

50 YEAR PIN PRESENTATION AND AWARDS PROCEDURE

FOR THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER & SECRETARY

In the Fall of each year, but no later than December 1st, the Grand Secretary prepares a list of members achieving 50 years of Masonic Membership at sometime during the following calendar year. Copies of the list are distributed to each of the nine District Grand Lodge Line Officers.

The Grand Secretary will furnish each Lodge Secretary with the list of his Lodge's 50 year members with instructions to provide the grand Secretary the names of the 50 year members living out-of-state, who will receive their 50 year pins in the Grand Jurisdiction where they reside. IF THE LODGE SECRETARY DOES NOT FURNISH THE GRAND SECRETARY WITH THIS LIST, THEN ALL OUT-OF-STATE 50 YEAR PINS WILL BE SENT TO THE OUT-OF-STATE GRAND SECRETARIES FOR PRESENTATION.

Your Grand Lodge Progressive Line Officer in your Masonic District will be given the FIFTY YEAR SERVICE LAPEL PINS and CERTIFICATES for all members of your Lodge who have attained 50 years of Masonic Membership during the forthcoming calendar year, except for those designated to have their presentations made out-of-state.

50 Year membership Pins and the accompanying Certificates must be presented sometime during the calendar year, whether in the Lodge or at the Brother's place of residence.

THE GRAND MASTER, A GRAND LODGE LINE OFFICER, and A PAST GRAND MASTER, OR AT THE DISCRETION AND DIRECTION OF THE GRAND MASTER can ONLY PRESENT 50 Year Service Awards.

Your Grand Lodge Officer is 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; your Grand Lodge Officer may be asked to participate in, or to conduct the entire program, provided the Master reaches an agreement with the Grand Lodge Officer in advance.

Therefore, it is imperative that advance scheduling of your awards presentation be completed with your District's Grand Lodge Line Officer as soon as the next year's Master has completed his plans for his year in the East. This means the Master's plans should have been planned and drafted some months in advance, before his election.

Next year's Master should already have a tentative date set for and Awards Night long before he is elected and installed as Master. If not, he MUST confer with the Grand Lodge Officer immediately upon his election.

It is the duty of the Master - not the Secretary - to schedule the 50 year award presentation ceremony as indicated above. Remember, your Grand Lodge Officer has many functions for which he has already made commitments to attend.

To receive a 50 Year Pin and Certificate and to have the ceremony performed by a Grand Lodge Officer may well be the crowning point 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. Arrange for his transportation to and from the Lodge. Many of the older members can no longer drive or cannot drive at night.

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

Many Lodges give out 5 year incremental pins from 25 years and up; i.e., 25, 30, 35, 35, etc. Some give 5 year incremental pins starting with 5 years of service. Note: if a Lodge does not give out 5 year incremental pins, it should consider doing so. It's a good way to get and inactive Brother to return to his Lodge.

The incremental pins are usually presented at an AWARDS NIGHT PROGRAM. If the previous year's Master has earned the Master's Achievement Award, it is usually scheduled for presentation at the Awards Night. This presentation is made by members of the Committee on Masonic Education (C.M.E.). The sequence for awards presentation should be:

1. Master's Achievement Award, if any, by C.M.E. member.
2. Mason the Year Award, if there is one.
3. Any other Lodge Awards.
4. All 5 year incremental service pin presentations.
5. The 50 Year Grand Lodge Service Award Pin and Certificate.

The Worshipful Master introduces the Brother from the C.M.E. responsible for the presentation of the Master's Achievement Award. (Item 1.)

The Worshipful Master, or a Brother designated by him, performs the presentation for Items 2, 3, 4, if applicable. He calls up the recipients and introduces them and has them conducted to the East. He does NOT have the 50 Year Pin recipients called up, or introduced, or conducted to the East.

The Worshipful Master then introduces the Grand Lodge Officer and surrenders his Gavel to him.

The Grand Lodge Officer will perform the 50 Year Pin Ceremony as provided by the Grand Lodge Ritual.

G.R.B.
4/14/98