

From the Grand Master

We all share membership in an organization well respected for its commitment to learning. I encourage each of you to contribute in some manner in its operations. Your active participation can make a significant impact on the well-being of our fraternal organization and, at the same time, broaden our commitment to the communities in which we live in.

Masonic leaders around the world agree that the greatest challenge facing the Craft today is not declining enrolment, but rather the lack of understanding of what it means to be a Freemason in the 21st Century. We don't need members; we need to revitalize our current membership. Freemasonry provides the opportunity for ordinary men, who hold a shared set of morals and values to do extraordinary things. And each of us has been honored with this very special opportunity.

Leaders are also ordinary people, with all the struggles, all the strengths, and all the weaknesses of people like us. "It's not what you are that's important, the issue is what you are willing to become" (*John MacArthur Jr. President Master's Seminary*).

In any organization, including Masons, they need leadership. Someone to direct the administration that makes the organization a living, vital team and, particularly, to ensure that there is some growth, and that standards of enthusiasm, action and competence are maintained at a high level.

I have asked our DDGMs and Worshipful Masters to follow these three simple objectives: (1) It is everyone's duty to create a welcoming, friendly and supportive environment and a positive atmosphere for learning; (2) Utilize the skills of your membership, and; (3) Give them the opportunity to lead.

Your Grand Lodge is seeking qualified, motivated and active Past Masters who have the skills necessary to become a leader at the Grand Lodge level. Are you that person? If so, the right time to plan to be part to Grand Lodge is now.

Elections to the Board of General Purposes: The Board of General Purposes is the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge (Section 134). The following are members of the Board: The Grand Master, Past Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Chaplain, Grand Registrar, Grand Director of Ceremonies, 14 Past Masters elected to the Board (7 each year – 2 year term), 14 Past Masters are appointed by the Grand Master (7 each year – 2 year term) and 7 Past Masters are appointed by the Grand Master as Honourary Members appointed by the Grand Master as Honourary Members and they serve a 3 year term.

Nominations for a Grand Lodge Officer: As we prepare for our Annual Communications of Grand Lodge on the third Wednesday of July and the Thursday following (July 16, 17, 2014), many of our Past Masters are considering being a candidate for the office of the Board of General Purposes, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden and Grand Registrar. If that is your intention, then your nomination/application **must be received** by the Grand Secretary on or before **Tuesday April 1, 2014** (Sections 36 to 41).

No brother shall be eligible for an office in Grand Lodge unless he has attained the rank of Past Master. Candidates, other than GM, DGM and DDGMs, are nominated, in writing, on a prescribed form by any member of Grand Lodge (Past or Present Grand Lodge Officer, the Masters, Past Masters and Wardens). The Nomination Form, which will have an attached passport-size photo of the candidate, (colour preferred), must be signed by the nominator and the candidate.

Grand Wardens: - The office of Grand Warden is an elective Grand Lodge Office for a term of one year. Aspirants may be nominated by any member of Grand Lodge and submit that nomination to the Grand Secretary. The candidate receiving the majority of votes will be declared elected by the Grand Master. The Grand Wardens, whenever directed, shall attend the Grand Master and act as his Wardens.

Further, the Grand Wardens have an important role in the Ceremony of Constituting and Consecrating a Lodge, dedicating or re-dedicating a Corner Stone, Ceremonies of Amalgamation and Extinguishing the Lodges of a Lodge. More importantly, the Grand Wardens are expected to know their Work, such as, Opening and Closing in all Three Degrees, calling off Lodge, open and close a Board of Installed Masters and Grand Lodge, and the Ritual Work of a Warden. I can assure you, when you attend a Lodge and sit in the chair, the Lodge Wardens will be watching you. Therefore, you will need to know the Mechanics of the Work and be proficient in our Ritual.

Grand Registrar: The nomination and the election process of the Grand Registrar is, basically, the same as the Grand Wardens, with this additional qualification. The applicant must comply with Section 50(b) and be in possession of a certificate of completion of the Past Masters Course offered by the College of Freemasonry. The theory being, relates to the duties of the Grand Registrar found in section 114: "The Grand Registrar may, at the pleasure and direction of the Grand Master, take charge of any district for which there is not a District Deputy Grand Master. Therefore the Grand Registrar must be familiar with the duties and responsibilities of a District Deputy Grand Master.

The Grand Registrar will also visit and report on the activities of the Heritage Lodge.

Not every Past Master can be elected or appointed to the Board. But I can say with experience, the names listed on the ***Grand Lodge Nomination List***, is an excellent resource for our Committee Chairmen to select

committee members to sit on their respective committees. We know these brethren want to serve Grand Lodge.

Past Masters, if you have the energy, time and qualities, consider being part of our Grand Lodge team. Remember, your nomination form must be received by April 1, 2014.

Donald A. Campbell

From the Deputy

Well my friends winter is still upon us and we will all be so pleased when spring arrives bring plants to life and the memories of a long and severe winter will be behind as we look forward to warmer times.

We as masons should look forward to the future of our craft with optimism. It is the memberships opportunity to prepare Freemasonry for the changing times and future challenges that lie ahead in this technological world. As the use of postal service and telephone service diminishes we have to be ever mindful that the written and spoken word moves across the world almost instantly. There is no time to withdraw or recant any message we might be circulating. So I say just be very selective when you are sending your thoughts or intentions that might be interpreted improperly. You know this too is a form of education that must be diligent when communicating to those around us.

Brethren when we speak of the Condition of Masonry there is often reference to continuation, retention and maintaining the interest of the newer members. Continuation - one third of our Entered Apprentices not progressing to the second degree. Retention - the newer members lose enthusiasm and does not attend lodge very often. There are a number of reasons to ponder...have we included the EA in our discussions and conversations in the banquet room to make him feel welcome and included? Have recognized a bright and enthusiastic new member only to rush him through his three degrees and practically push him into the chair line? Some younger men have other issues in their life such as family, mortgage, demanding jobs and other activities they might be already involved in and to which they very dedicated. Some are prepared to go forth right away, while others need to be comfortable with their situation in life before making the commitment required to fulfill the duties of a lodge officer. The lodge must seek out the desires and comfort zone of newer members and discuss what their level of involvement will be. We are not all built the same.

We often treat everyone the in a manner that meets the excitement of some while imposing and pressuring others. Although that is not our intent I believe it is our reality. I also want to emphasize how important it is to welcome our brethren whether it is in the banquet room, or at our social activities that may include his wife and family. Engage in a discussion with a brother to find his level of involvement. Many a brother who joined our fraternity did not take office for a number of years after joining. As his circumstances changed, so did his involvement in Masonry.

Brethren we often refer to specific lodge members such as the SPONSOR, the MENTOR and of course the MASTER, accommodating the wants and needs of all members not only the newer members. Then when their activity diminishes we can point that accusing finger and confidently say "it's not my job". Well brethren let me tell you, in no uncertain terms, the comfort and accommodation of the entire lodge membership IS the responsibility of everyone. We may think we are fulfilling our duties in the lodge but there are some issues that we should always be aware of such as making everyone comfortable in lodge, in the banquet room, as well as on the street when you can greet a brother.

Brethren I have often said that two hours at a lodge meeting is better than four hours sleep as long as we control that atmosphere. We must always remember long meetings are often a deterrent to future attendance. If we can properly plan our meetings, try not to squeeze too much into an agenda you will find interest and attendance will improve. WE HAVE MENTORS AND SPONSORS WHO HOLD A TITLE IN LODGE. BUT WE COLLECTIVELY, AS MEMBERS, ARE THE MASONS WHO CAN SATISFY THE WANTS AND NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP THAT WILL ALLOW FREEMASONRY TO PROSPER AND GROW. KEEP YOUR CHIN UP BROTHERS I AM CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT SPRING is just around the corner.

John C. Green

From the Grand Secretary

We have a new name with a different font, for your reading enjoyment.

Note: Daylight Saving Time: Sunday March 9, 2014 – so SPRING AHEAD time wise and Masonic wise.

Terence Shand