

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2012-2013-06

June 2013

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

From the Grand Master . . .

Time Flies...

As I read the Master's message in many of the Lodge Summons, I notice that there are many references to how quickly the year has passed. In speaking to you as DDGMs, I hear the same comments. Make no mistake my Brethren, the feeling is the same from where I sit. I can't believe that it has been four years since I started making a monthly contribution to this Communique and now I compose my last message to you.

Let me express thanks and appreciation to each of you who served as the Grand Master's Representative this year and please pass along my sincere thanks to the District Secretary for his labours on behalf of the Lodges in your Districts.

Of the future...

Brethren, you know that I believe we are on the threshold of a great resurgence in Freemasonry in Ontario. I see renewed interest in the craft from non-masons; I see enthusiasm in the Masons I meet; I see vitality returning to our Lodge rooms; and I sense a rekindling of interest in our experienced members. These are positive signs and ones that are not to be ignored. In very simple terms, we must prove to ourselves that we have the will to manage this resurgence and make great strides towards achieving our Vision.

These words spoken by Abraham Lincoln seem appropriate: "Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way".

And how...?

Each of us has rights and privileges associated with being a Mason. Each of us also has obligations and accountabilities. Finding the way to make things happen begins with finding those who will lead us. In our Lodges, our Districts and Grand Lodge, we must select from among us those who believe in the Vision, those who have a burning desire to contribute and those who have the skills and talents to make it happen.

But the catch is, once elected or appointed to a position of leadership, these Brethren must assume the mantle that goes along with the title and the apron. Being a Master, being a DDGM, being a Member of the Board, all carry with it expectations, accountabilities and responsibilities – none of which are to be taken lightly. Does it take time – yes; does it take commitment – yes; do we have the Brethren with the potential among us – yes we do!

It is an honour and a privilege to be given the

opportunity to serve our Brethren and I think that the only thing preventing some from accepting the challenge is the fear of lack of support. Those who are privileged to have a vote in selecting their Masonic leaders also have an accountability to provide that support, encouragement, and assistance whenever called upon. Consider the flock without a Shepherd to lead it, but also consider the Shepherd with no flock to lead.

Finally, no leader has himself all the skills and talents required. Leaders must surround themselves with those who believe in the Vision, agree on the path towards the Vision, and who can subrogate the view of the individual for the betterment of the whole.

Our Mission statement includes the following: "**to provide effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community**". This includes all facets of our craft – Lodges, Districts and Grand Lodge.

Brethren, look to the future; know that each and every one of you has a role to play in getting there; be thankful for the opportunity to be a part of it; make it happen!

Thanks...

As my term as your Grand Master draws to a close, I wish to express my whole hearted thanks to the Brethren of this jurisdiction for providing me with this incredible opportunity. To serve in the capacity of your Grand Master has been at times intimidating, stressful, humbling, gratifying, joyous, sad, hard work, rewarding and yet, most of all an honour and a privilege.

I feel that we have made progress in building on the foundations laid by my predecessors. We have planted some seeds and initiated some projects, which will only bear fruit in years to come. There is much still to do; we have a plan to lead us forward; we have the resources to make it happen. I leave this office with the fervent hope that we follow our plan and that we will continue to extend our reaches down the path which we travel, to return this wonderful fraternity to greatness once again. We look to the journey, not the destination, to provide joy and happiness to all our Brethren today and to the Brethren of tomorrow.

The respect shown to the Office of Grand Master in this jurisdiction is truly amazing. I thank you again for the opportunity to serve.

I Believe in Freemasonry!

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

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

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

Your final report and recommendations to Grand Lodge should have been completed and submitted to the Grand Secretary. The Grand Secretary is obligated to notify the Board of the name and district of any D.D.G.M. who fails to comply with this direction. Your evaluation should be an 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, 2013, to avoid negating the three principal officers the right to vote at Grand Lodge. Section 97 of the Book of Constitution states that "Should any lodge refuse or neglect to make the required returns and payments, he (the D.D.G.M.) shall immediately report in writing to the Grand Master."

As your year is nearly completed, remember you must mail to each lodge in your district an audited financial statement of the receipts and expenses pertaining to the duties of your office. Such mailing shall be made on or before September 1, 2013.

Candidates' Bios: Members of the Leadership Development Committee under the chairmanship of R.W. Bro. Roland Morrow asked candidates nominated for a Grand Lodge Office, to submit a brief personal biography. This request is open to all candidates seeking election to the office of Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior and Junior Warden, Grand Registrar and Members of the Board. This initiative is strictly voluntary and it was not mandatory for candidates to submit a personal bio. On June 9, 2013, these bios will be posted on the Grand Lodge Website – Membership Section. I encourage the membership to take the time to review the candidates' bios.

Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes Meeting: The D.D.G.M. is a Member of the Board of General Purposes, the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge. He is expected to attend the next Board Meeting, which will be held in the Ballroom, Convention Floor, Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Monday July 15th (9:00 a.m.), and Tuesday July 16th, (10:00 a.m.). It is true: the Grand Secretary conducts a

verbal "Roll-Call" each Members of the Board!

Further, you are also expected to attend the *MasoniChip* Annual Meeting on Monday, July 15th at 1:00 p.m., the *Masonic Foundation* Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 16th at 8:30 a.m., and the *Masonic Holdings* Annual Meeting at 9:15 a.m. These meetings will also take place in the Ballroom, Convention Floor.

Your Service to Grand Lodge: 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 all your contributions, service and time you have given to improve Freemasonry, in your lodge, your district and communities. If there is no retirement age in Freemasonry then Masonry doesn't stop when you become a Past Master, or a Past D.D.G.M., or a Past Committee Chairman. Our Grand Master, M.W. Bro. D. Garry Dowling said in his first D.D.G.M. Communiqué (September, 2011): "As we offer ourselves in the service of Freemasonry, never forget that Freemasonry is dedicated to ensuring that as we pursue our lives' journey, we afford the best example for the conduct of others." Your continued service and support to your lodge, the district and especially to those who will follow in your footsteps, who will look forward to the knowledge and skills that you have gained this year, are of utmost importance. If you believe in Freemasonry, then share the experience and continue to make a daily advancement in Freemasonry.

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 Team Leaders. To all the Masons who served on various Grand Lodge committees, thank you. Your work was very much appreciated.

Donald A. Campbell
Deputy Grand Master

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

Special Attention - District room voting at the Annual Communication

Thoroughly familiarize yourself with Sections 65 (a) and 66, Constitution of Grand Lodge. The former specifies that only those eligible and present are to be counted, Proxies are only ONE vote when voting for D.D.G.M. Regardless of ballot colour, the ballot itself specifically states "1 Vote". Section 66 instructs that all ballot papers shall be deposited with the Chairman of scrutineers for three month retention by The Grand Secretary prior to destruction. There are no exceptions.

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