

THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER'S AWARD FOR AN EXCELLENT ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY

The Provincial Grand Master will award a silver lapel badge to any brother who gives an excellent rendition of the Ceremony of Advancement.

However, due to Covid-19 causing a number of cancelled meetings in 2020, a temporary variation in the rule requiring the ceremony to be conducted by a sitting Worshipful Master is amended to allow a Past Master to attempt the Olive Branch award. This will apply for all meetings up to 30th June 2022.

The following conditions apply.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible: -

- 1.1 The Ceremony must be carried out in open Lodge at a regular or emergency Meeting and with a genuine candidate. Rehearsals, demonstrations and Lodge of Instruction renditions will not be eligible.
- 1.2 The Ceremony must be carried out by the Worshipful Master for the time being of the Lodge. The objective is to promote generally higher standards of ritual working, not to give seasoned Past Masters a chance to show off their ability.
- 1.3. The Worshipful Master must carry out the Ceremony in its entirety. For this purpose, the Ceremony will be considered to start when the Tyler gives the F.C. knocks on the door of the Lodge (p20) and to end when the candidate is finally seated (p58). "Farming out" of any part of the Ceremony will disqualify.
- 1.4. The Ceremony must be carried out excellently as to both words and actions and in a manner meaningful to the candidate. A rendition which is word perfect will not qualify if the accompanying actions are not executed to an excellent standard also.
- 1.5. The Ceremony must be carried out in accordance with the current edition of Mark Ritual No 1.

2. Criteria of "Excellence"

In judging whether or not a Ceremony has been carried out excellently:-

- 2.1. Any mistake of any kind, however trivial, in –
 - (a) the obligation (from "Then you will kneel..." on p.29 to "Brethren be seated" on p.31); or
 - (b) the closing address (from "In conclusion, allow me..." On p.57 to "...head stone of the building" on p.58), will disqualify.

- 2.2. Any correction, prompt or other assistance from the I.P.M., the D.of C., or any other brother present will disqualify. Self-corrections by the Worshipful Master will also disqualify.
- 2.3 Any mistakes by other brethren taking part in the Ceremony will be ignored.
- 2.4 Any individual Lodge variations in the ritual, even if of very long standing (such as saying “this singular grip” in place of “this strong grip – p.48) will disqualify.
- 2.5. A very small number of trifling mistakes in parts of the Ceremony other than the obligation and the closing address will not disqualify. For this purpose –
 - (a) “very small number” means four or five at most; and
 - (b) to be considered trifling, a mistake must not alter the sense or effect of what is being said or done, or be inconsistent with the context. Any grammatical errors will count towards the number of allowable trifling mistakes.

3. Adjudication

- 3.1. The function of adjudication will be carried out by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master or by a brother appointed by him.
- 3.2. The adjudicator will give his decision at the conclusion of the Ceremony of Advancement, before the Lodge moves on to other business.
- 3.3. The adjudicator’s decision will be final, and may not be questioned or otherwise challenged.

4. Administration

- 4.1. A request for the attendance of an adjudicator must be sent in writing by the Secretary of the Lodge to the Provincial Grand Secretary not less than 8 weeks before the date of the meeting at which the Ceremony to be subject to adjudication is to be carried out.
- 4.2. A brother may attempt to gain this award only once in any one period of 12 months commencing on 1st September in one year and ending on 31st August in the immediately following year.

DFP/DIW. June 2004

DFA/TQ Minor revisions, July 2016

Updated with temporary variation July 2020