



Wisconsin Free and Accepted Masons

Lodge Excellence Award

Attached is the revised criterion for the Lodge Excellence Award (LEA) effective January 1, 2017. Use the previous format for the 2016 LEA Awards. The LEA was established in 1977 as the Grand Master's Achievement Award to aid lodges in planning a vibrant and successful slate of activities. In order to ensure continued success and viability of Freemasonry in Wisconsin, the Grand Lodge implemented a strategic planning process. The LEA format and content is structured to align with the goals of the strategic plan. The goal is to reward well rounded lodges that are active in all aspects of Freemasonry in accordance with our strategic plan.

As Worshipful Master, you are encouraged to plan your year using the Lodge Excellence Award criteria. Document the qualifying activities from January 1 to December 31. Submit this application to receive recognition.

Recognition Rating Rationale, Criteria, and Guidelines:

A rating system has been established which recognizes lodges that perform at a gold, silver, and bronze level. The medallions next to each section indicate the minimum requirement to obtain the associated level. For example, to achieve gold status in the "Business and Administration" category a lodge must complete 8 of the activities in that section, 8 for gold, 7 for silver, and 5 for bronze. This rating system also strives to recognize lodges of different size, demographic, and physical location. Thus the rating system does not attribute any points for quantity in the various categories rather it seeks to normalize and account for those lodge differences noted above. A lodge therefore will earn a recognition award equal to the lowest level attained in any one category. For example, if a lodge meets the gold in 9 out of 10 categories and silver in 1 out of ten the lodge will be recognized as silver.

Those items in bold and underlined must be completed to achieve silver or gold level recognition.

In order to share best practices throughout the state for growing the fraternity and enriching the membership experience, lodges are strongly encouraged to provide additional detail on events and activities with this application. Your DDGM may ask for clarification if this information is not provided.

Application Deadline: February 15

Submission Details: email or mail the LEA form to your District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM)



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Lodge: _____ District: _____

1) Fraternal Goals

a) *Grow & Retain Quality Membership*

 5  4  3
Gold Silver Bronze

- Develop an Annual Membership Plan
- Raise new Master Mason(s)**
- Convert members from default or suspended status
- Achieve positive membership growth
- Achieve increased lodge attendance
- Hold a membership event (Friends Nights, Open House, etc.)
- Give a speech on Masonry at a public non-masonic event

b) *Cultivate Leaders*

 5  4  2
Gold Silver Bronze

- Ashlar Award(s) presented to members
- Attend Secretary Training
- WM attend Masonic College
- SW attend Masonic College
- JW attend Masonic College
- Other Officer attend Masonic College
- Appointed or Elected Officer attend other leadership training or seminar (Provide supporting documentation)

Lodge Name _____ # _____ District # _____



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c) Improve and Expand Public Perception



- Lodge maintains a current and active social media presence (provide link)
- Maintain a Website (current) (provide link)
- Hold Family-friendly event(s) (attach short description)
- Published article in local newspaper (attach copy)
- Host an outside speaker at a masonic event (provide short description)
- Participate in a community partnership project or event (attach description)

d) Increase Masonic Knowledge



- Attend Fall & Spring District Meeting**
- Three or more Lodge Officers attend Fall & Spring District Meeting
- Present a Masonic education lecture or discussion
- Degree Exemplification / Conferral
- Lodge Visitation for a degree, Installation of Officers, or Awards event
- New Ritualist card awarded
- Attend School of Instruction**
- Three or more officers attend Schools of Instruction
- Deliver Grand Lodge Education Programs
- Traveling Gavel
- Outside speaker (masonic)
- Proficiency Card holder
- New (first year) mason take part in a degree

Lodge Name _____ # _____ District # _____



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e) Improve Facilities Management Practices



- Trustees Report (4 minimum)
- 5 year facility plan
- Spruce Up Project
- Major Cleanup/Housekeeping event
- No maintenance responsibilities for facility
- No housekeeping responsibilities for facility
- The Lodge has no ownership in facility

f) Strengthen Bonds with Appendant Bodies and Youth Groups



- Adopt a youth group
- Conduct joint event with Appendant Body or Masonic Youth Group
- Junior Warden Report to JGW
- Financial support & gift-in-kind to Masonic Youth Group
- Presentation by Appendant Body

g) Expand Communication Tools



- Publish Lodge trestleboard or newsletter (minimum 4)
- WMJ Article or picture published
- Outreach personal phone call or visit made to all inactive members
- Notice communicated to members for each meeting
- Annual Calendar of events published and communicated to all members by January 30

Lodge Name _____ # _____ District # _____



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2) Relief (brethren, widows and orphans) & Charity Activities



Utilize this section to document actives such as scholarships, youth group support, service and assistance of a brother or his immediate family or other Lodge activity acts of kindness.

- _____
- _____
- _____

3) Business and Administration



- Recap & per-capita tax due 2-15**
- Annual lodge budget published**
- Annual financial report due 2-15**
- Complete annual internal audit
- Trustee Investment Management Report given in Lodge
- WM Attend Annual Communication
- SW Attend Annual Communication
- JW Attend Annual Communication
- Other Lodge Officer or member attend Annual Communication (Exclude Grand Lodge Officers)

I certify that the information contained on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Worshipful Master: _____
(Printed Name)

_____ Date _____
(Signature)

Lodge Name _____ # _____ District # _____