

**THE  
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE  
OF UTAH**

**RITUAL PROFICIENCY PROGRAM**



**James D. Woodward, MWGM  
Robert K. Chapman, WGL**

May, 2006

## **RITUAL PROFICIENCY PROGRAM**

### **The Purpose**

The primary intent of the Ritual Proficiency Program is to create a culture for the Lodges to be self sufficient in the Utah Standard Work. It has several other benefits including a form of recognition for all of the brethren in the craft, create a resource to assist the smaller Lodges, create a desire in new Masons to become proficient, prepare brethren for officer positions and help current Officers to become ready to move up the officer line and fill in when the need arises. There is no doubt that this program will provide many other benefits throughout this jurisdiction.

The Masters of the Lodges should promote this program as a means to strengthen their Lodge. It should be encouraged among the newer members, not only to prepare them for future Officer Positions but to help create a sense of purpose and a real feeling that they are needed by the Lodge. It could help them begin the fulfilling journey into ritual work that so many of us enjoy. This program may also help with retention of members especially when the participating brethren are used to give lectures, to fill in when presiding officers are absent or to help with the coaching of newer members. By generating a positive atmosphere among the newer members, this could possibility increase their desire to become more active and to attract prospective members.

### **The Program**

This program is based on 66 portions of our ritual and the lectures contained in the Utah Standard Work. They address the opening and closing of the lodges, degree work, coaching and Masonic Funerals. Each portion is awarded a point value which will go toward a recognition award for the participants. (See attached Points Structure)

The points have been established by the length or difficulty of the part. Any part can be learned to build points toward an award level. The point structure may be changed in the future, to increase point values for certain parts, if the brethren overlook parts in order to only learn the higher point value parts. This program is designed to generate proficiency in all of the Utah Standard Work

There are three levels of accomplishment that will be recognized: Ritualist, Senior Ritualist, and Master Ritualist. The participant will be awarded with a unique pin when they reach each level. This program is simple enough: learn the ritual, pass it off or present it in Lodge, earn the points, get the pin.

The entire part must be memorized to receive credit. The part can be given in open Lodge or past off by presenting it to the Worshipful Master or the Lodge Deputy Lecturer. It may be given in any Lodge in this Jurisdiction. It must only be given once to receive credit, but it is hoped that after learning it, you will give it during meetings to assist your

Lodge or some other Utah Lodge. The only exceptions to memorizing the part will be for presenting an Educational Feature of the reading of the Memorial Scroll.

Reading the part will not merit receiving credit for the part. Occasional prompts during the presentation are permitted. Teaming up with another brother to give a lecture and only performing a part of the lecture will not be given credit. Points will only be awarded one time for each part. If the part is given multiple times you are to be congratulated for your dedication, but, credit will not be given for each time the part is given.

This program will recognize those members who have given the parts in the past. If you have given a part in Lodge you can take credit for it. This will apply even if you have forgotten the parts or are unable to relearn them. Many members will have already achieved one or more of the award levels when they choose to participate in this program and will be able to receive the award upon completion and submission of the program form. The greatly respected elder ritualists found in all of the Lodges should be wearing these pins. They have set the example that should be emulated by all of us.

There are no time limits for learning and passing off a part or for reaching an award level. For many of us it takes considerable time and effort to learn a new part. This program is structured to begin awarding points to a brother as soon as he has passed off proficiency in the Entered Apprentice Degree. However, he may not receive a participation form until he passes off his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree. It is hoped that by informing him at the earliest stage of his Masonic involvement, that this program may help keep him actively engaged in his progress through Masonry.

### **Administration**

This program will be administered under the control of The Grand Lodge of Utah. The Grand Lodge Ritual Committee will be responsible for providing information, forms, reviewing completed forms and delivering award pins to the Lodges. Any requests for modifications to this program should be sent to the Grand Lodge office in care of the Ritual Committee. The Grand Master will approve any required changes to this program or to the point structure. The Ritual committee will then forward this information to the Lodges.

### **Getting Started**

To participate in this program a fee of \$10.00 will need to be submitted with the enrollment form. This fee is to cover the cost of the pins, printing and administration of the program. The fee is required to fund this program and prevent a draw on the limited funds available to Grand Lodge. Participation Forms and the Point Structure List will be provided to the Master of each Lodge. A participant will need to obtain a copy from the Master to keep track of his progress. When an award level is reached the form and the participation fee should be submitted to the Grand Lodge office in care of the Grand Lodge Ritual Committee for review. After review the form along with the award pin will

be returned to the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. All records of achievement will be accepted as presented and the Honor system will prevail.

When the second or third award level has been reached the previous level pin must be returned with the form and point list to receive the next level pin. The recycling of the lower level pins will help keep the cost of the program at an affordable level. However, some brethren will have a desire to collect the pins and the participant may keep their previous pins for an additional fee of \$5.00 for each pin. The additional fee should be submitted with the form.

### **The Challenge**

As a Master Mason you are challenged to participate and be actively involved in your Lodge. This program provides an opportunity for you to play an active and useful role in your Lodge.

### **The Reward**

Your accomplishments will first be rewarded by the pleasure you will have in knowing that you have learned more about Masonry and that you will be able to assist your Lodge and other members. The second reward will be in receiving a Ritualist Pin to display to others your dedication and hard work.

Your Lodge will be rewarded by having more Master Masons that can participate in Degree work, Coaching and Lodge Visitations. Also, by a base of members better prepared to represent their Lodges and Masonry in general in their communities.

A further reward is the recognition of those members who have been serving their Lodges as Ritualists until now. Those Heroes, who through their sense of Duty and Love of the Craft, have served as an inspiration to us all.

### **Lodge Attendance and Lodge Visitations**

Participation in the Ritualist Program will obviously promote attendance in the Lodge. That is where the participant can perform the parts that he has learned and where it will produce the greatest good for his efforts. Visitations to other Lodges will provide additional opportunities for him to present his learned parts as well as enjoy the Fellowship within the Fraternity.

### **Membership Growth**

Participation in the Degree work is especially gratifying when a member has a personal tie to the candidate. In this context the program can encourage discussions among friends and family that may produce future members and Membership Growth.

### **Public Awareness**

The Craft will benefit by having many more positive and knowledgeable Ambassadors in the community. The participants will be better enabled to spread the word about Masonry among friends and acquaintances, outside of the Lodge setting that may provide additional opportunities to awaken the desire in others to become candidates for Masonry.

### **Quality**

It is hoped that all participants in this program will increase their pride in their Masonic work, presenting the parts they have worked hard to learn and in the best way they are capable of performing them. Also, that they strive to provide the candidate with the most well prepared and meaningful presentation as possible.

### **Award Pins**



**RITUAL PROFICIENCY PROGRAM**  
**PARTICIPATION FORM**

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Raised: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Lodge Office Held (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Award Level Applied For:

Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                       Fee Submitted

Senior Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                       Fee Submitted

Master Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                       Fee Submitted

Grand Lodge Review

Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      By: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      By: \_\_\_\_\_

Master Ritualist                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_                      By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this completed form, the Point Structure List and the appropriate fee to the Grand Lodge Office in care of the Grand Lodge Ritual Committee. The Committee will review the information and return the Form, List and Award Pin to the Worshipful Master for Presentation. Participation Fee: \$10.00 (Includes 1<sup>st</sup> Pin) Additional Pin Fee: \$5.00.

The Grand Lodge of Utah  
Grand Lodge Ritual Committee  
650 East South Temple  
Salt lake City, Utah 84102-1141

## Point Structure

<b>Function</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Completed</b>
			Master or Deputy Lecturer Signature
<b>General EA-MM</b>	Worshipful Master	50	
<b>Opening/Closing</b>	Senior Warden	40	
	Junior Warden	30	
	Secretary	10	
	Treasurer	10	
	Senior Deacon	10	
	Junior Deacon	10	
	Tyler	10	
	Opening Prayer	30	
	Closing Prayer	30	
	Charge at Closing	40	
	Educational Feature	100	
<b>EA Degree</b>	Worshipful Master	200	
	Senior Warden	75	
	Junior Warden	30	
	Senior Deacon	100	
	Senior Steward	10	
	Constitutional Questions	25	
	Senior Steward's Lecture	75	
	Apron Lecture	75	
	Demand	25	
	Working Tools	25	
	EA Lecture	300	
	EA Charge	75	
	EA Catechism - Candidate	150	
	EA Catechism - Coach	150	
<b>FC Degree</b>	Worshipful Master	200	
	Senior Warden	75	
	Junior Warden	30	
	Senior Deacon	100	
	Senior Steward	10	
	Working Tools	25	
	Sheath of Wheat Lecture	75	
	Wages Lecture	25	
	Letter "G" Lecture	100	
	FC Lecture	300	
	FC Charge	75	
	FC Catechism - Candidate	150	
	FC Catechism - Coach	150	

<b>Function</b>	<b>Part</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Completed</b>
			Master or Deputy Lecturer Signature
<b>MM Degree</b>	Worshipful Master	200	
	Senior Warden	75	
	Junior Warden	30	
	Senior Deacon	100	
	Senior Steward	10	
	Working Tools	25	
	King Solomon	250	
	RW Senior Grand Warden	75	
	Grand Marshall	75	
	Grand Secretary	25	
	1st Brother	150	
	2nd Brother	150	
	3rd Brother	150	
	1st Fellowcraft	150	
	2nd Fellowcraft	150	
	3rd Fellowcraft	150	
	Seafaring / Wayfaring Man	50	
	Prayer at Raising	50	
	MM Lecture	300	
	MM Charge	75	
	MM Catechism - Candidate	150	
	MM Catechism - Coach	150	
<b>Funeral</b>	Worshipful Master - Service	200	
	Worshipful Master - Graveside	100	
	Senior Warden	75	
	Chaplain	60	
	Secretary	25	
<b>Total Possible</b>		<b>6000</b>	
<b>Awards</b>	<b>Ritualist</b>	<b>1600</b>	
	<b>Senior Ritualist</b>	<b>3200</b>	
	<b>Master Ritualist</b>	<b>4800</b>	