

# PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SOMERSET

## **First Appointments to Somerset Provincial Grand Rank** to be made at the Provincial meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016

In October the Provincial Grand Master his Deputy and Assistants will consider making appointments to Somerset Provincial Grand Rank. These appointments will be effective from the date of the next Provincial meeting to be held at Weston super Mare on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The award of a Provincial Collar by the Provincial Grand Master is an acknowledgement of the contribution made by a brother to his Lodge, Masonic Centre and the Province.

Brethren may be considered for a first appointment to Somerset Provincial Grand Rank under the following eligibility criteria.

1. A Past Master of a Somerset Lodge who is not already Provincial Officer and who was installed as Master of his Lodge during the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and who remains a subscribing member of that Lodge.
2. An installed Master of a Somerset Lodge or a Lodge in another Province or District who has joined a Somerset Lodge, has been a subscribing member of that Lodge for at least four years and has given good service to that Lodge during that period.
3. A Brother of a Somerset Lodge who has been a subscribing member of that Lodge for at least twelve years and has given good service to that Lodge.

When considering a brother for a first appointment the PGM and his team take into account what an individual has contributed to his Lodge, both in his year in the chair and since then and what he may have contributed to his Masonic centre and/or the Province. The decisions are based on personal observations of the PGM, DPGM and the APGMs during Lodge visits and on information supplied over a four year period by secretaries and senior Lodge members to the Rulers and representatives of the PGM when they attend Lodge Installations.

This year for the first time individuals who may be considered for a first appointment are to be asked for a self-assessment of their own contribution during and since their year in the Chair. This will afford them the opportunity to let the PGM know how they would like to be involved in their Lodge and the Province in the future.

First appointment to Provincial Rank would normally be to, Provincial Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Standard Bearer, Assistant Standard Bearer, Persuivant and Steward.

Appointments are Past or Active. Acceptance of a Past Rank requires the recipient to continue working for and contributing to the well being of his Lodge and the Province and to attend the Annual Provincial meeting to receive his collar.

Active appointments (20 in total) have a similar requirement but also entail the recipients attending Provincial Team visits to Lodges, Installations and Provincial Fraternal visits during the year of their appointment. Active officers will be expected take part in ceremonies as part of the team, it is therefore essential that they are

competent in their ritual and can deliver it well. *There is an additional time commitment that brethren should consider carefully before indicating that they would accept an active office. The PGM would not wish to see any brother to put his masonic activities ahead of his family or work commitments.*

Active officers will be expected to attend at least ten visits during the year after their appointment. Team visits to Lodges are usually preceded by a rehearsal necessitating an early start, ie rehearsal at 4.00pm for a meeting at 6 or 6.30 pm.

Provincial Assistant Directors of ceremonies will be asked to attend Lodge Installations with the PGM, Deputy PGM, Assistant PGMs or Representative of the PGM. Duties include introducing Principal the Officer to the Lodge. Leading the salutations to the Principal Officer. Being able to prompt without notes, the principal officer when he delivers the charge to the Master (or occasionally the charge to the Wardens). Organising the retiring procession from the Lodge. Provincial ADCs could be involved in up to fifteen visits in their year.

Provincial Stewards act ADCs for Provincial Fraternal Visits, duties include Introducing Principal the Officer to the Lodge and leading the salutations to the Principal Officer.

NOTE – All those appointed to Provincial Grand Rank are responsible for purchasing their own regalia I.E. Provincial Dress apron with the correct badge, dress collar with correct Past jewel.

#### Additional Provincial Offices

There are opportunities other than active appointments for brethren to become involved with running of the Province. Appointments to the various groups shown below are not made on an annual basis but as and when required by the PGM.

**The Mentoring Team**, there are four assistant mentors working with the Provincial mentor.

**The Somerset Masonic Friendship Association** has been formed to promote the development and co-ordinate the activities of the wide variety of groups that meet throughout the Province to provide mainly daytime activities for widows, widowers, elderly members and their partners and those living alone who now find it difficult attending evening meetings.

**Provincial Website team** - responsible for maintaining and updating the Provincial Web Site. This requires someone who uses an Apple computer.

**Social media**, if you are familiar with and use social media you may be able to help.

**Building management group**. Recently established to offer help and advice on all aspects of property management to Lodges who own their buildings.

**2017 committee**, Formed to Assist with the planning of the celebrations for the Tercentenary of Grand Lodge.

**2020 Festival Committee** under the chairmanship of W.Bro David Medlock. The purpose of the committee is to ensure the Province is on track to meet the target for the 2020 Festival.

The **Provincial Charity Steward** has two Assistants

The **Provincial Almoner** has two Assistants

The **Provincial Treasurer** has two Assistants

R.Guthrie - Past Deputy PGM. August 2015