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### *From the Grand Master*

Congratulations to all our newly elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers. September will certainly be a busy month with all the regalia presentations and receptions. I would like to remind all our new Grand Lodge Officers, you now wear the regalia representing your office and that of a Grand Lodge Officer. Some may hold the opinion that rank marks the summit of attainment in a Masonic career. Don't have the mistaken idea the task of working for the Craft is finished by the attainment of Grand Lodge 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 badge which you have been invested with is meant to remind you it is our particular duty to continue to afford assistance and instructions to the membership.

**Social Media:** In today's social media networking, we need to use all available mediums, including the Grand Lodge Web Site. If our membership wants to communicate with Grand Lodge by e-mail, or by the use of the website, twitter, telephone or even 'snail mail', it will be their choice. But, we must remember that social media is a great tool to get us to a meeting, but social media is not a place to hold a meeting. We need that face to face contact. We must make our resources available to all our members and improve our customer service delivery. We have the material to educate members about Freemasonry, but we have to improve disseminating it.

**New Technology:** *"As you cherish the things most worthwhile in your family life, cherish the things most worthwhile in your company (Wm. B. Given, Jr.)"*. When Y2K arrived (Year 2000), many were ready to party while others predicted catastrophe at the end of the year from a small assumption made long ago when computers were first being programmed. The problem existed because most dates in computers were programmed to automatically assume the date began with "19". But when the date was to turn from December 31, 1999 to January 1, 2000, it was prophesied that computers would be so confused that they would shut down completely. Others worried specifically about banks, traffic lights, the power grid and airports, all of which were run by computers. Some doomsayers warned that the Y2K bug was going to end civilization as we know it. However, when the date changed to January 2000, very little actually happened. Y2K seemed like yesterday but that was 14 years ago. Now if this doesn't date you – consider this - the children born in Y2K have started high school this month!

*The message of the Freemasonry is eternal and never needs changing! Yet, how we communicate Freemasonry*

*must continually change.* We're living in the midst of a technological and communications revolution, and we *must* embrace it or be left behind. It's time we wake up and realize that it's the 21st century and rethink — and revise — how we do everything. Technology and how we process information is changing everything about our society. Freemasonry needs to stay abreast of the times. Forward thinking organizations realize that they must continually reinvent themselves. Since change is inevitable, these same organizations meet the changes with a positive message and championed new technology. Freemasonry needs to overcome its fear of change or run the risk of being viewed as antiquated.

While change is inevitable, the truth stands! The way we communicate might change, but our vision won't. We're doing what our forefathers did: *Communicating the Rites and Ceremonies of Grand Lodge*. The medium changes, but not the message. The old saying applies: ***Keep the main thing the main thing.*** Businesses and other organizations have taken technological opportunities and seized them. Technology gave them a wonderful opportunity to connect with their customers which I suggest, improved customer service satisfaction.

I believe every district and your Grand Lodge should have an app that allows members to easily connect with their brethren. Further, every district and your Grand Lodge should have an online payment platform, as our society has moved away from cash and cheques.

I believe we have no choice but to become a Digital Grand Lodge or we will be left behind. Today's Mason must use the digital road that lies in front of them. The world is digital, so we must become a ***Digital Mason.*** At our last Communication, M.W. Bro. Robert Conley asked: *"Would you belong to any organization, group, committee, fraternity that looks behind instead of ahead? Would you follow someone that says, "Look at how great we used to be"? I know I wouldn't.*

I think much of the discomfort of Masons with technology, and possible ill effects can be ascribed to the social and cultural turmoil that accompanies a paradigm shift of this scope, a revolution. Are we wholly ill equipped to manage information with new technology with old constructs? Has this led to confusion, inefficiencies and many stressed out secretaries? Are we on a collision between new technology and those who still in the analog world, causing a paradigm clash?

Technology is here and it is continuing to play a bigger part in our lives. You can't ignore it. You must embrace it, especially if it enhances the customer experience. If we don't, this generation will not be part of Freemasonry.

Donald A. Campbell

## *From the Deputy Grand Master*

Greetings brethren, I hope your time this summer was well spent and enjoyable spending some relaxing hours with family and friends. Having time to just let your mind get recharged for a few days is always a good endeavor and provides the opportunity to reflect on the past and look forward to the future with confidence and enthusiasm whether it be your daily walk of life or any other situations that require your attention and support.

Well brethren we are about to embark upon another masonic year, Grand Lodge was very exciting from my prospective and I hope those who attended had a memorable experience that will benefit your masonic journey and perhaps some information that will assist your lodge in the days before us.

As you probably know I announced at Grand Lodge that an adhoc committee reviewed the Past Master's Course. As a result of that review the requirements for eligibility to become District Deputy Grand Master now requires you to complete Modules 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 18. This process now becomes very straight forward from my outlook. If you think you are interested in allowing your name stand for DDGM I think you should start as soon as your place in life permits. The ideal situation in my opinion is register immediately and complete one module a month for six months and your course would be completed by April without a whole amount of stress as we have experienced in the past trying to qualify two or three months before Grand Lodge. In conjunction with these new regulations I will also be presenting a Constitutional amendment that qualifies for the certificate of completion that will be required by June 15<sup>th</sup> of the year you are planning to be elected DDGM. This is not an attempt to be difficult but we find it is an unnecessary challenge for the college to react properly to a submission later than that date.

Again this year we will be supplying the District Deputy Grand Masters with some Talking Points about a number of the Grand Lodge Committees that describes the duty and activity of specific committees in order that may forward that information to the lodges and members at their Official Visits. By doing this we hope that over time the general membership will become more aware of Grand Lodge and its efforts.

There was also an announcement at the Communication that Grand Lodge is going out on the road again with Seminars and Workshops. R.W. Bro. Barry Burchill and myself are hopefully planning to present three or four seminars of about two hours in duration in one location which will be centrally located conducive to 4 to 6 districts to attend. This provides an opportunity for masons to receive information and education personally other than attending Grand Lodge. It is also my hope that such an initiative will indicate that Grand Lodge is willing to travel our Grand Jurisdiction and offer some valued information that will assist lodges and masons throughout the province. Brethren my future messages will be concentrated on Grand Lodge Programs. We have approximately 223 diligent masons who giving a lot of time and effort into promoting and improving or Grand Lodge Programs. Their efforts are only valuable if they are used by our lodges. In many situations districts and lodges develop their own versions that they deem is more applicable to their specific situation as may altered because of geography, travel distance and circumstances that are a greater challenge for some lodges depending on lifestyles and work habits of certain communities.

I also want to remind everyone that there will be correspondence coming forward to every lodge asking for consideration of members and lodges to assist with contributions to the Grand Masters Project [PROSTATE CANCER RESEARCH] . It is our hope to raise ONE MILLION DOLLARS that is directed to three researchers in London Hamilton and Kingston. This endeavour is a project that has many exciting discoveries that will, hopefully combat another challenge that many of our families are confronted with far too often. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Finally I want remind everyone that continued education in our Masonic fraternity will improve understanding and explanation of this Masonic order. We have all come to enjoy and just simply tell you we have progressed as individuals and as masons. No matter what we think I assure that FREEMASONRY is one common commodity that makes us better and makes our world a better place.

John C. Green