

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

May 24 Weekend! A Canadian tradition. That wonderful time when we appear to say goodbye to spring and hello summer! While there should certainly be no ice on the lakes this year, we wonder what such a dry winter season will bring us in the months ahead. Will a dry spring mean less mosquitoes and black flies? Will our summer socials be hot before we turn on the BBQ?

In many of our Districts, May is also a month heavily laden with Installations.

In my message last month, I stressed the importance of making informed decisions when you vote for candidates for Grand Lodge Office. Equally important is the decision that each of us makes as a Lodge member when we elect or appoint the junior officer in our Lodges. This is the member who will in all likelihood become your Master some day. One of the distressing things I hear all too often is a situation where, for whatever reason, the Brethren become dissatisfied with an officer the closer he comes to assuming the Master's chair. My Brethren, our system of government is based on a steady progression through a number of stations in the Lodge. With each of these stations comes not only responsibility but accountability.

And, in some cases, even more significantly, expectations. Expectations on both sides – expectations of the membership, including the Past Masters, and expectations of the Officers progressing on their journey. In most cases, any conflicts that arise are related to failure to meet expectations. I encourage the members of each lodge to engage in frank, open discussion about the expectations that you place on your Officers, from the Master on down. But, as members of the Lodge, you must also understand the expectations of the Brethren you elect or appoint. No officer can deliver against unknown expectations. No Lodge member can be dissatisfied with performance if his expectations of performance were not made known. It is indeed a two way street. Get to know your officers. The future of your Lodge depends upon it.

In a similar manner, do we make known to our candidates for Grand Lodge Office what we expect of them? In the months leading up to Grand Lodge, do we take the time to ascertain what their expectations are? My Brethren, the candidate sheets are out in the hands of every Lodge Secretary. Information will soon be published on the Grand Lodge website. I encourage you to get to know these Brethren and make an informed decision in July. The future of your Grand Lodge depends on it.

Brethren, part of our **Grand Lodge Mission statement is to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community.** Putting capable and qualified leaders in place in our Lodges forms the nucleus of the talent pool on which your Grand Lodge draws from to fulfill its Mission.

Housekeeping Items:

(1) Installation Teams – Please remind those taking part in Installations that there is to be only one book open in Lodge and that is the one used by the designated sponsor. No other copies of the Ceremony of Installation are to be open in Lodge and no other Brethren should issue prompts.

(2) D.D.G.M. Year End Reports – The D.D.G.M.s are reminded that once all their official visits are completed and reports submitted, you must complete the District Summary Report (PSUM) for printing in the Proceedings of Grand Lodge. If you have any questions on the content of this report, please contact R.W. Bro. John Hay at: jhay@nexicom.net

Looking Ahead:

I quote from our strategic Plan: *Freemasonry's timeless lessons, from their simple clarity to their sublime interpretation, may have never been more applicable to the lives of men as we believe they are today.*

We are experiencing a tremendous resurgence in Freemasonry in Ontario. The lists of applicants and candidates awaiting degrees is prevalent in many, many of our summons.

I perceive that many of our new Masons are indeed seeking out the lessons of our fraternity because of what they are not finding in the working world today. Those timeless lessons learned on the floor of the Lodge, the application of those lessons through the effective employment of our working tools, and our belief in a growing, exciting future in our jurisdiction will no doubt ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.

It is not enough to simply be working hard, we must be working hard at meaningful tasks that contribute to the overall health of this great fraternity!

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

You may recall, when all the D.D.G.M.s attended the Regional Meetings held last August 2011, I informed each D.D.G.M. that they will be receiving a package from the Grand Secretary shortly after April 15, 2012. Well, that package has been sent you by Grand Lodge and I trust each you have received it, opened it, and understand the contents. For your assistance, and the assistance of the brethren in your District, I will go over some of the contents contained in the D.D.G.M. package.

Grand Master's Banquet will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2012, doors will be open at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. Lodges may reserve a table for 8. Selection of reserved tables are made on a first come, first served bases. If you are reserving a table, please don't include any of the Elected, Appointed or Honorary Members of the Board. Those Members of the Board have assigned seating. Tickets for the Grand Master's Banquet are \$58 each and must be purchased through you the D.D.G.M.

District Meeting: Each District has been assigned a TIME and ROOM to hold their meeting. It is the responsibility of the D.D.G.M. to preside over the District Meeting. The first order of business shall be the election of the D.D.G.M. All ballots at the District Meeting, regardless of colour, count as one vote only. The new D.D.G.M. shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens of the lodges of such district. If a second ballot is required, only those brethren who have placed first or second on the first ballot shall be eligible as candidates for the second ballot. The D.D.G.M. shall ensure his successor is eligible for the office of D.D.G.M., as per the Book of Constitution 50(b), before the Grand Master will confirm their election. All ballot papers cast shall be retained and forwarded (preferably in a sealed, marked envelope) to the Grand Secretary, as per Section 66 of the Book of Constitution.

Fairmont Royal York Hotel: You have to remember, we are not the only conference or function being held at the hotel. All delegates and brethren who are planning on reserving a room at the Royal York, should be made

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

William Mercer Wilson recipients have reserved seating (front & centre) at the Annual Communication, Grand Master's Banquet. Do NOT include them in your reservation request for tables of eight. Please advise those lodges that have recipients choosing to attend that *tickets must be purchased* from the D.D.G.M. prior to their attendance.

The Grand Lodge office has not received the necessary recommendation, if any, from the following districts regarding recognition of the District Secretary at the annual communication by our Grand Master: Bruce, Eastern, Hamilton A, Temiskaming, Toronto Humber Valley and Western. Please respond to grandsecretary@grandlodge.on.ca

as soon as possible. The Grand Secretary had made arrangements with the hotel to hold a number of room nights for "Masons" which are only guaranteed until June 1st. Don't be disappointed and book your room(s) now. All brethren who are making room reservations please advise the receptionist, you are part of the "Masonic Group."

Meet the Candidates: We have a number of candidates who have been nominated for Grand Senior Warden (3), Grand Junior Warden (2), Grand Registrar (4) and the Board of General Purposes (15). You will have an opportunity to meet the nominees on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, between 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Salon A on the Convention Floor at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Delegates, if you have the time, stop in and meet them.

Seminars: On Tuesday, July 17th, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m., at the Fairmont Royal York, the Committee on Seminars and Workshops will be presenting five seminars for all brethren. Pre-registration is not required. This year the topics will be; Retention – What Works For You; Membership and Mentoring; Cornerstone Project; Diversity in Masonry; and Serving Your Grand Lodge.

Voting: Please remind the Past Masters, Masters and Wardens in your District, voting for Grand Lodge Officers, except for the D.D.G.M., will take place on Tuesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Balloting for Grand Lodge Officers is done at the time of registration. Masters, Wardens and Proxy holders should be familiar with Sections 56 and 57 of the Book of Constitution. A lodge that has properly made their Returns to Grand Lodge are entitled to three votes to be cast by the Master and Wardens if present. If any one of them be absent his vote shall be given to the senior officer (of the three present). Only if all three (Master and Wardens) are absent, the three votes may be cast by the Proxy delegated by the lodge. If a lodge fails to make their Return on or before July 8th, Section 57, Constitution of Grand Lodge must be implemented.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

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