

AWARDS

In addition to the Lecturer's awards, there are several awards made to Lodges and individual Masons:

VOLUNTARY SERVICE AWARD

www.gmwp.org/vsa

This award is made to an individual brother for hours of Voluntary (Community) Service for efforts done through the Lodge. There are 3 levels of awards, Bronze (100 hours), Silver (200 hours) and Gold (300 hours).

VISION 2013

www.gmwp.org/vision2013/award.html

The VISION 2013 award is made to individual Lodges for their efforts in the VISION 2013 program during a calendar year. This award is being modified and will be called the LONG RANGE PLANNING AWARD.

JOSEPH MOBLEY AWARD

www.gmwp.org/vision2013/mobleyaward.html

This award is given to an individual Lodge for having an outstanding Masonic Education program. The award form details what is necessary to win the award.

MASONIC EDUCATIONAL TALK

www.gmwp.org/vision2013/masonictalk.html

This award consists of a certificate which is presented to an individual brother for making an education talk at his Lodge.

JOHN ARP AWARD

www.gmwp.org/vision2013/johnarpaward.html

This award was begun in 1994 and is presented to an individual brother for outstanding service to the VISION 2013 program. The recipient is chosen by the current Grand Master.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The LONG RANGE PLANNING committee is working to establish a Membership Benefits program, similar to SHRINE SAVERS <www.shrinesavers.com>. Most of these programs WILL NOT be fundraisers for the Grand Lodge; rather they will provide products and services for Masons and their families at group and/or discounted rates.

At Present, The Grand Lodge has established a CREDIT CARD PROGRAM and discounts with Jos. A. Bank and STAPLES. Please visit www.gmwp.org under MEMBER BENEFITS for more information.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE STEERING COMMITTEE

Tom Boduch (038) CHAIRMAN

tomboduch@earthlink.net

Kristopher Fisher (375) RECORDER

John Cabage (720)

Nathan James (414)

Dusty Parsons (688)

Terry Perkins (211)

Derek White (045)

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Ken Moore (509)--TN C.H.I.P.

Ed Bryson (433)--Grand Lodge Webmaster

Robert Hall (090)--I. T. Committee

James Hurt (200)--Masonic License Plate

Don Jones (090)--ODA & HHH

Ed Loveday (253)--Benefits & Finances

Daniel Mata (281)--Awards

Ron Queen (742)--Benefits & Finances

Troy Thiel (366)--Gift Cards

John Whitaker (359)--DeMolay

Austin Whitaker (359)--DeMolay

David Wolfenbarger (763)--Education

AD HOC MEMBERS

Ronnie Johnson (191)--Consultant

John L. Palmer PGM (007)--Consultant

M. Alan Smith (007)--Consultant

Junior Grand Warden (beginning in 2008)



GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOUR BLUE LODGE

Prepared by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee's
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
www.gmwp.org/involvement.pdf

January 27, 2007

RITUAL PROFICIENCY

All Lodges need brethren proficient in the ritual to confer degrees. Most Lodges have a weekly practice night--attend these or attend one at a nearby Lodge. It is not necessary to hold a certification to do degree work. Lodges, however, are required to have a certain number of proficiency card holders depending upon their membership. More card holders will generally increase the Lodge's annual grade received from the Grand Lecturer, especially if cardholders attend his visit. There are 4 proficiency awards made by the Grand Lecturers as follows.

LECTURER'S CARD

To receive a lecturer's card, a brother must be able to ask and answer questions in all 3 lectures. He may teach others their lectures and may be a member of a committee that can hear lectures of candidates.

PROFICIENCY CARD

The requirement for a proficiency card are listed in the TENNESSEE CRAFTSMAN on page 182. Depending upon membership, Lodges are required to have a certain number of card holders.

GRAND LECTURER'S PIN OF EXCELLENCE

In order to receive this pin, a brother must be able to confer all sections of all 3 degrees and sit in any chair during the opening and closing of a Lodge.

FUNERAL MASTER PIN

This pin is awarded to a brother who is able to conduct Masonic funerals. (It is not necessary to have a pin to conduct a Masonic funeral).

LODGE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Many Lodges today have Past Masters in several chairs. Lodges require brethren who are willing to serve as officers. If you are not a Past Master, please consider serving your Lodge as an officer.

Each Lodge's bylaws require several standing committees. Please consider serving on a committee--check with your Worshipful Master or Secretary.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

In addition to providing opportunities to put Masonry's Charitable teachings into action. Community Service projects make Masonry visible in local communities. Current information about any of these programs is available at <www.gmwp.org>. At present, there are several ongoing community service programs as follows:

ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS

Today, over 100,000 Americans are on waiting lists for donated organs. Tennessee's Masons have been promoting organ donor awareness. For more information, see <www.gmwp.org/vision2013/oda>.

HOSPITAL HOSPITALITY HOUSES

These houses are facilities where patients' family members may stay for little to no cost when receiving medical care away from home. (These facilities are similar to Ronald McDonald Houses but for all ages--not only children). All HHH's need donations of money and staple goods to operate. Most also need periodic volunteer labor to maintain the house. For current information about Tennessee's houses, please visit <www.gmwp.org/hhh.pdf>.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Many Lodges across Tennessee award academic scholarships to students in local schools. Some Lodges conduct fundraising events--others have an endowment fund that provides scholarships.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Many Lodges sponsor and coach youth athletic teams. Some also purchase an advertising sign which is displayed at the athletic field. Most Lodges host a end of season meal and awards ceremony at the local Lodge for the team.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER ASSISTANCE

Like Hospital Hospitality houses, these shelters require donations of money, staple goods and labor. Please see <www.gmwp.org> for more information.

TENNESSEE C.H.I.P.

C.H.I.P. (Childhood Identification Program) brings children and their parents to a local Lodge. Each Child is fingerprinted and has photos and other identifying information recorded. This is of great value to law enforcement if a child should later be abducted or becomes missing.

This program is just getting started in Tennessee. For more information, please visit <www.gmwp.org/chip>.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Since 1997, Tennessee Masons have sponsored and built 13 HFABITAT FOR HUMANITY houses across Tennessee. More than half of Tennessee's counties have a HFH affiliate. For more information, please visit <www.gmwp.org/hfh>.

MASONIC EDUCATION

The Masonic Education committee's home page is located at <<http://tnmasontrng.tripod.com>>. The committee annually conducts leadership training sessions across Tennessee. A correspondence course on the Masonic code is available. The Masonic Light Award is an extensive course which is available through the committee.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

District and County Associations are organizations of several Lodges either representing a District or County. Typically, these groups meet monthly or quarterly. By working together, they are able to conduct activities that one Lodge alone could not accomplish. District 18 and 20 operate associations. The BLOUNT MASONIC COUNCIL consists of the 6 Blount County Lodges. For more information, please see <www.gmwp.org/dist18> or <www.gmwp.org/dist20>.

MASONIC YOUTH BODIES

Many Lodges sponsor character & leadership building youth organizations. For more information on how to join or be an adult leader visit www.TNIORG.org (Rainbow) or www.TNDEMOLAY.org (DeMolay).