

# DID YOU KNOW?

AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS



## MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN

February 1999

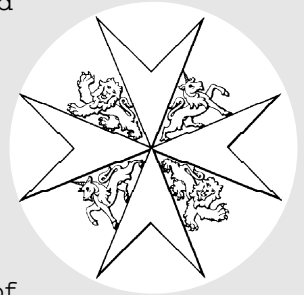
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**DID YOU KNOW** that the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is nationally recognized by the Canadian Government, and is part of the Canadian Honours System? It is headed by the Governor General as Prior, and the Queen is the Sovereign Head. Members who have provided valuable service to the Order of St. John are honoured by being nominated for admission or promotion in the Order.

**How does someone become a member of the Order?** Individuals nominated for admission or promotion must have performed worthy service for the Order and must support the Order's objects and purposes. Nominations must be approved by Branch and Provincial/Territorial Honours and Awards Committees before being submitted to the Order Committee of Priory.

When members are invested into the Order, they are presented with a medal of the Badge of the Order: the Maltese Cross, with its four main corners embellished by lions and unicorns. The size and colour (silver, white or gold) of the medal is dependent on the Grade in the Order to which the member has been invested.

The four Arms of the Maltese Cross signify prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude. The eight Points refer to humility, compassion, courtesy, devotion, mercy, purity, peace and endurance. Upon accepting admission into the Order, members sign a declaration of allegiance, promising to support the charitable works of the Order, and to conduct themselves honourably.



**What levels are in the Order?** The Serving member (Grade V) is the first appointment. After a minimum required time in the Grade, combined with ongoing support and worthy service, a member may be promoted to the Grade of Officer (Grade IV), then Commander (Grade III). The most highly dedicated members, after almost a lifetime of estimable service to the Order, may be honoured by promotion to the Grade of Knight or Dame (Grade II). Knights and Dames may choose to nominate a personal Esquire (Grade VI), who is prepared to perform good service for the Order on their behalf.

**How are the levels identified?** Post-nominal letters represent each Grade, and appear after the member's name. They may be used to indicate a member's Grade in the Order only in connection with St. John business, or for publication of a biographical nature. It is important to understand that admission or promotion to any Grade in the Order confers no rank, title or other social precedence. It simply provides an honour for dedication and service. Why would anyone want more?

Refer to the March 1996 issue of *DID YOU KNOW?* for the post-nominal letters of each Grade in the Order.