

Craft Provincial Honours, 2009

All the appointments and promotions to Provincial ranks are made by the RW Provincial Grand Master.

The preparation of the Honours List is delegated to a Committee consisting of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, the Provincial Grand Secretary and is chaired by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The number of appointments and promotions made each year by a Provincial Grand Master is based upon a factor of the number of Brethren in the Province.

A Lodge does not now have the right to Petition for an appointment to Provincial Grand Lodge, but can support an application

Appointments

Every Brother who has been Installed as the Master of his Lodge at least seven years ago **qualifies** for consideration, [i.e. for the **2009** Honours the applicant must be an Installed Master prior to the qualifying date of **1 January 2002**].

This **does not** mean that he will receive an appointment after seven years; it only means that he qualifies for consideration on the basis of length of service.

Each year the Provincial Grand Secretary furnishes the Assistant Provincial Grand Master with the names of all the Brethren in their area who qualify under the “seven +” year rule. In addition, **applications** from Lodges will be considered.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with his District Chairman, reviews the names using a set criteria including:

- a Brother’s service in the Lodge,
- whether he has occupied one of the “administrative offices” such as
 - Secretary,
 - DC,
 - Almoner,
 - Treasurer etc,
- any ritual which has been undertaken by him,
- his attendance record, and
- whether he has made any contribution
 - to his Masonic Hall or
 - service to the community, etc.

Each Assistant Provincial Grand Master is allocated a number of Acting and Past Provincial Ranks. He allocates these, using the above criterion, against the list of qualified Brethren, awarding Acting Rank to Brethren who have shown particular merit and Past Rank to others.

The highest Past Rank that will be given on the first appointment is usually Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon. To give a yardstick, a Past Master, who has given average service and attends his Lodge at least 80% of the time, might be expected to be appointed to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The only exception to these guidelines is the rank of Provincial Grand Steward. This is kept to encourage particularly active and often younger Brethren and can be awarded at any time after the Brother becomes a Past Master.

Promotions

Recommendations for Promotion to Past Ranks are initially prepared by each Assistant Provincial Grand Master and his District Chairman.

Each year they will review all the Provincial Officers in their area and promotions can normally be expected eight or more years from the last appointment or promotion.

[i.e. for the 2008 Honours he must have had his last Appointment or Promotion prior to **1 January 2001**.

An application for consideration for Promotion can be submitted by any Lodge.

The criterion and Form used is similar to that used for Appointments.

It is possible, of course, for a Brother to receive more than one promotion during his life as a Craft Freemason.

It is also possible **not** to receive an appointment to Provincial Rank if a Brother has not contributed sufficiently to his Lodge after becoming a Past Master.

Likewise, it is possible for a Brother to receive no promotion if he has given little or no contribution since his appointment to Provincial Grand Lodge.

Once the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters have completed their lists, they are sent to the Secretariat where the lists are collated, checked for accuracy and then considered by the Honours Panel, which then meets to confirm each recommendation for Appointment or Promotion. Great care is taken by the Panel in examining the case for each Brother as it is so important that we achieve fairness and reasonableness against each decision.

All the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters are present at the meeting.

This means that at least one member of the Panel knows the background to the Brother under discussion. The final list is then presented to the RW Provincial Grand Master who, before giving approval, reviews the list very carefully.

The Honours system is really a meritocracy and is there to honour Brethren for their service to our Order.

The level of rank is based on the quality of the contribution each Brother has made to his Lodge, to his District and to Freemasonry generally.

Provincial Grand Secretary
May 2008