

THE COMMUNIQUE

Published By

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

2014-2015 Issue 7

April 2015

From the Grand Master

As Masons in Ontario, each of us share membership well respected for its commitment to excellence. I encourage each of you to contribute in some manner to the operations in your District. Your active participation can make a significant impact on the well-being and at the same time broaden your own Masonic horizons.

I've read with interest an article in the Niagara District Newsletter, dated March 2015, the DDGM had an interesting point and a challenge to the membership. He states the average attendance of members on Lodge night is between 20 to 25%. This means there are 75 – 80% of members not attending. He challenged the Masters and Wardens to try to get the number to 30% attendance. I support this and I think that is a realistic goal and something we can all strive to accomplish in each of our lodges.

The quality of our membership must always remain foremost, in our hearts and minds, when we consider proposals for change. We must not lose the true perspective of the function of a Masonic Lodge. Its function primarily, is not to initiate candidates or merely to enlarge its membership. Its chief concern is - or should be – education, learning, being happy within ourselves and more importantly, communicating that happiness to others. That is what Masons do.

Thirty years ago, when M.W. Bro. Ronald Groshaw was our Grand Master, we had a membership of 106,000, in 650 lodges in 47 Districts. There were 16 Grand Lodge Committees comprising of 83 members. Today, we have a membership of approximately 40,000 Masons in 548 Lodges in 43 Districts. We have 41 Grand Lodge Committees and Sub-Committees with more than 260 committee members. The math is simple. Something is not working. It wasn't too long ago, the Board of General Purposes consisted of 10 elected Board Members and 10 Appointed Board Members, five elected and appointed each year, serving a two year term. They didn't have Honorary Members. Are we top heavy? Do we have too many Lodges? Do we have too many Districts? Do we have too many Committees and or Sub-Committees? These are serious questions that need to be addressed.

When Districts are considering to expand or amalgamate with another District, the following

guidelines are used to select lodges into various Districts: (1) Ignore municipal, parliamentary and geographical boundaries; (2) Group the lodges so as to bring those in each District within easy distance of each other; (3) Arrange the lodges with due regard to general travelling and traffic flow; (4) Equalize the districts where same is possible; (5) Create new districts (or reduce districts) if it shall be found to be in the interest of the craft in general to do so; and (6) The number of lodges to each district so to enable the DDGM to give increased attention to each lodge, thus producing better results.

Something New? On or about April 15, 2015, the Grand Secretary will mail out the Nomination List for 2015. As usual, the photos and Masonic biographical accomplishments for all nominations will be listed (Grand Wardens, Registrar and Board of General Purposes). This year, we will not only be publishing the candidates' names for the office of Deputy Grand Master, we will be publishing their photos and Masonic biographical accomplishments in Craft Masonry.

Something Still Disturbing! Think! Before you press 'Send'! I should also like to mention here, **once again**, that the internet is **not** the place to discuss personal disputes and or inappropriate messages. We all pledged to support our brethren's good names in their absence as we would do in their presence. As probably best said by Benjamin Franklin, "Remember to not only say the right thing in the right place but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment." **Some thoughts are better when not shared.** Once your email is sent, anything can happen, and sometimes, this "anything" is not necessarily good for Masonry. The main lesson that one should learn from this, every time you send an email you are putting your personal reputation into play and the repetition of all Masons. Forwarding an inappropriate message is just as concerning as the original author who sent it and those involved should rethink themselves or just leave Masonry, because in my eyes, you are not a good Mason. We belong to a "Gentlemen's Fraternal Organization known as Freemasonry".

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren, spring is upon us but there are still some remains of winter in many areas of the Province. However, there are better days to come. As we embark on renewal and growth of outdoor life it is also a good time for lodges to think about some new life that could carry Freemasonry into the future. I am speaking about our respective lodges considering an OPEN HOUSE or a FRIEND TO FRIEND event. I believe we have a lot to offer in Masonry and taking the opportunity to showcase and explain Freemasonry to the public is a twofold benefit. First, of course, is the possible interest we may arouse in visitors to consider applying for membership. It is a known fact a number of years ago, when I was Team Leader of the Mentor Program, that every lodge who held a FRIEND TO FRIEND event received applications to join our fraternity. The other benefit is an Open House will advance our public image when we display our lodge rooms and explain Freemasonry to members of the general public. All too often some improper interpretation of Masonry tarnishes our real identity. There can never be enough public relations to enhance our place in society as a forthright organization that is generous and kind to those less fortunate and specifies a philosophy of life that is rewarding and provides satisfaction with life's pursuits.

Brethren, Freemasonry has been a significant part of our lives, impacting the way we map out life's path as husbands, fathers and friends, with meaningful contributions to make our communities a better place to live. We should feel obligated to share with other people those Masonic philosophies which help guide their lives to become fulfilling and satisfying.

There will be a Masonic Education Workshop in the Barrie Masonic Center this spring. I encourage Masons from that geographical area to consider attending. Of course, everyone is welcome and I assure you, the Committee will present an interesting program that will be thought provoking, allowing you the

opportunity to be enlightened on a variety of Masonic virtues.

Once again, I remind you of the workshops being held in Campbellford on Saturday, May 9th. This, too, will be an exciting day to inform Brethren of three Grand Lodge Programs that will enhance your Masonic knowledge and benefiting your Lodge and your District.

Brethren, we are embarking on that exciting time of the year. Within a few days, we will know what brethren have let their names stand for election to a Grand Lodge office. We must congratulate these Masons for stepping forward to further serve our Grand Lodge. It is our responsibility to be respectful to all those who have the put their names on the ballot to expound their Masonic experience, as well as assist our craft in moving forward to the next step of progress in these ever changing times.

I will also remind you, once again, of the major project of our Grand Master and the Masonic Foundation to raise financial support to fight Prostate Cancer Research. It is our goal to provide funds to assist these important efforts for ten years. Our project name will be PROSTATE HOPE and I assure you that our Masonic Foundation Chairman R.W. Bro. Al Dvorak and the Foundation Directors are dedicating significant time and effort to see this project reach its target. What is needed from us Masons is our promotion and contributions to ensure success. This will be another benevolent act that will make Masons proud of our fraternity and the contributions we make to society today.

I previously announced that spring was on its way but after experiencing snow yesterday I will not make any further comment as I have finally realized you can predict many situations in life but the weather isn't one of them.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master

From the Grand Secretary

FAIRMOUNT ROYAL YORK HOTEL ACCOMMODATION for the Annual Communication

Due to the advanced booking notices, since October 2014, the Contractual Room Rate of \$213.00 has been completely filled.

A limited number of Luxury Rooms, at the Rate of \$273, were allocated and, if still available, should be booked forthwith.

Confirmation from the FRYH hotel should be obtained and presented on arrival.

Reservations can be made at:

Fairmont Royal York Hotel — 100 Front St. West, Toronto

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/glafam2015>