

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Happy New Year! The time of resolutions. It seems we make resolutions to correct or modify those things which we feel we could or should be doing better. Many resolutions are not achieved, primarily due to lack of resolve, not because the ways and means to the end are not available to us. When making our resolutions, we must assess whether we have the drive to succeed, the willpower to pursue the end and the belief that what we are trying to accomplish is worthwhile. As with any New Year's resolution, the success of the endeavour is proportional to the inner desire to make it happen. To be successful leaders in the Craft we must first demonstrate to ourselves that we can exhibit those characteristics of accountability and ownership necessary to make our own resolutions a success. We must believe in what we are doing.

Housekeeping Items:

1. D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course: A reminder to all D.D.G.M.s that their successors must complete the D.D.G.M. Course offered by the College of Freemasonry in order to be invested next July. The number of Districts presently **without candidates** enrolled in the course is significant. Please spread the word to your potential successors that they should have already enrolled by now.

2. Recognition: College Mentors: Please join me in recognizing the efforts of the entire team of College Mentors who devote so many hours of their time and give unselfishly of their talents to mark all the various papers submitted from the Arts & Sciences Courses and the D.D.G.M. Courses offered by the College of Freemasonry. These Brethren remain anonymous, but we could not get by without their dedication. Our thanks to them all.

3. Website: The draft version of Phase 1 of our new Grand Lodge website looks bold and exciting. We are on target to release Phase 1 early this year.

Looking Ahead:

In our Grand Lodge survey conducted last spring, one of the questions related to Lodge Viability and Sustainability 59.9% of respondents believe their lodge is at serious or very serious risk of going dark; only 16.5% believe it is not an issue for their lodge. Revealing indeed!

I believe that viability and sustainability are directly related to vitality. And what is vitality? I refer you once again to our Strategic Plan where we state that our Vision is – “to Ensure the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.” Our Rebuilding the West Gate plan document states that . . .

“**Vitality is enhanced** when the enthusiasm of Lodge members facilitates the delivery of near-perfect ritual, when they address the needs of elderly members, and when members reach out to the extended families of their Lodge.

Vitality is demonstrated when the *operational and financial needs* of both the Lodge and the Temple are properly attended to, ensuring their existence for future generations of brethren.

Most importantly, **vitality is demonstrated** when the growth and development of our *newest members* is seen to be an upmost responsibility of the *entire membership*.

Vitality is both an objective and a means.”

Lodges that demonstrate a ‘goodly portion’ of vitality are those that look after their members and their Masonic Homes spiritually, morally and fiscally. A bleak future is not an option for these Lodges. These Lodges are energized, lively and animated. Their leaders demonstrate these qualities and prove that a ‘joi-de-vie’ is contagious.

As Grand Lodge Leaders, District Leaders and Lodge Leaders, let's enter 2012 with a renewed sense of Vitality and seize the spirit of the New Year to get on board, illuminate the way, lead by example, and deliver on our promises. Wherever you find viability a concern, question what can be done to replace that concerned sense of viability with a renewed spirit of vitality.

The Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry is our objective. The means to that end can be found in communication, education and an understanding of the real condition of Masonry in your Lodge.

Our Vision requires vitality. Let's Believe it and make it happen!

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

Grand Master's full itinerary at –
www.grandlodge.on.ca UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Welcoming the New Year: All around the world, New Year is celebrated. It doesn't matter if it is only you and your partner, or you and your family, or you and the whole town together, New Year's means celebration. December 31st is celebrated as the New Year's Eve. People gather and wait till the clock strikes twelve midnight. They perform the countdown; then, when the New Year has embarked, everyone is enthused with an ecstatic feeling of prosperity. To some a New Year brings with it hope of change; change of luck, change of profession and for some, perhaps a change in relationships. Welcoming the New Year can be an exciting time, filled with high anticipation and expectations for the months to come. Whether you slide into a New Year easily; or go kicking and screaming, 2012 is here and we, as Masonic leaders, have a responsibility to enhance Masonry for the members of our Craft.

Installation of the Worshipful Master:

Remember when you were elected as the Worshipful Master of your Lodge? The brethren placed their confidence in you to lead them for the ensuing Masonic year. That means making certain that the activities are well organized, that the members have fun, learn and grow, and that your Lodge is happy, positive and enjoyable place to be. The members look up to you to be their leader and ensure they have a good experience. As an elected leader, you have been entrusted to provide the opportunities for the membership to achieve their goals. It is important that you do your best to meet those expectations.

Our Role as a Past Master: We are naturally proud to have served as Past Master of a Lodge. A fact which further brings home the responsibilities a member owes to the Craft as a whole and to his Lodge in particular. As a Past Master, we must set the example, especially in the area of the Mechanics of the Work and our Ritual. If we fail to set the example, why should you expect Lodge Officers to do any better? Everything you do and say should be the best possible

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

I trust all have enjoyed happy hours over the holiday season and now look ahead to many happy days in the coming year 2012.

Masonic Education, Correspondence Courses, for both the "College of Freemasonry" and the "Masonic D.D.G.M. Course" are under the team leadership of W. Bro. Gordon HENDRIE, 4192 Longmoor Drive, Unit 9, Burlington, ON L7L 5E3. Email address, gordon.hendrie@sympatico.ca The **2012 registration forms are available** at the Grand Lodge office – or our Grand Lodge website, as follows:

Open website – open G.L. Education – open the pertinent Course – Download the registration form. Complete the form and submit as directed.

example of the way the ritual must be done. When you set the example, you help facilitate the results our Work demands. Setting the proper example is one way members will learn to be better officers on their journey towards the East. While a very simple competency on the face of it, none is more important. Setting an example is one way Past Masters can influence the progress of Freemasonry in his Lodge. It will be difficult to achieve this goal, if you don't have a current copy of the Book of the Work and the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture Ritual.

Grand Lodge Proceedings 2011: You, and all Lodges in your District, should have received a copy of 2011 Grand Lodge Proceedings. Please direct the Worshipful Masters to read the first page, which states: "*The property of and ordered to be read in all the Lodges and preserved.*" Being preserved doesn't mean don't remove it from the plastic sleeve!

You will recall at our last Annual Communication, there was much discussion about increasing the assessment from \$12 to \$20. Some complained that this decision was sudden and the membership weren't prepared. In the 2010 Proceedings, on page 65, the Grand Treasurer stated it was inevitable we will need an increase in 2012. Further on page 83, the Chairman of Audit and Finance reported our budget projection for 2013 and 2014 will fall into a deficit position. This is another reason why the Proceedings must be available to all members of the Lodge.

I recommend all Past Masters read the 2011 Proceedings before attending the 156th Annual Communication in July 2012.

To assist the membership, with the generous financial contribution by The Heritage Lodge No. 730, all Grand Lodge Proceedings (1855 to 2011 inclusive) are now on the Internet. Take advantage of this resource made available to you by the Library, Museum and Archives Committee.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

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