

# The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Utah

[www.UtahGrandLodge.org](http://www.UtahGrandLodge.org)



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In 1983, Grand Master Curtis N. Lancaster appointed a committee to develop a Hiram Award based on the program adopted by the Grand Lodge of California. The committee presented a set of rules, requirements, along with a certificate and pin design that were accepted by Grand Lodge in 1984. During 1984, the first awards were presented. Receiving a Hiram Award is once-in-a-lifetime and should be conducted on a dignified plane making it a memorable occasion full of fun, sincerity and brotherly love. It is considered the highest individual award that a lodge can confer to a member.

*"This program will provide a special and meaningful technique for a Lodge to distinguish a deserving Brother who may otherwise go publicly unnoticed."*

- M.W. Brother Curtis N. Lancaster, Grand Lodge Annual Proceedings, 1984

## RULES

1. A lodge committee for Hiram Award recipients may be appointed by the Worshipful Master on an annual basis. It is suggested that the Past Masters of the lodge serve on the committee beginning with the fourth junior Past Master as listed in the proceedings and the next two back as are available. Each year the next junior Past Master would replace the oldest retiring member.
2. Awards should be made as the lodge committee recommends and as approved by the Grand Master but limited to no more than one annually. Awards are presented only when the committee makes a recommendation and do not have to be given at any specified interval. It is not necessary to present an award every year. Several years may lapse before another award is given.
3. The committee should review the membership every year to ascertain if the lodge has a worthy brother due consideration for an award and report to the Worshipful Master. The lodge should report all recommendations to the Grand Lodge office. The recommendation must include a brief history of the honoree, reasons for his recommendation, and the intended date and place of presentation. It is recommended that this be written in such a way that it can be read later at the

award ceremony.

4. All recommendations are to be reviewed by the Grand Master or his designee, and such recommendations shall have final approval by the Grand Master. When approved, a certificate will be prepared and placed in a frame by the Grand Lodge office, together with a commemorative lapel pin.
5. Preparations for the presentation should be made by the lodge officers under the guidance of the lodge committee.
6. The Grand Master or his representative should be invited to be present and assist in the presentation.

### QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. A lodge member must have a minimum of ten years of continuous service as a Master Mason.
2. His regular attendance at tyled and non-tyled meetings and functions should be considered but is not mandatory.
3. Service as an officer of the lodge is not required but should be considered by the lodge committee.
4. A member who has been suspended and then reinstated should be reviewed as to the circumstances of the suspension and all the factors taken into consideration.
5. A member who has distinguished himself in civic affairs but not active in lodge could be considered. Three areas should be considered when recommending a member: Masonry, family and civic.
6. Membership in higher Masonic bodies is not required, but such membership and activity could be considered as a secondary factor.

### PLANNING OUTLINE FOR PRESENTATION

- A. Master of the lodge appoints a committee of three to select recipient and coordinate all aspects of the program.
- B. Scheduling a Hiram Award gives your lodge an excellent opportunity to show off your lodge room to non-Masonic guests.
  1. Select a special menu for dinner: crab feed, luau, prime rib, etc.
  2. If your lodge dining room is too small to accommodate a crowd, don't hesitate to find a larger place.
  3. Try to avoid having your Hiram Award ceremonies in a dining area. Stage your program in the lodge room.
- C. When all are assembled for dinner, open with a short invocation before making brief welcoming comments and inviting all to enjoy dinner. The Master, Master of Ceremonies or the Grand Lodge representative should make it a point to welcome the non-Masons and to invite them to return to other open functions. This is very important.

1. As dessert is being served, guests at the head table should be introduced by the Master of Ceremonies.
  2. Invite all to adjourn to the lodge room (leaving the clatter of dishes behind), excepting the honored guest. He should remain out of the lodge room and when all are seated, the Master instructs the Marshal to escort the recipient to the altar, and then gavels for all to rise. As the brother is being led to the altar, the Master greets him and expresses the pleasure of the lodge on having him selected as the Hiram Award recipient and then invites him to be seated in the east.
- D. Hiram Award events are ideal times to invite members of youth orders to participate in the flag salute, direct parking and seating, and serve dinner guests. Don't forget to give young people credit and introductions.
- E. Master, lodge officers, and distinguished guests should wear tuxedos with long dresses specified for the ladies who are seated at the head table.
1. Include Master and spouse, Hiram Award honoree and spouse, and visiting dignitaries at the head table. Present a corsage or flowers to the recipient's spouse before dinner.
  2. Assign an experienced photographer to take photos suitable for reproduction. Cell phone shots are seldom satisfactory.
  3. Send well-exposed, good contrast black-and-white prints to your local newspaper. Be sure to include accurate data on names, date, location, lodge name and number, etc.
- F. A good public address system in the lodge room is very important. Arrange to record the evening's comments and present a copy to the recipient.
- G. In the lodge room:
1. The Master of Ceremonies introduces the Master of the lodge.
  2. The Master welcomes members and friends.
  3. The Master of Ceremonies invites various brothers and friends to talk about the recipient. This is very important to do! Be creative! Careful planning is vital for a successful program. Alert the honoree's friends, family members and lodge brothers to be ready to speak briefly about him. Try to avoid those who have pages of information they want to talk about. Often, it is hand written, and they are unable to read it themselves due to poor lighting.
  4. The Master of Ceremonies recognizes Grand Lodge representative (with brief summary of fraternal background) and calls for comments on "What the Hiram Award is all about". Committeemen are urged to contact the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee well in advance.
- The Grand Lodge representative hands the framed certificate to the Master of the lodge. The Hiram Award Committee from the lodge should see that the certificate is suitably inscribed and framed as soon as it is received from the Grand Secretary.
- When the certificate is received from Grand Lodge, it will have the name and number of your lodge inscribed on the center of the square and compass. On the right hand side across from the Grand Lodge seal, crimp your lodge seal on a gold seal (purchased at any stationery



store), a blue ribbon looped about half inch above the seal, and have the bottom extend about two inches below the seal. Wet the back of the seal and gently place it over ribbon.

5. The Master presents the Hiram Award certificate to the recipient. At this point the Master requests any other recipients of the Hiram Award who are present to rise and be recognized, by saying, "Brother Hiram, meet your new Hiram recipient." Then he gavel and has all Masons rise and greet our honored guest with Public Grand Honors.
6. The Hiram Award selectee responds with his comments. Because some members are not adept at extemporaneous speaking, "surprise" awards are not recommended and, also, a surprise award deprives a brother of inviting his friends, family, and others that only he would know. Since Masonry is not a secret society, as many believe, (and surely this is not the time to start it) advise the Brother at once of your selection. Occasionally, some type of entertainment might be injected into programs but it is the Hiram Awardee's special night and nothing should detract from his time.

The Grand Lodge is 100% behind recognition of your nominee, but remember that the brother selected for a Hiram Award is being singled out as your local lodge's choice for personable tribute. The real warmth and pleasure of being chosen for special applause is most satisfying because it comes directly from the brothers and friends he has accumulated in his own community. A number of lodges have placed a photograph of each Hiram recipient in a prominent place somewhere in the lodge—rightly so, for they are brethren of honor and should be recognized.

By following the above outline for planning, you will find that program to be well accepted by all and you will notice steady increase in attendance at your stated meeting, especially when the spouses are invited. It is *imperative* that all lodges send to the Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee the name of the lodge presenting the award, the name of the recipient including his age and years in Masonry, news events of the evening, and a single photograph to be placed in a book and recorded. Please type all information being sent. The Grand Lodge Public Relations Committee is available for any assistance you may need in planning the program, or when possible to have a speaker attend the presentation. The success of an outstanding Hiram Award event is vitally dependent upon how much effort and enthusiasm are generated by all your members, not just what a few committee men can produce.

*drafted at the 1996 Wardens' Retreat*

*updated March, 2017*

available online at <http://www.utahgrandlodge.org/programs.php>