

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2011 / 2012 – 6

June 2012

Published by
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

From the Grand Master . . .

Summertime! BBQ's and beaches; tans and towels; grass and weeds, flowers and birds. With the advent of summer we tend to move into more social arenas. End of year parties, meeting wrap ups, strawberry socials and so on. Masonically, before we actually slow down, we have some busy times in late May and June, with many Districts holding annual Installations. But as the Masonic year begins move to a more relaxed summer schedule, it is time to reflect on our Masonic accomplishments of the past year. Our Grand Lodge chairmen have compiled their reports, as have the D.D.G.M.s and we look forward to our Annual Communication where we highlight those accomplishments and set our plans for the next year.

As Grand Master, I would like to express my appreciation to the Members of the Board who have given their time to serve as your Committee Chairmen, Committee Members and Ambassadors for Grand Lodge. We appreciate all their efforts, thank them for their contributions and wish them a relaxing, enjoyable summer. I would also like to thank all our District Deputy Grand Masters who have acted as Representatives of the Grand Master in their respective Districts. Thank you for managing the District teams, thank you for completing your reports and thank you for the time and effort you have given in the service to your Brethren.

There are several specific items that I would like to address in this Communique. They are not Housekeeping items, but rather items that will **significantly** impact this jurisdiction in the months ahead.

1) Website Development: The website development team under R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman is making great progress with Phase 2 and I have been informed that we are counting on an initial release of Phase Two just prior to Grand Lodge. I have seen the drafts and I can tell you that I am excited by what I see. I can promise you that you will not be disappointed in the direction in which we are moving. Keep your eyes open for the announcement!

2) Tactical Plan 2012–2013: It seems like a long time ago when we completed our survey. We promised you the results would be used and I am certain that you will find the project initiatives on the plate for next year, reflective of not only our collective long term strategic goals but also of the comments you expressed in your responses. The Tactical (operational) Plan for 2012–2013 will be presented to the Board for approval in July. Once approved, it will be communicated as widely as possible so that all of you can see what your Grand Lodge will be working on over the next year. I trust you will find that these initiatives demonstrate our **commitment** to

bringing value added services to you, demonstrate your leadership's **accountability** for achieving our Vision and contribute to **ensuring** the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario.

3) Lodge Buildings: For many, many years, this Grand Lodge has wrestled with the increasingly poor conditions of our Lodge meeting places. Financial concerns, safety concerns and liability concerns among others are causing increased headaches not only within our Lodges but within our Grand Lodge. The time has come when we, collectively, must take whatever actions are necessary to ensure we do the very best we can to avoid any major accidents, with possible related deaths. Our culture demands action in terms of fire, health and safety concerns and so must we as Masons.

Therefore, **effective immediately, all Lodges and Temple Corporations must begin the process of seeking current compliance to all fire, health, safety and municipality code requirements.** As this will take time and be a very difficult process in some cases, we will require compliance be attained by the third Wednesday of July 2013. All Grand Lodge Committees that have mandates related in any way to this compliance will be actively engaged over the next few months in helping us all to understand the process for compliance, what compliance means and how it is to be achieved and proven. These committees will be required to communicate to all Lodges so that they, in partnership with you, the Brethren who own and operate these premises, can embark on the path to compliance as soon as possible. Together we must act now!

Looking Ahead:

As I look forward to our Annual Communication next month, I remind you of **our commitment to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community.** "Our" includes you and me. Be sure you take the time to determine if you are selecting the most capable and qualified leaders for your Grand Lodge next year. Be an informed voter.

Special Announcement: I am delighted to be able to inform you that Bro. Chris Hodapp, author of "Freemasonry For Dummies" has agreed to speak to our Grand Lodge on Wednesday afternoon, July 18th. Plan now to come and hear this distinguished Masonic author and speaker. Check out his website.

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

On behalf of the 35 Elected, Appointed and Honorary Members of the Board, I thank you, the District Deputy Grand Masters, the District Secretaries and the many brethren who served on District Committees for your contributions and time to Freemasonry this year.

Brethren, in last September's D.D.G.M. Communiqué, I gave you a quote from the Provincial Grand Master, Lord Amptill at the meeting of the United Grand Lodge of England, April 27, 1932, when he was addressing the Grand Lodge Officers. He said: "Each and every one of you has a definite and constant duty, and that duty is to maintain the honour and dignity of your rank. The badges with which you will be invested is meant to not only point out your superior rank, but also to remind you that it is our particular duty to afford assistance and instruction to all those below you." Those words were as relevant back in 1932 and that are today. As your term of office is nearing completion, what can you say about your year? Did you follow the words of P.G.M. Amptill? What advice will you give your successor?

D.D.G.M. Report: Your final report and recommendations to Grand Lodge should have been completed and submitted to the Grand Secretary. Your evaluation should be honest reflection of your District and recommend ways we can improve Freemasonry in Ontario. It is also your responsibility to ensure ALL lodges in your District have completed and submitted their Semi-Annual Returns to the Grand Secretary on or before July 8, 2012, to avoid negating your principle officers the right to vote at Grand Lodge.

Candidates Bio's: As a pilot project this year, those candidates nominated for the office of Wardens, Registrar and Members of the Board, who volunteered, will have their Bibliographic Abstract posted on the Grand Lodge Web Site listed under the "Member Login" section.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

A reminder the D.D.G.M. PSUM reports, for inclusion into the 2012 Proceedings of Grand Lodge, are now due.

Grand Master banquet tickets are distributed on a 'first come, first serve basis.' As you receive orders for tickets that make up a table of eight, be sure to send the order to the office and avoid disappointment if left to the last minute.

You will be receiving an attachment containing a computer version of the January to July 2012, semi-annual return. Please ensure the attachment is emailed to the lodge secretary. Encourage each lodge to avoid blacklisting of the principal officers (negating their privilege to vote) should they fail to submit the semi-annual return in a timely fashion.

Roll call of all D.D.G.M.s will take place at the Fairmont Royal York hotel, Ballroom, on Monday, July 16, at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

Thank you for your cooperation during the past year. Best wishes as you commence a new chapter of your Masonic journey – that of continued service and support to your lodge, the district and those who are entrusted to follow in your footsteps.

Meeting of the Board of General Purposes:

Remember, as the D.D.G.M., you are a Member of the Board of General Purposes, the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge. You are expected to attend the next Board Meeting, which will be held on the Convention Floor of the *Fairmont Royal York Hotel* on Monday, July 16, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., and 1:30 p.m., and on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. I can assist you on some of the rumors; yes, the Grand Secretary conducts a verbal Roll-Call each morning to determine the presence or absence of all Members of the Board! Further as the D.D.G.M., you are expected to attend the Masonic Foundation Meeting and the Masonic Holdings Meeting, on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, commencing at 8:30 a.m., held in the same room. So quite simply, you should be in your assigned seat at 9:00 am on Monday, and 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday.

Next Year: It is essential of the future of Masonry that you continue to be actively involved at the Lodge, District and even Grand Lodge level by being available for committee and other work within your District and by being available to Grand Lodge for similar assignments. If you have an interest to serve on a Grand Lodge Committee, you should seek out the member of the Board of General Purposes who is the Chairman of the Committee in which you are interested. Inform him that you would be pleased to assist his committee in any way.

Finally, as President of the Board of General Purposes, I would like to express my appreciation to the members of the Board who have given their time, energy and talents to serve as Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen and the nearly 250 Committee Members. Your work was very much appreciated.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

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