

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Greetings Brethren for the first time this Masonic year from this monthly communication tool for DDGMs. Please note that although messages and information contained in the Communique will be directed to the DDGM, it will contain information relevant and pertinent to all Brethren and should be shared.

We thank the DDGMs for their attendance at the Regional Meetings in August and trust that the information communicated will be of value to you, the District team and the Brethren. The Grand Lodge Committees are there to serve you, so please make use of them as appropriate.

Items of Note:

Allow me to address several housekeeping matters:

1) Website Development – The latest version of the Grand Lodge Website was implemented in early July. If you have not signed in as a member, please take a look. I draw your attention specifically to the News and Events section for Members, which is updated regularly. Sign in instructions for the website have been distributed by V.W. Bro. Eric Lakien, Communications Website Team Member. Work continues on Phase 3 – watch for more exciting features to come this fall.

2) Tactical Plan 2012-2013: Our tactical plan was adopted by the Board at our Annual Communication. It contains 14 specific initiatives for this year. Further communication on the plan will be forthcoming. The plan will be posted on the website and anyone interested can obtain a copy of the plan from the Deputy Grand Master, the Chairman of the Planning Committee (R.W. Bro. Douglas Galt) or the Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee (R.W. Bro. Steven Warren). These initiatives demonstrate our **commitment** to bringing value added services to you and demonstrate our **accountability** for achieving our Vision.

3) Lodge Buildings: We directed in the June Communique and at Grand Lodge that financial concerns, safety concerns and liability concerns in our Lodge meeting places must be addressed to avoid any major accidents, with possible related deaths. We have directed that **all Lodges and Temple Corporations must begin the process of seeking current compliance to all fire, health, safety and municipality code requirements and that** we will require compliance be attained by the third Wednesday of July 2013. An Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by R.W. Bro. Perry McConnell, is in the process of putting together a proposal for

achieving such compliance. That proposal will be completed in early Oct. and communication of the plan, the processes, the requirements, etc. across the jurisdiction, will occur as soon as they are approved.

4) Photographs: No photographs are to be taken while the Lodge is in session. This time of year sees many presentations and photos of these presentations, etc. can be accommodated by those involved remaining immediately after Lodge for as long as the photographer requires.

5) Past Masters Course (formerly DDGM Course): Note that this course now requires completion of 11 assignments and therefore cannot be completed in a short period of time late next spring. Please advise your potential successors to contact the College of Freemasonry for further information or look on the Grand Lodge website under Members/Membership/Education Courses/College of Freemasonry - Prespectus.

Looking Ahead:

This year our top three priorities will continue to be Communication, Extending our Learning Opportunities and being responsive to the Condition of Masonry in our Jurisdiction. Our 14 tactical plan initiatives all relate to these priorities. The Brethren that you have selected to represent you, will continue to focus on **our commitment to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community in order to achieve our goals.**

We have made some significant changes to our Grand Lodge Committee structure this year to better align the services we provide with our strategic plan directions, and I encourage you to visit the Member's section of the website (Operations/Committees List) to view the list of Grand Lodge Officers, Teams and Committees.

As most of us return to labour after the summer recess, I encourage you to make a concerted effort to ensure that the mentoring of our new Masons is high on the priority list. We have many experienced members in our midst that are willing to assist and the encouragement and instruction that they can provide to our newer members is invaluable.

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling
Grand Master

Grand Master's full itinerary at www.grandlodge.on.ca

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

You now wear the regalia of a District Deputy Grand Master. Some may hold the opinion that Grand Rank marks the summit of attainment in a Masonic Career. Don't be under the mistaken idea that the task of working for the Craft is finished by the attainment of that high rank. You have worked hard to reach this office, and now you must continue to work for the benefit of the Craft as a whole. Each of you has a duty to maintain the honour and dignity of your office. The badges which you have been invested with 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 instructions. (Lord Amphill, 1932).

Rebuilding the West Gate. I encourage all Masons to read and understand this document. This is the Strategic Plan for our Grand Lodge. In our Strategic Plan, we talk about our Strategic Goals and the Five Columns. Our Grand Lodge Committees are now working together to support the Five Columns as listed in our Strategic Plan.

Craft Stewardship Column: We will embrace Craft Stewardship as a responsibility to future generations of Freemasons in Ontario as well as a critical component in the conveyance of Masonic excellence to our current membership. This Column is supported by a number of Grand Lodge Committees grouped under Planning (Long Range Planning, Condition of Masonry and Fraternal Correspondence), and Training and Development (DDGM Orientation, Leadership Development, Protocol & Etiquette, Seminars & Workshops and Lodge Resources, which include, Brother to Brother, Friend to Friend, Mentors, Officer Progression and Cornerstone Project).

Membership Column: We recognize that our membership and their families represent the heart of Freemasonry in Ontario and that the culmination of our efforts are intended to result in a richer experience for all our members and their families. The committees' representing this Column is called Education (Library, Museums & Archives, and Masonic Education which also includes the College of Freemasonry, Reflections Newsletter and Book Sales).

Communications Column: We will communicate in an effective and consistent manner using the most appropriate medium to reach the target audience in a timely manner. To support this Column will be our Communications Committee (Internal Communications, Website and Publishing Review).

Operations Column: We will endure that the operations and governance of Grand Lodge, Districts and Lodges are effective, sustainable and efficient. The committees in this Column are Finance (Audit & Finance and Finance Advisory), Infrastructure, Management, Constitution & Jurisprudence, Discipline, Benevolence and Fraternal Relations.

Community Outreach Column: We will facilitate Community Outreach, which will create opportunities to demonstrate Masonic values within our communities and convey positive and accurate perception of Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge Committees in this column will be Blood Donors, Brock University Partnership, Public Awareness and Youth Initiative.

We are very fortunate to have assembled a team of knowledgeable and well skilled Chairmen, Team Leaders and Committee Members. Make use of them. If a lodge or brother in your District needs information or assistance, whether it is for financial advice, Masonic Education, Long Range Planning, or even help in keeping their Lodge going, I urge you to contact the Chairman in charge. They are aware of this, so it will be no surprise to them when they receive your call and/or request. Looking forward to another exciting year in Masonry!

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master