

TO: District Education Officers

FROM: Grand Lodge Education Committee

RE: Grand Master's Education Award for 2016

Brother District Education Officer,

This special award criteria is in addition to the Education requirements set forth and labeled "Minimum Lodge Education Standards". This Grand Master's Education Award will identify and recognize Lodges and the Lodge Education Officer of that Lodge that practices excellence in the education of the Brothers. Those Lodges that exceed what is expected of them. The purpose of this award is to encourage Lodges to do more to offer Brothers a chance to explore the lessons of Freemasonry as we practice the Craft of Speculative Freemasonry.

The details of the items required for a Lodge to qualify for this award were outlined during the workshop for District Education Officers. We would like you to contact those Lodges assigned to you to remind them of this opportunity. Early announcement of these requirements will allow them to schedule the necessary activities to meet the requirements before the deadline of July 31, 2016.

Lodges wishing to qualify for the award should complete the application and return it to you for your review. You should satisfy yourself that they have taken the actions needed to fulfill the requirements and qualify for the award. If the Lodge qualifies, you should sign the form attesting to that fact. The completed and signed form should be forwarded electronically to the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Education and Information Committee by August 15, 2016 at rlrunion@gmail.com. A signed copy should be returned to the Lodge for their records so as to assure them that they have qualified and you have submitted their application.

The Award will be presented during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. (The time and location for the presentation will be announced during Grand Lodge.) We highly recommend the Lodge Education Officer be present to receive this award for himself and for his Lodge. If he cannot attend the Master may receive the award on behalf of the Lodge. If no one is there, then the assigned District Education Officer should arrange for the award to be presented in that Lodge.

All requirements shall be met between January 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016. Should you have a Lodge that does not plan to apply for the award, you should offer encouragement and suggestions for ways to fulfill the requirements and participation through the use of these education programs.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Chad Simpson of the Grand Lodge Education & Information Committee at the Grand Lodge Administrative offices.

2016 Grand Master's Education Award criteria:

1. All required events to be held between January 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016
2. Host a More Light Night (or day) to which all members of the Lodge receive a special written invitation and to which Masons from other Lodges are invited. A More Light event should include an opportunity to break bread with the Brethren and to share in information provided by a guest speaker or speakers.
3. Have at least three members of your Lodge attend a More Light event hosted by another lodge.
4. Make sure all candidates participate in the Apprenticeship Program with an assigned Master Craftsman.
5. Complete one of the next three optional qualifications:
 - a. Submit an LEO program, developed by a Brother of your Lodge, to the Grand Lodge Education and Information committee
 - b. Host a Friendship and Information event, to which potential new members are invited
 - c. Host a Masonic Reunion event, to which members of the Lodge who were initiated in a year ending in "6" are invited, i.e. 2006, 1996, 1986, etc. Ask the Brethren in attendance to share why they became Freemasons. This is an opportunity to reach out to Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts who have stalled in their degree work.

Grand Lodge Education Award for 2016
Application

To qualify for this award all events shall be held between January 1, 2016 and July 31, 2016, and the Lodge shall complete all items.

_____ 1. More Light Night (or day) was held on _____ with _____ members present and _____ invited Masons from other Lodges. The More Light event featured _____ as the guest speaker.

_____ 2. These members attended a More Light event hosted by another Lodge.

_____ 3. All candidates are participating in the Apprenticeship Program with an assigned Master Craftsman.

_____ 4. The following optional qualification was completed:

_____ a. Brother _____, developed a Lodge Education Program and has submitted the program to the Grand Lodge Education and Information committee

_____ b. A Friendship and Information event was held on _____ with _____ potential new members in attendance.

_____ c. A Masonic Reunion event was held on _____ with members of the Lodge who were initiated in a year _____. The Brethren shared why they became Freemasons and their responses are listed separately.

This is to certify that _____ Lodge No. _____ has completed all requirements to receive the Grand Master's Education Award for 2016. The dates and descriptions are provided within this form.

_____ Lodge Education Officer (Name as it is to appear on the certificate – please print) _____

Attest - _____ District Education Officer.