

THE COMMUNIQUE

Published By

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

2014-2015 Issue 10

June 2015

From the Grand Master

I have been asked what I have learned being the Grand Master over the past 2 years. Here are some of my thoughts, not only what I have learned, with some recommendations.

Lesson No. 1 – Membership: Firstly, the quality of our membership must always remain foremost, in our hearts and minds. 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. And that is what Masons do. We don't need to develop our members to be benevolent men, or to cultivate their social and moral virtues! Because we had those values before we became a Mason. Men should not be allowed to cross the west gate until you are certain he possess those values. In other words, know the candidate as a 'friend' before he becomes a mason. Freemasonry success is measured by the quality of its membership and by the contribution we make to civilization and society.

Lesson No. 2 – Technology: I believe we have no choice but to become a Digital Grand Lodge or we will be left behind. The world is digital, so we must become a Digital Mason. Like it or not, 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 satisfaction experience. If we don't, this generation will not be part of Freemasonry. Remember this generation has a skill sets far beyond imagination. We need to ensure we utilize their skills, give them the opportunity to lead and to help develop them into our future leaders.

Lesson No. 3 – Emails: 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 person and therefore not a good Mason. Simply put, Masonry it is not for you and do us all a favour and take your demit! You are not welcome! We belong to a "Gentlemen's" Fraternal Organization known as Freemasonry.

Lesson No. 4 - Leadership: We all have been fortunate, to work with some of the greatest and proven leaders in our organizations. 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. Grand Masters value trust. As a Grand Master you must be passionate about excelling this organization forward and be dedicated through continual learning. The real foundation for leadership development is found in the daily activities of management. These activities consist of assessing what our members need in order to develop. Give them the opportunity to lead while at the same time getting the work done. Provide positive feedback that will give them the value of your input while also showing them you appreciate their best efforts.

Lesson No. 5: Succession Planning: The election of the DDGM has always been a topic in Districts and Lodges. Throughout our jurisdiction, it is almost even as to the number of districts that hold an election for their DDGM, and which district has a yearly rotation system in place. Both systems work well and normally address the needs in that District. I would suggest, especially those who are on a rotation system, one would think, and expect, that the District has a long term plan in place and they know who will be the next "qualified" candidate for the office of DDGM over the next 4 to 6 years. Some Districts on a rotation system select their DDGM for three years, and on the fourth year, hold an election, then returning to the normal rotation system for the next three years. Something to consider and I support (3:1 ratio).

Lesson No. 6 - Let's Set the Example by Not Being the Example: Civil dialogue is the cornerstone that allows us to see things from a more enlightened perspective. This is not about avoiding difficult and complex topics. It is not about just "being nice" and keeping the dialogue on a superficial level. It does not silence those who wish to be heard. Instead, civil dialogue allows all voices to be valued, including those that may be of a perceived minority view. We are taught to be good citizens and to welcome the opinions of others. We have learned how to be civil and respectful. So if society hungers for a return to civility, and if we have the common language, tools, values and desire to create a better world, isn't it **our duty** to do all that we can to breed civility back into society?

Lesson No. 7 - You know when to say Thank You: I have been given the greatest opportunity in a life time being elected and installed as your Grand Master. My only regret, I had to do this journey on my own. So before I leave, I would ask each of you to consider your life balance. I know what it's like losing someone you truly love. I believe if you're not a good father, husband, brother, son, friend or neighbour, chances are you won't be a good Mason. Remember family and work obligations come first, but work hard for your lodge.

Thank You for the memories!

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren, although Spring is now upon us and we are enjoying some seasonable weather, it was a long time arriving. We are into June and many will be busy attending Installations; planning their summer vacations and getting activities organized for the children's time at home. We are always pleased to have the family but we also realize that occupying their time is often a challenge especially as the time lingers on.

At Grand Lodge we are busy in the preparation of our Annual Communication in Toronto on July 14, 15 and 16. Grand Lodge is a great time to make new Masonic friends and renew old acquaintances. There are lots of activities included during those days - viewing various displays; attending Grand Lodge sessions, workshops and, of course, the respective district meetings. It is also time for you to have the opportunity to cast your vote on constitutional proposals and for your candidates of choice for respective Grand Lodge offices. We are blessed with much interest in holding a Grand Lodge office as indicated by the number candidates letting their name stand for election. I must also remind you that when you vote at Grand Lodge there is always a possibility of a second ballot for the position of DEPUTY GRAND MASTER. Therefore it is very important that you retain the remaining portion of your ballot until you attend your respective District meeting where a possible second vote will be taken if necessary. I look forward to see many of you at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel for this very important gathering of Brethren from all over this great province of Ontario.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who have served us as District Deputy Grand Masters and as District Secretaries during this past term. These Masons have taken a year of their life and dedicated their activities to Freemasonry to the benefit of all of us. We should pay tribute to the generosity of time and effort they have afforded the Craft.

Brethren, I also salute everyone in our Grand Jurisdiction for moving Freemasonry to another level of kindness, understanding and generosity during the past twelve months. Although you may not realize it but your membership is a vital part of progress whether being active in the promotion of various programs or being a Lodge Officer or being an advisor and confidant to all involved. We must also remind ourselves that there are a number of Brethren who for one reason or another who cannot participate as much as some. We should be particularly attentive to those who, because of age and/or illness, are unable to be as active as they wish but we must faithful to these brethren to support their needs and respect their challenges.

Brethren, this is last Communique I will be providing you as the DEPUTY GRAND MASTER. It has been a wonderful experience and opportunity for me to communicate with my Brethren throughout Ontario. During my travels, it was very nice to hear Brethren tell me that the communique had been read with interest and the contents were enjoyed. I know the Grand Master and I both appreciate your interest and commitment to our GRAND LODGE.

Brethren, Freemasonry is a great and enjoyable institution that teaches us a path in life to be generous, loving and respectful of others. As we progress together in this kind and gentle craft always remember:

BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE.

BE PROUD OF WHAT YOU DO.

BE PROUD TO BE A MASON!

Sincerely and fraternally
John C. Green