



Celebrating a 50 Year Award Function

Achieving 50 years as a Freemason is a significant milestone which deserves recognising with an appropriate occasion.

How To:

Decide on a night (or, if preferred, an afternoon) for a special function to be held. It is suggested that the function should be in three parts:

- Firstly welcome the recipient and his family and supply some light refreshments;
- Follow this with the presentation in the lodge room itself. The officers and members of the lodge should wear regalia whilst in the lodge room. Invite both a friend of the recipient to provide some background information about the recipient and an appropriate individual to do the presentation of the award. Give the recipient an opportunity to speak of their time in Freemasonry and the changes they have seen.
- The third part should be in the refectory where special attention should be given to the refreshments for the night.

Tips:

- Plan the program so the Dist. GM or other distinguished brother can attend
- If the awardees family is present include thanks to them for their support of the awardee in any speeches
- Consider a bouquet of flowers or other small gift for the awardees wife
- A cake with 50 candles may be appropriate
- Pre warn the awardee that he will be given an opportunity to speak and suggest to him that he talks about his initiation and the changes he has seen
- Keep speeches and toasts short and to the point, avoid covering every aspect of the members life over the 50 years - concentrate on specific achievements.
- This should be a fun social night with the awardee and his family at the centre of the attention so lengthy ceremonial should be avoided.
- If being held on a regular Lodge meeting night consider tiling before guests arrive and closing after they have left or even before they arrive.

