

### Royal Arch Provincial Honours, 2009

All the appointments and promotions to Provincial ranks are made by the ME Grand Superintendent. The preparation of the Honours List is delegated to a Committee consisting of The Second and Third Provincial Grand Principals, all the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals, the Provincial Grand Scribe E and is chaired by the Deputy Grand Superintendent.

The number of appointments and promotions made each year by a Grand Superintendent is to be based upon a factor of the number of Companions in the Province.

Chapters do not now have the right to Petition for an appointment to Provincial Grand Chapter, but can support an application.

### Appointments

Every Companion who has been Installed as a First Principal of his Chapter for a minimum of seven years **qualifies** for consideration. [ie for the **2009** Honours the applicant must have been Installed as a First Principal 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 Scribe E furnishes the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals with the names of all the Companions in their area who qualify under the “seven +” year rule. In addition, **applications** from Chapters will be considered.

The Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, together with his District Officer, Royal Arch, review the names using a set criteria including:

- a Companion’s service in the Chapter,
- whether he has occupied one of the “administrative offices” such as
  - Scribe E,
  - 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 to the Provincial Grand Principals, is allocated a number of Acting and Past Provincial Ranks. He allocates these, using the above criterion, against the list of qualified Companions, awarding Acting Rank to Companions who have shown particular merit and Past Rank to others.

The highest Past Rank that will normally be given on the first appointment is usually Past Provincial Grand Sojourner. To give a yardstick, a First Principal, who has given average service and attends his Chapter at least 80% of the time, might be expected to be appointed to Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer.

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

### **Promotions**

Recommendations for Promotion to Past Ranks are initially prepared by each Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, and his District Officer, Royal Arch. 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 2009 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 Chapter. The criterion and Form used is similar to that used for appointments.

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

It is also possible not to receive an appointment to Provincial Rank if a Companion has not contributed sufficiently to his Chapter after becoming a Past First Principal. Likewise, it is possible for a Companion to receive no promotion if he has given little or no contribution since his appointment to Provincial Grand Chapter.

Once the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals 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 Companion as it is so important that we achieve fairness and reasonableness against each decision.

All the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals are present at the meeting. This means that at least one member of the Panel knows the background to the Companion under discussion. The final list is then presented to the ME Grand Superintendent who, before giving approval, reviews the list very carefully.

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

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

Provincial Grand Scribe E  
May 2008.