



Sons of Norway
HERITAGE PROGRAMS



IdeaBank#14

TUSEN TAKK AWARD

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Tusen Takk Award

“For the good of the Order” is a well-known phrase in lodge meetings of Sons of Norway. Perhaps it is even so commonly used that its meaning may have been dulled or tarnished or lost.

Thor 2-042, Salem, Oregon, has developed a concept and tradition which has been, and we think will be even more in the future, “for the good of the Order,” and called it the “Tusen Takk Award.”

Every lodge has a nucleus of loyal workers who give generously in many ways to serve the lodge without expectation of reward beyond the enjoyments of fellowship. So often their contributions are soon forgotten. Thor lodge recognizes these very special people with a diploma. Also, to ensure that the recipients of the award and their outstanding service will be remembered, we will permanently record their names with pictures and a brief summary of their service. It is like a “Hall of Fame” program used by many sports. A fine leather album with clear plastic insert sheets holds these pictures and the summaries of their services to the lodge. This album is on display on all special occasions.

Perhaps the greatest problem may be to isolate the service which truly stands out above others. The selection committee has a majority of persons who have already received this award. They will be concerned that this unique recognition is maintained.

This concept, if adopted, could add further to the quality of service and growth “for the good of the Order.”

Rules and Regulations on Tusen Takk Outstanding Service Awards

SELECTION OF PERSONS FOR TUSEN TAKK AWARD:

Nominations of persons for this award are to be made in writing by the lodge president, or by any lodge member to the committee, on or before December 1 of each year. Such nomination shall be supported by details showing why this person is deserving of the Tusen Takk Award for truly outstanding service.

The Tusen Takk Award Committee shall select persons for this award from such nominations, and/or from their own investigation of activities of lodge members.

Persons chosen must be approved by unanimous vote of committee members. No ratification nor official action of this selection is needed by the Lodge Board or Executive Committee. This committee's choice is final.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PERSON TO BE NOMINATED FOR AWARD:

He/she must have been a member of the lodge for one year prior to the year of outstanding service for which nominated.

His/her outstanding service must have been performed in or after the year in which this award program originated. (See guideline comments below.)

SELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TERMS OF OFFICE:

Appointment of committee members shall be by the president, with the approval of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors, at the beginning of each year. Committee members shall serve a three-year term on a retention basis and cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms. The president shall designate the terms of one, two, and three years for the three committee members, to establish the rotation sequence.

A vacancy on the committee can be filled by appointment by the president, with the approval of the Executive Committee or Board of Directors, with the term served being the same as that of the person vacating.

QUALIFICATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Two of the three Tusen Takk Committee members must have already received the Tusen Takk Award. This rule is because such persons will be concerned that high standards in determining truly outstanding service are maintained. A committee member must be a member of the lodge.

Guideline Comentary on Selection of Persons for Tusen Takk Award:

Since this award is to be given only for truly outstanding service, great care should be exercised to avoid such an award being given to an officer who has just done a good job in the past year. Doing a good job is expected, and is not necessarily outstanding.

This award is not intended to be a president's way of saying thank you to the many who have helped to make a good year. The emphasis is on outstanding service, and dictates that in many years there may be only one and not more than four such awards. It may even be that in a good year, no one will have been considered to have performed truly outstanding service.

The concept of this custom is like that of various sports Halls of Fame: Once selected to this honor, the recipient is not eligible to be renominated.

Tusen Takk Awards Register

_____ lodge

No. _____

District No. _____

SONS OF NORWAY

(Place)

(State)

The Tusen Takk Award of _____ lodge is to be presented only to persons who have rendered TRULY OUTSTANDING SERVICE to _____ lodge.

Each president, secretary, social director, officer, and committee chairperson gives many hours of time and energy in doing his or her agreed-upon duties—for which the lodge is most grateful. But a select few have had a dream and have gone far beyond the annual betterment of the lodge. In many cases, they have raised to new and higher standards of quality activities, enjoyment, and membership of _____ lodge.

This register will permanently honor those persons in name, in face, and in deed, so that those who follow may know of the contributions and be stimulated to add their own contributions.