

Grand Master's Excellency Award for 2011-2012

The Grand Master's Excellency Award has very high achievement requirements and is the highest award a lodge can receive. Although the qualifications are set high, a lodge can choose those areas in which they currently excel and then look to the challenges that best suit the talents of their officers and members.

The award is designed to raise the overall proficiency of a lodge by encouraging it to broaden its horizons and increase their visibility and activity within their community. The Grand Masters Excellency Award will be presented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in October of 2012 to those lodges that meet nine of the eleven requirements from September 2011 through August 15, 2012.

All applications must be signed by the Worshipful Master and certified by the Lodge Secretary with his signature and the seal of the lodge. The applications must be received by the Grand Lodge Office by August 30, 2012. The requirements for this award are weighty.

1. Widows Initiative: (REQUIRED)

Your lodge must follow the Grand Master's Widows Initiative, or a variation that may work for your particular Lodge. The program is on the Grand Lodge website along with supporting forms for your use. The minutes of the Lodge must reflect all reports made on our Masonic Widows and to what extent their well being is.

2. Visitation Committee

A Visitation Committee should be formed to visit Members in Nursing Homes, Hospitals and shut-ins. The committee would keep the Lodge informed of their visits and report on the condition of the member visited.

3. Open Installation of the Lodge (REQUIRED)

All elected and appointed officers of the lodge must be present at their own Open Installation of the Lodge. ***Note: If an officer is unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances, the lodge may apply to the DDGM & Area Officer to be excused.

4. Community Service:

Your lodge must work within your district in a Community Service Project, Blood Drive, Drug Awareness, Scholarship Program) Sponsor or be involved in a parade, or other community function that would serve your county or area. This must be documented.

5. Officers Proficiency: (REQUIRED)

All officers of the lodge consisting of the Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward,

Junior Steward and Tiler must have a Certificate of Proficiency issued by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. If they are not in possession of one, they must have been examined and be recommended for a Certificate of Proficiency from the Grand Lodge of Kentucky by June 30, 2012.

6. Bluegrass Ritualist: (REQUIRED)

Each Lodge must have at least two members who have attained the honor of a Kentucky Bluegrass Ritualist within their Lodge.

7. Constitution (REQUIRED)

The Master or Secretary must read at least one page of the Constitution beginning on page 1, at each Stated Meeting. Finishing a section with a bold typed heading would be appropriate.

8. Other Lodge Visitations:

The Master and two of his principal officers (Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, or Secretary) plus 3 members must make a minimum of six visits, as a group, to lodges other than their own during the qualifying period. The report on the visits must show the dates, the lodges visited and identify the officers and members who made the visits. This is to be done with three visits within your District and three visits outside your District.

9. Contact Committee

A committee should be formed to contact all members and widows twice in one year to check on their health and well being. Also to contact members to attend funeral services. There should be at least eight members to attend a funeral service who are dressed properly.

10. Masons Helping Masons Fund:

The lodge contributes an amount equal to or greater than \$2.00 per member to the Masons Helping Masons Fund. Any lodge contributing \$2.00 or more per member will receive recognition by the Grand Lodge. This cannot be an assessment, but it may be from lodge funds, passing the hat, donations or a fund raiser. *(To be used for future relief of lodges that may have been hit by disaster, and not enough insurance, or to just help etc...)*

11. Personal Appearance (Required)

The Lodge Offices must wear decent clothing to lodge. No tee shirts, short pants, jeans with holes in them, sandals or flip-flops. Wear at least a tie with a nice shirt. Show respect for your lodge and station.