

## ***LIFE-SAVING AWARDS***

### **PURPOSE**

1. This instruction provides the rationale governing the issuance of Life-saving Awards within the Order in Canada and guidance in the preparation and submission of appropriate applications.

### **CATEGORIES**

2. There are three general categories of Life-saving Awards:
  - a) Gold, Silver and Bronze Life-saving Medals applicable to the Order as a whole and governed by Regulation 35 of the Royal Charters, Statutes and Regulations (1993);
  - b) St. John Life-saving Awards (Risk), applicable only to the Priory of Canada, and awarded to individuals who endangered their life in saving or attempting to save a life;
  - c) St. John Life-saving Awards (Non-Risk), applicable only to the Priory of Canada, and awarded to individuals who saved or attempted to save a life by applying first aid to a victim;
  - d) the St. John Award for Merit or Provincial Certificate of Commendation granted, by the President of a Council or the Chairperson of a Special Centre for individuals who helped a victim to a lesser degree.

### **GRAND PRIORY AWARDS**

3. **Life-saving Medals (Gold, Silver and Bronze)**

The sole criterion for the Life-saving Medal is that it may be bestowed on individuals who, in a conspicuous act of gallantry, have endangered their lives in saving or attempting to save life. There are two tests to be satisfied:

  - a) that the act was a conspicuous act of gallantry; and
  - b) that the person recommended endangered their own life.

On fulfilling these conditions, it is not necessary that:

  - a) the attempt to save life was successful;

- b) the person recommended has a First Aid Certificate; or
- c) the person recommended is a member of St. John Ambulance.

The measure of courage displayed, the degree of resourcefulness used and the extent to which the individual's own life was at risk, will determine whether the Grand Prior, on the recommendation of Chapter-General, will grant this award, and whether it be Gold, Silver or Bronze. It is the policy of the Order Committee to not consider recommendations where the event occurred more than one year before receipt of the submission.

The Life-saving Medal is worn on the right breast, suspended from a watered silk riband with one inch black centre and one-twelfth inch white and two-twelfth inch scarlet stripes at each end. A bar to the Medal may be awarded in each of the three categories.

Recipients of Life-saving Medals will be invited to the National Investiture for presentation of the award by the Governor General. They may, if they choose, receive the Medal at a Provincial Investiture.

“Application for a St. John Award of Life-saving” (Annex A) must be completed for all nominees and forwarded to National Headquarters.

## **PRIORY AWARDS**

4. The following awards are applicable only in Canada.

- a) **St. John Life-saving Award (Risk of Life)** - may be awarded to an individual who placed their life in jeopardy in saving or attempting to save life, where the situation does not merit the recommendation of the award of the Life-saving Medal. The rendering of first aid is not a condition of this award.

The recipient will be awarded a lapel pin (gilt) and a St. John Life-saving Award (Risk of Life).

- b) **St. John Life-saving Award (Non-Risk of Life)** - may be awarded to an individual who saves or attempts to save life by means of their knowledge and use of first aid. Personal risk is not a condition of this award.

The recipient will be awarded a lapel pin (gilt) and a St. John Life-saving Award (Non-Risk of Life).

St. John Life-saving Awards and pins will be sent to the appropriate Council or Special Centre for presentation to the recipient on an auspicious occasion.

*Application for a St. John Life-saving Award (Annex A)* must be completed for all nominees and forwarded to National Headquarters.

## **COUNCIL AWARDS**

### **5. St. John Award for Merit/Provincial Certificate of Commendation**

This award may be granted by the President of a Council or the Chairperson of a Special Centre to an individual whose actions resulted in saving or attempting to save a life, but may not warrant receipt of a Priory award. Receipt of this award does not preclude a nomination for higher Grand Priory or Priory awards. A lapel pin (Silver) may accompany the St. John Award for Merit, or Provincial Certificate of Commendation, however Councils or Branches are responsible for purchasing pins from Stores at NHQ.

## **CONDITIONS FOR RECEIPT OF LIFE-SAVING AWARDS**

6. a) The award by another agency (e.g. the Government of Canada, The Royal Life Saving Society of Canada) does not preclude an application for a St. John Life-saving Medal or Certificate. However, when this is known, all levels of communication should be advised;
- b) a potential recipient need not be a member of or trained by St. John to qualify for any Life-saving Award;
- c) application to the National level must be completed within one year of the incident; and
- d) awards will be made posthumously.

## **APPLICATION FOR AWARDS**

7. Applications for all Grand Priory and Priory Life-saving Awards must be completed and forwarded to National Headquarters using the application form at Annex A (*Application for a St. John Life-saving Award*).
8. Supporting documentation must be attached to every application form. This includes signed statements of any professionals who may have arrived during or after the incident, or who may have been involved with the victim directly after the

incident (e.g. doctors, nurses, police, ambulance attendants, firefighters, etc.). This also includes signed statements of witnesses. It does not include newspaper articles without other documentation. Applications without supporting documentation will be returned.

9. Independent checks should be made, through Council or Branch resources, to certify accuracy of information, particularly the spelling of names.
10. In the event that obtaining information could jeopardize confidentiality, the originator should note this in the covering letter, and complete the application accordingly.
11. Recommendations for Grand Priory and Priory Life-saving Awards will be considered at National Headquarters under the direction of the Order Committee in the following manner:
  - a) Acts of bravery which involve serious risk of life, with or without involvement of first aid will be considered by the National Life-saving Medal Review Committee, on behalf of the Order Committee. If approved they will be forwarded to Grand Priory for consideration of the Life-saving Medal (gold, silver or bronze). They will also be forwarded to the Honours Secretariat at Government House in Ottawa for consideration of further awards.
  - b) Acts of bravery involving risk of life, with or without the application of first aid, in cases where circumstances are not deemed to have merited a Grand Priory Life-saving Medal, a St. John Life-saving Award (Risk of Life) may be awarded.
  - c) In circumstances where risk of life is not identified, but the person, through the rendering of first aid, saved or attempted to save life, a St. John Life-saving Award (Non Risk of Life) may be awarded.
  - d) A Citation indicating the degree of danger (Risk), or application of first aid (Non-Risk) will be inscribed on the St. John Life-saving Award. The Award, accompanied by a Lapel Pin (Gilt) will be sent to the appropriate Council for presentation on an auspicious occasion. Councils may choose to frame the certificate, at their expense, before presentation.