

June 20, 2011

Subject: Grand Lodge Awards Program for 2011-2012

To: District Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Secretaries and all Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

It is well established that each Masonic Year the presiding Grand Master establishes the parameters of an awards program that best fits his goals for the year. In recognition of the importance of the District Master in the Grand Lodge management team and the belief that an active lodge is well positioned to take Masonry into the future, an award for "Mason of the Year in South Dakota" and "Lodge of the Year in South Dakota" has been created.

Each District Master will select and award a Mason of the Year and Lodge of the Year for his district. He will then submit a written recommendation to the Grand Master in support of his district selection. The Grand Lodge elected officers will review the submissions and the two statewide winners will be announced at the 138th Grand Lodge Communication held in Pierre in 2012.

It is recognized that each lodge has its own strengths and those strengths will be considered by the District Masters.

The following are areas that might also play a factor in the selection of the winners by the District Masters and the Grand Lodge:

- Lodge activities
- Mentoring
- Ritual proficiency
- Masonic Education – "Further Light"
- Community service and activities
- Support of Grand Lodge programs

The program is designed to reward highly visible and solid Masons and Masonic Lodges. Let's make an extra effort to be active and let people know we are proud to be South Dakota Masons.

Fraternally,

Richard Decker