

Upon the recent passing of Ed Benson, many of us in Branch 8 felt the need to permanently remember and honor Ed as one of our most prominent and consequential members. Thus, the BEC has approved The Branch 8 Ed Benson Service Award, which is to be considered the most prestigious award that any branch member can be given. It is not to be considered an annual award and will be bestowed upon a member who, in the opinion of the BEC and special selection committee, has contributed to the branch and to Sir in general what, or very close to what, Ed did during his 15+ years with Sir.

Attached to this cover memo are two documents (both reviewed and approved by the Branch 8 BEC): 1) an award summary that provides information on the award, the qualifications, and the voting process; and 2) an application for the award.

All active members are eligible for this award and it is important to point out that the list of qualifications provided in attachment 1 are to be considered prior to submitting a member's name for consideration. The list is for guidance and the applicant need not have completed all of the listed qualifications (all of which Ed did accomplish), but a comprehensive list of the nominee's accomplishments within and contributions to Branch 8, the state Sir, or other branches should be included.

There is no timeline for submission and the selection committee and the BEC will complete a thorough analysis of the information provided prior to making a decision.