

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Hints of spring...

The weather teases us, lapsing back and forth between spring and the last licks of winter. However, the neighbourhoods are filling up with people again, coming out of winter hibernation with smiles on their faces to greet friends and neighbours whom they haven't chatted with for a while. So to, the coming of spring seems to bring a certain 'lift' to our Masonic spirits. Our Summons' indicate many spring events planned all across the jurisdiction and even in the words on the paper, there is a certain sense of enthusiasm and vitality. Brethren, let's capture that spring spirit and make it work for us!

Have we lost touch?

Remember that old invention called the Touch Tone phone? I wonder how the name was selected. Do you suppose it had any bearing on the fact that a telephone call actually connected two people, because one reached out to 'touch' the other? Lately I am seeing, with increasing regularity, comments in the Masters' messages in some of our summons, that indicate we are losing 'touch' with our Brethren.

Across the jurisdiction, we are overall, very busy with degree work. That is good news! Degree teams are being stretched and would welcome participants, especially among the newer members. I firmly believe that each and every Brother has an obligation to assist in the rites and ceremonies of his Lodge, and to contribute to the best of his abilities. On the other hand, it is ultimately the responsibility and accountability of the Worship Master to ensure that the rites and ceremonies are performed. The Master may delegate responsibility but not accountability for the execution of the rites and ceremonies. To my point, I am seeing messages like the following:

- If you need assistance with memory work, don't hesitate to contact a member
- Any Master Mason wishing to do work, please contact me
- If you are interested in getting more involved, speak to me
- If any Brother is interested in doing some of the work, please step forward and let us know.
- I'd like all officers to attend the practice, if possible
- Next month is elections, if anyone is interested in assuming a chair, please let me know
- If you would like to have some fun and participate in the ritual, please let me know.
- If you know of a Brother ready to be passed to the second degree, let me know.
- I would remind our newer Brethren to contact me if they need a mentor assigned to them
- Mentors and sponsors, please contact and encourage our younger EAs to move ahead. If you accept a chair, please try your very best to attend all meetings

- If you think you are entitled to a long service pin, please let the Secretary know

Brethren, contrast that with:

1. I will be individually contacting the Brethren of the degree team as a reminder closer to the date
2. The worksheet for the degree as been compiled and is being distributed – if for some reason you cannot fulfil your obligation, please let me know

What are the best practices of successful Lodges? Officers that accept the accountability and a sense for what the 'Touch Tone' phone accomplished would rank high on my list.

Brethren, experience has taught me that most Brethren will not turn down a personal, individual, request to participate. Let's reflect on what it means to reach out and 'Touch' our Brethren.

Sidebars:

1. Grand Lodge Proceedings: If you haven't taken a look, try the Grand Lodge Proceedings, from 1855 to the present, which are available at <http://archive.org/details/grandlodge>
2. District Webmasters: Please get into the habit of periodically checking the link from the Grand Lodge website to your District website. If changes are made to the District site, the link may be invalidated.

The Path...

Last month we spoke about leadership being an attribute of those who would follow our path to "Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry". Another attribute is the ability to listen. Especially in leadership positions, we can sometimes think that the only path, is the path that we have selected. If Leadership is the critical ability to understand the risk at each fork in the road, then the ability to listen will ensure we recognize that there is a fork approaching, that there is a choice.

Leaders who listen are leaders who understand. Understanding Leaders enhance our overall probability of success. Understanding our Vision and listening to our Brethren – two key elements in staying the course to achieve our Vision, to return us to Greatness!

Believe it!

M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling

Grand Master's full itinerary at –
www.grandlodge.on.ca under events Calendar

From the Deputy Grand Master...

Last month, Members of the Board held a series of meetings and discussed some of the current issues within our fraternal organization. Many of the topics discussed will make up our Yearly Tactical Plan (2013-2014) and will be presented to the Board of General Purposes and Grand Lodge for approval. Some of the topics discussed were: Temple Closings; Communications (social media, Website); Masonic Education (College of Freemasonry programs and are they available to all members, the DDGM Course being offered to every Past Master); Leadership (amalgamations and the effects it has on District operations, Past Masters offering their service to Grand Lodge or Districts); Membership (retaining membership); and the 2013-2014 Yearly Tactical Plan. On behalf of the Board, I wish to personally thank Brother Larry Barrett, Sunneylea Lodge No. 664 for his assistance and being our facilitator during our business meetings. Your service is very much appreciated.

We have experienced, especially this past decade, several lodges that are either turning in their Charter or amalgamating with other lodges. In 2004, the Constitution was amended to ensure that ones membership is transferred into his new lodge. Every member of the lodges so amalgamated shall be a member of the amalgamated lodge. However, a member may obtain a certificate of demission before the amalgamation has been effected. If a lodge surrenders its Charter, assistance shall be provided, if requested, to locate a new lodge and if lodge finances permit his affiliation fee will be paid to the new lodge.

There are many reasons why a member decides to affiliate with another lodge rather than remaining with his new amalgamated lodge. Likewise, many of our members have moved to new communities and remaining an active member in his present lodge would be impracticable. We encourage the member to join another lodge that would be ideal for him, his family and his work commitments. When this occurs, the member must make application for

affiliation (Form 7) to join a lodge in his new community. When a member, who has already faced the scrutiny of the membership, needs to affiliate into a lodge, the lodge shall follow the same procedure as that of a new applicant.

The word "Affiliated Mason", as a technical term, is not found in any of the old Masonic writers, who always used admission instead of affiliation. It stated that there is no precept more explicitly expressed in the Ancient Constitutions than that every brother ought to belong to a Lodge, and to be subject to its By-Laws and the General Regulations. As for balloting on these brethren, every member is expected to vote. No one can be excused from sharing the responsibility of admission or rejection, except by the unanimous consent of the Lodge.

Where a member has himself no personal or acquired knowledge of the candidate, or affiliated member, he is bound to give faith to the recommendation of his brethren of the reporting committee, who, he is to presume, would not make a favorable report on the petition of an unworthy applicant. Before balloting on an affiliated member to whom you may have a "private pique and quarrel" with, remember what M.W. Bro Norman E. Byrne said about balloting: *"The test may well be, has this brother clearly and unequivocally offended Freemasonry generally? Or is it just me? A serious question, which deserves a serious answer"* (1995 Grand Lodge Proceedings p106).

At our installations, the Master Elect is asked a series of questions which points out the duties of a Master of a Lodge. Remember those questions? Have you ever heard anyone say "NO" to any one of them? Questions, like, being a peacefully subject, obey the laws, avoid private piques and quarrels, respect true brethren. I encourage you at the next installation you attend, just don't hear the words being spoken, but listen to them!

Donald A. Campbell

From the Grand Secretary...

DIRECT ONLINE HOTEL RESERVATIONS TO OUR 2013 ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/afamcanada>

Terence Shand