Area Meetings is to provide lodges with the tools for success, as well as to address problems and concerns faced by lodges today. The problem is that the lodges that need to attend these meetings the most are rarely in attendance.

Visit other Lodges with a minimum of three members (including one Lodge officer)

Schedule a Lodge visitation to any typed communication of another Lodge in your area. The contingent from your Lodge must include a minimum of one elected Lodge officer and two other Lodge officers or members.

Excellence in Esoteric Work

Esoteric excellence is the focus of other Grand Lodge awards and honors, and the Master's Achievement Award does not award points for criteria that are the focus of the proficiency system or the Trice-Robison Award. However, the Master must insure that his officers attend the district schools in furtherance of esoteric excellence.

Attendance of District School of Instruction by at least six lodge officers.

This criterion is Mandatory and must be completed to be eligible for the Gold award.

The purposes of our District Schools are to give instruction in the ritual and floor work for our degrees. By attending the District Meeting, we receive instruction that will make the presentation of our Ritual more impressive. We continually encourage each Lodge to strive for perfect attendance at District Meetings.

Facilitate Four Study Club Meetings

The study club is a useful tool for promoting ritualistic excellence. If your lodge doesn't have a study club – establish one.

Conduct Four Degree Practice Sessions or Exemplify Degree Work Four Times

Regular practices are also essential to good ritual work. If your lodge is active in raising new members, fulfilling this criterion should be easy. If your lodge is not active in putting on degrees, gather your officers and exemplify a degree at least four times.

Excellence in Masonic Education

Our members rarely comment on how exciting it is to hear the bills or minutes read out in lodge, but they do comment a lot about good Masonic Education. Insure that your lodge focuses on this topic by devoting time at your meetings for Masonic Ed.

Conduct or promote a minimum of four Masonic Education programs

The Masonic Education Committee in your lodge should be staffed with enthusiastic members capable of presenting interesting programs. Properly advertised on your Trestleboard (*See below*), these will, in turn, increase attendance at your meetings.

Attendance of the Leadership Academy by at least four lodge officers

This criterion is mandatory and must be completed to be eligible for the award.

The annual Leadership Academy is a first-rate forum for Masonic Education offering nationally known speakers, breakout sessions tackling issues faced by lodges today, and Masonic fellowship with Masons from all over the state. Your officers should be encouraged to attend.

Excellence in Communication

This area of the award involves communicating with not only candidates and the public, but with our membership as well. Letters and postcards inviting members to attend a special function are a thing of the past. Telephones, too, are quickly going the way of the carrier pigeon. Email and internet communication are overwhelmingly preferred by younger members, and more importantly by younger candidates. We must speak their language if we are to be relevant to younger men.

Utilize on-line Social Networking.

This criterion is mandatory and must be completed to be eligible for the award.

Just as potential candidates look to the internet for information, increasingly our younger members are more connected via internet social networking than any other means. Social networking sites (Facebook, Google Groups, My Space, etc.) offer advertising potential and real-time communication at no cost. Set up a Facebook group for your lodge and encourage your officers to join the group.

Establish/utilize a Lodge Website

The internet is now the primary information medium of men ages 21-40. It is critical that our lodges embrace the internet as a tool to advertise to these potential new members. The lodge website should include directions to the lodge, a suitable photograph, and contact information. More advanced users will also desire their lodge calendar to be placed on-line, perhaps in a secured area, for the convenience of the membership.

Publish a minimum of one Lodge newsletter

The importance of communicating to the membership cannot be overstated. Regular newsletters promote involvement. The newsletter can be distributed on paper or electronically.

Bonus Points

Plan and host a *Festive Board*

Fellowship is a critical component of Lodge health. Festive boards are traditionally the meal following a Masonic meeting, but can be any social gathering where food is served. Dinners before or after lodge, in honor of a guest speaker, or a weekend picnic would all qualify as a festive board.

Adopt and adhere to a Lodge Budget

By planning for expenditures rather than simply operating on the dues received, Lodges are able to devote more resources to important projects. A detailed planning meeting should be conducted by the Master to include the Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary, preferably before his term starts. The budget should balance income with expenditures and optimally both discretionary capital improvements and the fundraising necessary to do it. In addition, the budget should be posted or given to members of the Lodge.

Adopt and use a Lodge agenda for each meeting

Planning your meeting yields dividends. An agenda allows for the orderly disposal of business and more time for fellowship, Masonic education, etc. Additionally, Master's should explore the use of the consent agenda to make their meetings even more efficient.





Grand Master's Order of Merit (OM)

Purpose: To recognize exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of leadership duties, or exceptionally meritorious service to the Grand Master deserving of exemplary recognition.

Replaces: Various Grand Master's Awards.

Award Grades: The Grand Master's Order of Merit is available in one grade.

Limitations: No Grand Master may confer more than one (1) Order of Merit during his term in office. The Grand Master's selection for the award must be confirmed by majority approval of the Council of Administration.

Stipend: The Grand Master's Order of Merit entitles the recipient to a Pre-Paid Perpetual Life Membership (PPLM) for any lodge in which he is a member during the year preceding the award's conferral. Said stipend (up to \$1500) will be paid by Grand Lodge and is not transferrable. In the event the recipient is already a Perpetual Life Member of his lodge(s), the amount of the stipend will be donated to the Kansas Masonic Foundation's Kansas Freemason's Endowment in the recipient's name.

Description of Awards:

The Grand Master's Order of Merit is a silver square and compasses, surmounted by a precious stone, surrounded by a golden glory, symbolic of the Masonic ideal. The jewel is suspended from a red neck ribbon. The inscription on each medallion notes the name of the awardee and the date the jewel was awarded.

Who May Nominate: The Grand Master makes his nomination to the Council of Administration. The nomination must be received by December 1.

Requirements: The performance must merit recognition for service that is clearly exceptionally meritorious. Superior performance of normal duty will not alone justify this award.

Eligibility: This award is limited to Past Masters, District and Area Deputies, Grand Lecturers, or Grand Lodge Officers who are members in good standing of a warranted lodge in Kansas who conform to the requirements listed above.

How Awarded: Awarded by the Grand Master, or his designee, at the Annual Communication.

Forms: Recommendations shall be made on applications provided by the Grand Lodge.

Form of Award: The award consists of four items: (1) Jewel & bar, (2) Card, (3) Stipend, and (4) Notation on Service Record. The notation on service record shall state "Awarded Grand Master's Order of Merit on [date] for exemplary service to the Grand Lodge of Kansas." Thereafter, the recipient is entitled to use the initials OM after his name in the transaction of all Masonic business.

Costs of Award: The cost of the award is borne by Grand Lodge.

Display and Wear: The Distinguished Service Medal is worn with business or formal attire on the left breast of a suit coat, or dinner jacket, pinned at the pocket. The jewel is authorized for wear at all Craft functions (with appropriate attire). An accompanying bar allows the recipient to wear the award on a sport coat or in non-Masonic settings. The jewel should never be worn on a shirt. The award shall be worn by the recipient only.

Order of precedence: The Grand Master's Order of Merit is first in order of precedence for neck orders. It may be worn under the collar and jewel of any office, with appropriate attire of business suit or formal wear. It should not be worn with any other neck order. In the absence of any other titles, the wearer is accorded the same precedence as a Past Grand Junior Warden in processions, seating, and introductions.

Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)

Purpose: To recognize superior achievements in furthering the strategic plan of the Grand Lodge of Kansas in the areas of: Masonic Education, Esoteric Work, or Communications.

Replaces: Master Builder Award.

Award Grades: The Distinguished Service Medal is available in one grade.

Limitations: No Grand Master may confer more than three (3) such awards during his term in office, and the Grand Master's selections must be ratified by majority approval of the Council of Administration. Additional awards may be conferred with the unanimous consent of the Council of Administration.

Stipend: The Distinguished Service Medal entitles the recipient to a lifetime waiver of all fees for attendance at the Grand Lodge of Kansas Annual Communication, as well as any Grand Lodge-sponsored Masonic seminar or school. The recipient shall not pay for any lunch or banquet costs associated with the Annual Communication.

Description of Awards:

The inscription on each medallion notes the name of the awardee and the date the jewel was awarded.

Who May Nominate: District or Area Deputies may nominate recipients by forwarding the appropriate form to the Grand Secretary. Recommendations for awards must be received by December 1.

Requirements: The performance must merit recognition for service in the areas of: Masonic Education, Esoteric Work, or Communications that is clearly exceptional. Superior performance of normal duty will not alone justify this award.

Eligibility: This award is limited to Master Masons who are members in good standing of a warranted lodge in Kansas who conform to the requirements listed above.

How Awarded: Awarded by the Grand Master, or his designee, at the Annual Communication.

Who May Nominate: District or Area Deputies may nominate recipients by forwarding the appropriate form to the Grand Secretary for consideration by the Grand Master. Recommendations must be received by December 1.

Forms: Recommendations shall be made on applications provided by the Grand Lodge.

Form of Award: The award consists of four items: (1) Jewel & bar, (2) Card, (3) Stipend, and (4) Notation on Service Record. The notation on service record shall state “Awarded Distinguished Service Medal on [date] for exemplary service to the Grand Lodge of Kansas.” Thereafter, the recipient is entitled to use the initials DSM after his name in the transaction of all Masonic business.

Costs of Award: The cost of the award is borne by Grand Lodge.

Display and Wear: The Distinguished Service Medal is worn with business or formal attire on the left breast of a suit coat, or dinner jacket, pinned at the pocket. The jewel is authorized for wear at all Craft functions (with appropriate attire). An accompanying bar allows the recipient to wear the award on a sport coat or in non-Masonic settings. The jewel should never be worn on a shirt. The award shall be worn by the recipient only.

Order of precedence: The Distinguished Service Medal is first in order of precedence for breast jewels, excepting that of a Past Grand Master. It is worn to the right of all others. In the absence of any other titles, awardees are accorded the same precedence as an Area Deputy Grand Master in processions, seating and introductions.

Ritualist Jewel

Purpose: To recognize excellence in esoteric work by rewarding B, A, M and U standards of proficiency pursuant to Bylaw 3-616, and to incorporate those awards into the overall Grand Lecturer system of recognition.

Replaces: B, A, M, and U plastic lapel pins.

Award Grades: The Ritualist Jewel is available in six grades as follows: Ritualist (B and A Card holders), Senior Ritualist (M Card Holders), Master Ritualist (U Card holders) as well as Assistant Grand Lecturer and Grand Lecturer.

Limitations: N/A

Stipend: None

Description of Awards:

Each jewel is suspended on a bi-colored ribbon symbolizing *From Darkness to Light*. 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 two silver stars.

Assistant Grand Lecturer features the jewel and one gold star.

Grand Lecturer features the jewel and two gold stars.

Requirements: Recipients of Ritualist (B and A Card holders), Senior Ritualist (M Card Holders), Master Ritualist (U Card holders) must qualify pursuant to Bylaw 3-616. Grand Lecturers and Assistant Grand Lecturers are eligible for the award upon their appointment.

Eligibility: This award is limited to Master Masons who are members in good standing of a warranted lodge in Kansas who conform to the requirements below.

How Awarded: Ritualist (B and A Card holders), Senior Ritualist (M Card Holders), awards are presented by the District and/or Area Deputy Grand Masters at the honoree's home lodge, or at a district or area meeting. Master Ritualist (U Card holders), Assistant Grand Lecturers, and Grand Lecturers are awarded by the Grand Master, or his designee, at the Annual Communication. Nothing in these specifications shall prohibit the Grand Master from awarding any jewel to any awardee.

Who May Nominate: District or Area Deputies may nominate Ritualist (B and A Card holders), Senior Ritualist (M Card Holders), Master Ritualist (U Card holders) recipients by forwarding the appropriate form to the Grand Secretary for approval by the Council of Administration. Awards to be given at the recipient's home lodge, or a district or area meeting may be submitted at any time. Recommendations for awards to be given at the Annual Communication in March must be received by December 1.

Upgrade of Previous Awards: Recipients of B,A,M, and U cards proving eligible before March 17, 2013 may upgrade their award by presenting proof of the prior award, and by:

- a) Repeating for the highest award granted, or
- b) Purchasing the new award from the Grand Lodge. Contact Grand Lodge for current pricing.

Current Grand Lecturers and Assistant Grand Lecturers are eligible to receive the upgraded jewel at no cost.

Forms: Recommendations shall be made on applications provided by the Grand Lodge.

Form of Award: The Ritualist, Senior Ritualist, and Master Ritualist award consists of two items: (1) Jewel & merit pin; (2) Card. The Grand Lecturer and Assistant Grand Lecturer award consists of four items: (1) Jewel & merit pin, (2) Certificate, (3) Name badge, and (4) Apron

Costs of Award: For recipients of the award after March 17, 2013, the cost of the award is borne by Grand Lodge.

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.

Order of precedence: 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.

Master's Achievement Award (MAA)

Purpose: To recognize superior leadership by Lodge Masters in three critical categories: Leadership, Membership, and Communication.

Replaces: N/A.

Award Grades: The Master's Achievement Award is available in one grade.

Limitations: N/A

Stipend: N/A

Description of Awards:

The Master's Achievement Award is a gold medallion bearing the seal of the Grand Lodge of Kansas suspended from a royal blue ribbon.

Who May Nominate: Lodge Secretaries, District or Area Deputies may nominate recipients by forwarding the appropriate form to the Grand Senior Warden. Recommendations for awards must be received by January 15.

Requirements: Evaluation will be conducted by scoring in several key events per category. Masters who achieve the required scores in each area will be eligible to receive the award.

Eligibility: This award is limited to serving Worshipful Masters of a warranted lodge in Kansas immediately following their year in the East, who conform to the requirements listed above.

How Awarded: Awarded by the Grand Master, or his designee, at the Annual Communication.

Forms: Recommendations shall be made on applications provided by the Grand Lodge.

Form of Award: The award consists of two items: (1) Jewel, and (2) Certificate.

Costs of Award: The cost of the award is borne by Grand Lodge.

Display and Wear: The Master's Achievement Award is worn with business or formal attire on the left breast of a suit coat, or dinner jacket, 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.

Order of precedence: The Master's Achievement Award is third in order of precedence for breast jewels. It is worn to the left of the Distinguished Service Medal, and Ritualist Jewel respectively. In the absence of any other titles, awardees are accorded a special introduction as holder of the award.