



The Grand Lodge of BC & Yukon

The Lodge Excellence & Award Program

L-E-A-P

2012-2013

The Lodge Excellence & Award Program

In 2005, MW Brother Bob McSween introduced the **Lodge Award Program** to the Grand Lodge of BC & Yukon. The Program was modeled on a successful venture developed by the Grand Lodge of Oregon that has encouraged similar programs within many other Grand Jurisdictions across North America.

The program is designed to create and develop successful Lodges by ensuring basic administrative tasks are performed, by encouraging increased fellowship both within Lodges and between Lodges and through increased visibility and interaction within the Community.

In the 2011 – 2012 Masonic year, the program was revised for alignment with the Five Pillar Plan to include new tasks, more opportunities to earn points and clearer task descriptions.

We have also provided tools to help track the progress of the program within each Lodge by setting targets dates and assigning specific responsibilities.

The revised program also comes with a new name; **The Lodge Excellence and Award Program** and the acronym **L-E-A-P**.

The goal is indeed **Lodge Excellence** and the **Award** is a Certificate of Excellence or Certificate of Achievement presented to the Worshipful Master at our Grand Lodge Communication.

The acronym brings to mind the image of **Leaping Forward**, not necessarily with one giant bound; but rather with 38 small, incremental and regular steps.

Lodges undertake to engage in their choice of 38 activities, or tasks, separated into two Categories; Category “A” tasks are worth 2 points each, Category “B” tasks are worth 1 point each.

To receive the **Lodge Excellence Award** Lodges must accumulate at least 35 points. To receive the **Lodge Achievement Award** Lodges must accumulate at least 25 points.

Each District Deputy Grand Master oversees the Program within his District and has the final say on the acceptance of each task when questioned or the submission for the Award as a whole.

To qualify, submissions must be signed by the Worshipful Master and the DDGM and be received by Grand Lodge on or before June 1st.

It is not intended that this be a one-time award, but rather that Lodges will compete and qualify each Masonic year and entrench participation in the Program in their Plan for the Lodge.

The Tasks

Category “A” – 2 Points Each

Pillar	Item	Description of Task (2 Points each)
Leadership	A1	Establish a long range Strategic Plan for the Lodge including elements such as succession, sustainable membership levels, long range financial planning etc.
	A2	At least four (4) Lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers are to participate in a Masonic Leadership Course. Receive two (2) extra points if your Lodge organizes the Regional or District Course.
	A3	Establish and maintain the Mentorship Program for all new candidates.
	A4	File a Lodge Budget for the year and present it to the Lodge for its approval.
	A5	The Worshipful Master to present a formal plan for the Lodge's work and activities for his term of office to the membership.
Education	A6	The DME and at least three (3) other Lodge members to attend Grand Masonic Day or another Regional or District Masonic Education event.
	A7	Lodge to conduct three (3) Masonic Education programs during the year.
	A8	Have a brother of the Lodge present a paper at the local Lodge of Education & Research or have your Lodge open and close that Lodge.
Communication	A9	Other than the usual Lodge notices, the Lodge must distribute at least three (3) written communications in the Masonic year to its entire membership reporting on Lodge activities, Masonic education or other articles of Masonic interest.
	A10	Establish a Phoning Committee and an e-mail Distribution List for your Lodge and regularly contact all members. It is critical that no members be overlooked just because they don't have e-mail.
	A11	At least four (4) Lodge members, including at least two (2) elected officers, to visit a tyled meeting of a Lodge outside of their District, or travel a reasonable distance to do so if within the same District.
	A12	Hold a special event to which the Lodge members' ladies, families and Lodge Widows are invited. Such events could include Ladies' Night, Special Dinners, Picnics, Christmas Parties, Dances, etc.

Category “A” – 2 Points Each (Cont’d.)

Pillar	Item	Description of Task (2 Points each)
Membership	A13	Conduct a "Bring a Friend to Lodge Night" or "Buddy Night", or invite prospective Candidates (and their families) to Lodge Social Functions.
	A14	At least two (2) Lodge members, including at least one (1) elected officer, visit a Job's Daughters or De Molay meeting, especially on a Fraternal Night of the youth groups.
	A15	Have one or more Entered Apprentices or a Fellowcraft present a paper to the Lodge about their thoughts on the degrees through which they have traveled; the paper to be presented before the brother progresses to the next degree.
Community	A16	Be engaged as a Lodge in visible public events such as sponsorship of youth activities or participation in local community activities or Business Associations.
	A17	Visit a local Elementary School and present details of the "We Can Help" program to the administration or teachers.
	A18	Have at least 10 percent of your membership visibly participate in a local community event such as marching in a parade or riding on a float to show the public who and what we are.

Category “B” – 1 Point Each

Pillar	Item	Description of Task (1 Point each)
Leadership	B1	The Lodge's voting delegates (no proxies) must commit to participating in the current year Grand Lodge Communication.
	B2	Confer or exemplify any of the three degrees. Assign one (1) point for each degree.
	B3	The Lodge must hold a ritual practice for each degree conferred or exemplified with a minimum of six (6) officers in attendance at each practice. Assign one (1) point for each qualifying practice held.
	B4	All reports and payments of Grand Lodge per capita assessments and fees are to be completed and filed with the Grand Secretary by the dates required by Grand Lodge.
Education	B5	Invite the District Education Officer to your Lodge to make an educational presentation to the Lodge.
	B6	A Brother from the Lodge is to attend another Lodge and present a Masonic paper or other program of Masonic interest.
	B7	Call upon the Lodge Historian, at least once per year, to fulfill his directive by giving at least one presentation in Lodge or article in the newsletter (see A9 above) on the history of the Lodge, its Past Masters, or senior members (living or deceased).

Category “B” – 1 Point Each (Cont’d.)

Pillar	Item	Description of Task (1 Point each)
Communication	B8	Establish and regularly update a Lodge Website as per the Grand Lodge Website Regulations and Guidelines.
	B9	Establish and maintain an active "Sick & Visiting" Committee. Visit members of your Lodge who are within the length of your cable-tow, who are unable to attend Lodge because of health issues and spend time in fellowship with them. A report from the Sick and Visiting Committee must be given at each Lodge meeting advising on the status of ill or distressed Brethren or their families and the Lodge Widows.
	B10	Establish and maintain a complete Lodge Widow's list. Make contact with those Masonic Widows at least twice during the Masonic Year. Consider Christmas Cards, Easter Lilies or similar recognition. Offer assistance as and when needed. See also A12 above.
	B11	At least three (3) brethren to attend each meeting of the Masters and Wardens Association or District Council.
Membership	B12	Hold a meeting in which Job's Daughters and/or DeMolays present a program about their ritual, work, or activities.
	B13	Acknowledge recipients of the Medal of Merit, Dennis Marsh Medallion, fifty (50) year jewels, or others where special service to the Lodge deserves special recognition.
	B14	Conduct a "Rusty Square Night" - an evening where members who have not attended Lodge for some time can refresh their memory of the signs, tokens and words.
	B15	Encourage the continued engagement of new Lodge members who have been raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason within the last 3 years to present Masonic Education.
Community	B16	Determine which students from local high schools have been awarded a Bursary Grant from our Grand Lodge (or a Lodge bursary). Visit the high school or invite the high school student(s) to a Lodge function with their families to present the bursary.
	B17	Perform as a group from your Lodge, a public service or charitable activity (such as blood donations, collection for a Food Bank, clothes for the needy, hospital volunteerism, assist Salvation Army, Cancer Car Washing, participate in a Cleanup Program such as highways, parks, alleys etc.).
	B18	At least four (4) members of the Lodge, and families if they desire, attend a church parade or church service.