

# The Yoda Society

Ray Soltis

Regional Provost Newsletter, Region 10

August 1, 2023

*Originally presented by Rt. Wor. Stormy Thorson, Seaboard No. 56.*

The Yoda Society was the Brainchild of Worshipful Mike Codori, PM of Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 in Rockville, MD and former Deputy Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. He is the "Father" of the Yoda Society.

He reasoned that some Past Masters after their year or even two years in the East, look to assist the Lodge in other ways. They advise the current Master, become catechism coaches, serve on committees (usually the Chair), make themselves available to fill any vacant chair at any meeting or any part of any Degree Team, accept any elected or appointed lodge office as well as Grand Lodge appointments.

An informal survey has shown that only about one in three Past Masters returns after his year to help and assist his lodge. Many reasons exist for this, moving out of state is one, however without any trouble, anyone can think of some recent Past Masters that just do not attend lodge anymore. They still reside in the area and still pay their dues, but hey have ceased

attending lodge. In some cases, you might even be able to think of a Past Master who is no longer a member of the Fraternity.

Worshipful Brother Codori sought to honor the Past Masters of his lodge that have returned and been an asset to their lodge. He founded the Yoda Society and gave them membership in the Society. He chose Yoda, the Jedi Master whose counsel provided the ethical, moral, and spiritual direction to the "Force". To Worshipful Brother Codori, that symbolizes the actions of the Past Masters that return and benefit the lodge. He calls them the "post-East Brothers".

The Yoda Society is not a part of any Masonic body or even recognized by any Grand Lodge or other Grand Body. There are no by-laws, no officers, not meetings and NO DUES. It is merely an honor and a way of saying thank you to dedicated Past Masters. Each member received a lapel pin, a Yoda likeness that Brother Codori purchased from the Internet. With it on one's lapel, it shows all that the wearer is a special breed of Mason and he has been recognized as such. Wearing the lapel pin also invites questions, which could lead to more societies being "formed".

Directly because of the article about the Yoda Society and Worshipful Brother Codori in the July 22 Edition of the *Emessay Notes*, the newsletter of the Masonic Service Association, the author of this paper began a Yoda Society at Seaboard Lodge No. 56 in Portsmouth, VA. Yoda lapel pins were ordered from the Internet. These were a likeness of Yoda's face, which may or may

not be the same as the pin given by Brother Codori. An induction ceremony was held at a Stated Communication of the Lodge:

Being inducted into the Yoda Society of Seaboard Lodge is recognition that you as a Past Master continued to serve your Lodge and Freemasonry after your year in the East. Roughly only one in three Past Master deserves this recognition.

It takes the name of Yoda because he was the counsel, wisdom, and strength of the "Force" in the Star Wars movies and that is what the members of this Society are to their Lodge.

The distinctive lapel pin which I now present to you will hopefully elicit inquiries from members of other Lodges and you will be happy to tell them that it's because you did not abandon your lodge after your Year but continued to work in the quarries of Freemasonry and have been recognized for it.

Welcome to the Yoda Society.

The inductees were encouraged to wear the pin often to invite inquiries and hopefully cause new Societies to be formed.

In conversation with Worshipful Brother Codori it has been learned that a Society has also been formed in the State of North Carolina. Starting a

Society is simple. Purchase some Yoda pins, there is no standard, and award them to Past Masters of your lodge who have remained active in the lodge and continue to help the lodge in any way they are asked.

None of this is meant to negate the enormous assistance and help that a lodge receives from loyal brethren who are not Past Masters. Grand Lodges usually have awards and recognitions for these brethren that Past Masters are expressly exempted from.

Lastly, it is entirely possible that on the night you award the Yoda pins to Past Masters in your lodge, a Past Master who rarely comes to lodge and has not helped the lodge since leaving the East will for some reason attend lodge that night. Wounding feelings or ostracizing folks is not the mission here. Go ahead and include that Past Master. Perhaps it will cause him to become more active and deserving of the Yoda pin, if you emphasize the reason for the honor, when it's presented.

*"An elite Society, this is"*