

Changes to the Service Medal of the Order of St. John

In July 2019, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, as Sovereign Head of the Order of St. John approved the following changes to the Service Medal of the Order for implementation throughout the St. John organization internationally, beginning on the Appointed Day of January 1, 2020:

1. Update the inscription on the Service Medal.
2. Standardize the qualifying period for eligibility.
3. Introduce an Ultra Long Service (ULS) extension of the Service Medal.

1. Update of Inscription

The only change to the design of the Service Medal of the Order is the inscription on the reverse of the Service Medal which will now reflect the full name of the organisation: “THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM” and as the medal is a service medal, the words “FOR SERVICE” will be added at the bottom. This change to the design does not constitute a new St. John Service Medal.

As part of the Canadian Honours System and because of Canada’s unique language requirements (bilingual), the Priory of Canada has been authorized to have the inscription on the reverse of all Service Medals issued in Canada going forward written in “Latin” – a language-neutral solution, acceptable to both the Chancellery of Honours here in Canada and to St. John International.



The inscription will read” “VENERABILISSIMI ORDINIS HOSPITALIS SANCTI JOHANNIS HIEROSOLYMITANI – PRO OFFICIO”.

Photo on left is a depiction of the ULS Medal Extension that will be awarded in Canada. The Service Medal will have the same inscription.

2. Standardization of Qualifying Period for Eligibility for the Service Medal of the Order

Effective January 1, 2020, the qualifying period of eligible service for an Active Member to be awarded a Service Medal of the Order will change from 12 years to a standardized 10 years of service across the organization, with silver bars awarded for each additional 5 years of Qualifying Service, up to 15 additional years, and gold bars after 30 years with subsequent gilt bars added every 5 years until 45 years. To be considered as an Active Member, the person must be providing voluntary Qualifying Service on or after January 1, 2020.

Councils will be asked to review Active Member status as of January 1, 2020 to determine who might be eligible for recognition at the 10-year mark. For example: an Active Member who has 10 years of Qualifying Service on January 1, 2020 would be entitled to a Service Medal and an Active Member with 9 years of qualifying service will be required to wait only 1 additional year to qualify.

As of January 1, 2020

YEARS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE - ACTIVE MEMBERS	AWARD ISSUED
10	Service Medal
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	Bar to the Service Medal

Regarding the awarding of bars to the Service Medal, a person who has received a Service Medal for 12 years of service would be required to provide Qualifying Service for only an additional 3 years to earn their first service bar (15 years of Qualifying Service). Any person with a 17-year bar will be entitled to a second bar in 3 years (20 years of Qualifying Service) and so forth until 45 years of service has been reached.

Service Medals (with or without bars) awarded prior to January 1, 2020 may continue to be worn until such time as the recipient qualifies for the award of the ULS Medal Extension.

3. Introduction of the Ultra Long Service (ULS) Medal Extension

Effective 2020, the Ultra Long Service Medal Extension will be issued after 50 years of Qualifying Service and will replace the silver Service Medal going forward. For example: an Active Member who has 50 years of Qualifying Service on January 1, 2020 will be entitled to receive the ULS Medal. The ULS Medal Extension takes the form of the same medal as the Service Medal, but finished in gilt with a distinctive thin gold stripe through the centre of the existing black and white ribbon to differentiate it from the silver Service Medal. A gold bar to the ULS Medal will be awarded for each additional 5 years of service. See Appendix.

As of January 1, 2020

YEARS OF QUALIFYING SERVICE - ACTIVE MEMBERS	AWARD ISSUED
50	ULS Extension Medal
51	
52	
53	
54	
55	Bar to the ULS Medal

Please note: the ULS Medal Extension is **NOT** an additional St. John Service Medal and is **NOT** to be worn along with the silver Service Medal. It is a gilt version of the updated Service Medal with a distinctive ribbon and is intended to allow for continued recognition of voluntary service beyond 50 years replacing the Service Medal and Laurel Leaf that formerly recognized 52 years. The Laurel Leaf (formerly recognizing 52 years of service) will no longer be issued.

Any Active Member who currently has a silver Service Medal with Laurel Leaf decoration for 52 years of service will be issued a ULS Medal to replace the Service Medal at no cost and will be entitled to receive a gold bar for each additional 5 years of qualifying service thereafter (i.e. 55 years, 60 years, 65 years, 70 years).

Once a person is awarded the ULS Medal, they are no longer entitled to wear the silver Service Medal and Laurel Leaf decoration. The Service Medal with Laurel Leaf may be retained by the recipient, but **NOT** worn.

4. General Information and Definitions

“Active Member” means an Eligible Person who renders Qualifying Service on or after Appointed Day.

“Appointed Day” means January 1, 2020.

“Qualifying Service” means a minimum of 60 hours of volunteer service per year.

“Bar” means a strip of decorative metal bar (Silver or Gold) added to a medal ribbon to signify a repeat award;

“Emblem” means a small Maltese cross (Silver or Gold) added to an Undress Ribbon to signify the award of a Bar;

Undress Ribbon bar and emblems for the silver Service Medal will not be affected by the change of design.

Undress Ribbon bar for the ULS Medal Extension will have the same distinctive gold stripe in the centre of the ribbon as the medal itself and will replace the Undress Ribbon of the Service Medal. The emblems will be issued in gilt.

Miniatures of both the updated Service Medal and the ULS Medal Extension will be available from the Priory Secretariat soon.

The Priory of Canada will continue to award the current silver Service Medal until stock is depleted. The updated Service Medal and the ULS Extension Medal will go into production early in 2020 with an expected delivery of 8 to 10 weeks.

If the holder of a Service Medal or the ULS Extension Medal is convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment, then the National Honours and Awards Committee may formally cancel the award by writing to the recipient.

Like the Service Medal of the Order, the ULS Extension Medal is authorized for wear by the Canadian Honours System and worn on the left breast.

If you have further questions or need clarification, please contact your Council's Honours & Awards officer or email: theorder@sja.ca

Appendix

Qualifying Period	Service Medal and Bars	Undress Emblem
10 years: Service Medal		
15 years: with silver bar		
20 years: with 2 silver bars		
25 years: with 3 silver bars		
30 years: with gilt bar		
35 years: with 2 gilt bars		
40 years: with 3 gilt bars		
45 years: with 4 gilt bars		

Qualifying Period	Ultra Long Service Medal and Bars	Undress Emblems
50 years: ULS extension		
55 years: ULS with gilt bar		
60 years: with 2 gilt bars		
65 years: with 3 gilt bars		
70 years: with 4 gilt bars		

