

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

There is an old expression, "Seeing is believing." That is, you tend to see what you believe you're going to see. You bring to a situation what you expect you're going to experience.

If we go to a Lodge meeting believing we are not going to have a good time, we will look for and find plenty of reasons to support our belief. We will notice some people standing in a bad mood. We will actually subconsciously seek to prove, through our experience of the lodge meeting, that we were right about not having a good time. Our mind likes to be right. Unless we somehow shift our state of mind, we can count on not having a good time. What we focus on, based on the decision we made even before the lodge meeting begins, is what we will experience.

On the other hand, if we go to a lodge meeting with the expectation that we are going to have a good time, we will look for and notice plenty of situations that support that belief. We will see brethren laughing and communicating, or brethren who are happy within themselves and enjoying themselves. Our experience of the lodge is dependent upon the expectations we have about it. And, yes, both these scenarios are at the same Lodge meeting.

Leaders know who they are and where they're going. In an organization, it's often difficult for people to differentiate position power from true leadership. Although being installed, as the leader of a Fraternal Organization doesn't constitute the leadership, many think it does. This is the point when the old saying "Actions speak louder than words" is appropriate. Simply put, leadership is action, not position, rank, title, age, experience or any other limiting device.

Leaders are 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)

We all have been fortunate, to work with some of the greatest and proven leaders in our organization. They have been a source of inspiration. They were self-confident with the ability to identify sound ideas. Their loyalty has inspired others and instilled enthusiasm.

Society, including Masons, 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.

As leaders, it's important for us to ascertain our new members' expectations. He may think that joining a

fraternal organization is like getting a university degree: You attend. You learn. You graduate and then - you are done. He may not realize he's expected to stay for life. And that is our responsibility, to ensure his journey will be meaningful and rewarding. I must remind you, however, bringing new members into the Fraternity is often easier than keeping them.

What can we do? I suggest our positive attitude is a natural motivator. Some may say you can't be a positive person all of the time. Well, each morning you have two choices. You can choose to be a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood.

If someone is having a bad day, be there to look on the positive side of the situation. Each time something bad happens, you can choose to be a victim or choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to you complaining, you can choose to accept their complaining or you can point out and choose the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life. Life is all about choices.

When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. We choose how we react to situations. We can choose how people affect our mood. We can choose to have a positive attitude, or we can choose to be negative. Positive attitude is a "Natural Motivator". The bottom line: It's our choice how we live our life and our actions will affect others. And those actions will have an impact on the man who wants to belong to our fraternal organization.

Let others see our participation. Let our community know we are proud. Let us continue to build our organization. We are the ambassadors. If a man sees a winning team, he will want to belong to that team. Now is the time to make Freemasonry contagious so we can expect men to come knocking at our doors to experience it and join a winning team.

In Freemasonry, at the Installation of the Worshipful Master, we tell him to "practice outside the Lodge those excellent precepts which are ever inculcated within it." Our goal is to pass on those excellent precepts to the brethren of our future.

I guess it comes down to these facts. If everyone lived a life as to our teaching, with a good dose of common sense, the world today would be a better place to live. Our job is to pass on that knowledge, enthusiasm and a positive attitude to others, so we can make our life style contagious.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren, I would like to say that spring will be here in a couple of weeks but that would agree with a creature who predicted an early spring and I don't wish to be on the same line of thinking as a groundhog. So, I'll stick with saying spring is coming, I just don't know when.

The next number of months will be full of Official visits, Grand Master Receptions and many other Masonic events of interest. Our Grand Master will be very busy with activities that require his presence and participation.

The Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and I recently attended the Conference of Grand Masters of North America and the Conference of Grand Secretaries which took place in Vancouver. Our Grand Master was the Vice-chairman of the Conference so I represented the Grand Master as the voting delegate from Ontario. This gave me an opportunity to meet with Grand Masters as well as Deputy Grand Masters from several jurisdictions across North America. It was very interesting to meet our peers who have exciting activities occurring in their areas and to discuss the common interest of moving Freemasonry forward. Most jurisdictions have the similar challenges we have in Ontario but vary in how situations are evaluated and approached in order to achieve maximum success. It should also be noted the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario is one of the largest Grand Lodges in North America and is held in high esteem by many other jurisdictions.

Last week the Board of General Purposes held a three day retreat to assess the various opportunities that will be coming our way in the future years of Grand Lodge. I must say the participation and open discussions that occurred were honest and fruitful. It is our desire that many of the suggestions will assist us well into the future of our Grand Lodge and will be presented at our Grand Lodge Communication in July. The sincere manner of the Board members in attendance was inspiring and built pride for Freemasonry but more so for our Grand Lodge in particular.

Brethren, as many of us have reported, very successful workshops were held in St. Thomas, last fall, under the guidance of the Workshops and Seminars Committee. As announced, we are now embarking again on a similar event, this time in Eastern Ontario, in beautiful downtown Campbellford on Saturday, May 9th. There will be three concurrent seminars that should be of interest

to many Masons. We encourage those Districts, within a short driving distance, to consider representation. These activities are only successful when we attend and absorb the information that is of benefit to the future wellbeing of our respective Lodges.

The WORKSHOPS in CAMPBELLFORD will be as follows:

CORNERSTONE PROJECT	R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland
LONG RANGE PLANNING	R.W. Bro. Bill Bowick
MENTORSHIP	R.W. Bro. Leonard Feldt

The time is fast approaching to our Grand Lodge Annual Communication in July. Please remember there will be considerable activity in Toronto with the Pan Am games occurring at the same time. The Grand Secretary sent out an early notice advising you to book your rooms at the FAIRMONT ROYAL YORK HOTEL as soon as possible. I remind you, there will not be rooms available in other hotels at a reasonable price. If you haven't booked your room(s) by now I urge do so as soon as possible. We want as many Masons to attend as possible to experience the numerous aspects of FREEMASONRY at our GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

Progressing onward together will ensure our fraternity will be an enjoyable and lifelong way of living, enhancing not only your own life but enabling you to provide comfort and support to those around you.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master