

# THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

### **50 YEAR AWARDS**

#### **Applicability and Responsibility**

This procedure applies to all Lodges in Connecticut, and is the responsibility of the Grand Secretary to maintain.

#### **References**

**Section 8102. Proper Recognition Pins for Masons.**

#### **Discussion**

As noted in the reference, brethren who have completed 50 years of dues paying membership in this or any other Grand Jurisdiction are eligible to receive the Grand Lodge 50 Year Pin, Certificate and Card.

#### **Procedure**

In the Fall of each year, but no later than December 1, the Grand Secretary prepares a list of members who will achieve 50 years of Masonic Membership sometime during the following Calendar Year. Copies of the list will be distributed to each of the District Deputies and the Grand Lodge elected or appointed officers.

The Grand Secretary will furnish each Lodge Secretary with the list of 50 year members of his Lodge. **THE LODGE SECRETARY WILL VERIFY THE LIST WITH HIS LODGE RECORDS, NOTING ANY ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR DISCREPANCIES AND PROVIDE A COPY OF THE LIST TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER. The Master or the Secretary should contact the out of state brothers to ascertain if they desire to return to Connecticut to receive their award. -ALL OUT-OF-STATE PINS WILL BE SENT TO THE BROTHER UNLESS THE LODGE SECRETARY OTHERWISE ADVISES THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE BY 10 JANUARY.**

50 year membership pins and the accompanying Certificates may be presented at any time during the calendar year.

50 year service awards may ONLY be presented by a District Deputy, the Grand Master, a Grand Lodge Officer, a Past Grand Master, or a brother specifically designated by the Grand Master.

In such ceremonies, the above presenter is only responsible for presentations of the 50 year service awards. He is not responsible for presenting any other service awards. All service awards other than the 50 year pins are the responsibility of the Master of the

Lodge. Note that a Grand Lodge Officer may be asked to participate in, or to conduct the entire program, provided the Master reaches an agreement with the District Deputy and the Grand Lodge Officer in advance.

It is the duty of the Master - not the Secretary - to schedule the 50 year award presentation ceremony as indicated above. Remember, the District Deputy has many functions for which he has already made commitments to attend. It is therefore imperative that advance scheduling of the awards presentation be completed with the District Deputy -as early as possible. The incoming Master should already have a tentative date set for an Awards Night long before he is elected and installed as Master. If not, he MUST confer with the District Deputy immediately upon his election.

To receive a 50 year pin and certificate and to have the ceremony performed by a District Deputy or Grand Lodge Officer may well be the crowning moment of a Brother's Masonic career. Timely notice must be given to the recipient, but a follow-up is needed a few days prior to the Awards Night. Be sure that he has transportation to and from Lodge, and if necessary, arrange for a brother to bring him and his lady. Many older members can no longer drive or cannot drive at night.

Many Lodges give out 5 year incremental pins, i.e., 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, etc. Note: If the Lodge does not give out 5 year incremental pins, it should consider doing so. It's a good way to get an inactive Brother to return to Lodge.

All incremental pins to be presented must be verified through the Grand Lodge Office to ensure no service interruption has taken place. Pins will not be issued by the Grand Lodge Office unless they are verified.

## **Awards Night**

Service Pins are normally presented at an AWARDS NIGHT. If, for the previous year the Lodge has earned the Honor Lodge Award, it can also be scheduled for presentation (or re-presentation, if done at Grand Lodge) at the Awards Night. The Awards Night can also be used to present other awards such as scholarships, Mason of the Year, Community Service Awards, or any other award or recognition the Lodge may choose to give.

Make the Awards Night a semi-public affair. Invite all of the Lodge's 50 year members. An Awards Night is a great opportunity to present Masonry in a favorable light to guests and visitors. Seize the opportunity!

The sequence for awards presentation should be:

1. Honor Lodge Award, if any, by the presenting District Deputy or Grand Lodge Line Officer. The Master introduces the officer responsible for the presentation of the Honor Lodge Award.
2. Mason of the Year Award, if any, presented by the Master or his designate.
3. Any other Lodge Awards, presented by the Master or his designate.
4. Incremental service pin presentations up to 50 years of service, presented by the Master or his designate.

5. 55 years and higher incremental service pins, presented by the Master or his designate.
6. 50 Year Grand Lodge service award pin.  
**The Master introduces the District Deputy or other Grand Lodge Officer who will perform the 50 year pin Ceremony in accordance with a Grand Lodge ceremony. The Master does NOT have the 50 year pin recipients named, called up, introduced or conducted to the East: that is all part of the ceremony conducted by the District Deputy or other Grand Lodge Officer.**
7. **If applicable, the Grand Master or his designee may also wish to present any Grand Lodge Distinguished or Eminent Service Medals which may be appropriate to the occasion.**

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