

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

Happy Halloween, Brethren. I hope your Trick or Treat evening was an enjoyable experience, putting smiles on the faces of all the children who knocked on your door. You know the parents will be enjoying a Sunday enthralled with happy but hyper kids enthused by the sugar we have provided.

Well Brethren, October was an exciting month with a number of Receptions and Anniversaries. There has also been a great number of presentations at Lodge meetings. It is always exciting to honour a member of our fraternity and recognize a Brother for long service membership. We also presented a William Mercer Wilson medal to Bro. Norm French in Ingersoll. This Brother personifies Freemasonry with his involvement in and dedication to his community as well as his Lodge.

We were quite involved with Official Visits last month. That will continue to be a major activity during the month of November or as what is being recognized as Movember in a number of Districts. Celebrating Movember is a fun activity to raise funds for a worthwhile cause. It also should be a friendly but competitive event that will stimulate lots of fellowship amongst members and Lodges, all for the cause of good.

Brethren, on a more serious matter, I am being asked, on too many occasions, about piques and quarrels that are hindering the progress and fulfillment we ought to be enjoying from the benefit of Masonry. The activity of a few can cause the benefit of Freemasonry to be less than enjoyable for those around. It also points out that you have also forgotten many of the teachings that were presented to you in various degrees as you moved from an applicant to becoming a Master Mason. I did not aspire to be Grand Master to get involved in issues of unrest amongst an adult society of men who should have the intestinal fortitude to settle situations amicably. Yes, there are certain situations that are cause for serious discussion to be resolved by a sincere effort to settle our differences as men and gentlemen. One might always consider compromise and some concession as favourable approach to most situations. Brethren, it is not my desire to get involved in such situations but be assured I will deal with issues fairly but firmly for the best interests of the Lodge and Freemasonry

Brethren, I don't want to be repetitive every time we send a Communique but I must ask each and every member to consider a contribution to this worthwhile cause. You know, Brethren, this is very simple mathematical solution. If every member gave a \$25 donation this project would be complete and we would celebrate another Masonic success. The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario has a past of projects that we, as Masons, are very proud. These challenges also demonstrate the integrity, for which we are recognized, by providing assistance to others less fortunate. We can raise the monies as individuals, Lodges or as a District. Past Grand Master M.W. Bro. Donald Campbell and myself are dedicated to see this project completed and we need is your support.

***WE MUST CONTINUE TO REMIND OURSELVES
OF THE PRINCIPLES
OF BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH***

***John C. Green
Grand Master***

From the Grand Secretary

For the Fallen

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

Poem by: Laurence Binyon



From the Deputy Grand Master

November, it seems to some of us, is a very somber month. The loss of daylight in the early evenings, trees lay bare as the result of the fall wind and rain and the end of the growing season.

It is a month when we, as Canadians, take time to remember the men and women who laid down their normal working tools and accepted the Call to Arms.

In the small towns of Ontario and some larger centers Masons will gather to reflect, remember and participate by laying a wreath in memory of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice. As such, Brothers shall be entitled to wear Masonic Regalia (Sec.143c)

Does your Lodge participate? If not, this year would be a great year to start a new tradition for your Lodge. Contact the local Legion and purchase a wreath and then perhaps ask the newest member of your Lodge and a Masonic War Veteran to lay the wreath together on behalf of your Lodge. **“Less We Forget”**

While in attendance at the Grand Lodge of Ohio, I had an opportunity to hear the reports of their Grand Lodge committees and I realized, that although they present and accept their reports in a different manner than we do at our Grand Lodge, there was a commonality in the issues; retention of members, Lodge finances and the need for a program to attract and retain quality applicants.

Your Grand Lodge has such a program under the capable leadership of R.W. Bro. Leyland Muss, Team Leader of Brother to Brother, which is part of the Lodge Resources Committee. Under this Committee, there is an introduction of a new program which is called “Five Steps to Application”. It is designed for the pre-screening of potential applicants, **prior** to the completion of an Application for Initiation. This new program of Grand Lodge is voluntary and in no way does it circumvent our Constitution. It is merely a tool to assist in evaluating and determining an applicant’s suitability for membership in your Lodge, always remembering that Freemasonry is not for everyone.

It has been our custom to receive applications based on the knowledge of two or more Brethren in our Lodge. The person may be part of our immediate family or neighbor who we have known for years. We know his reasons for applying are because of a favorable opinion preconceived of the institution.

Today we receive what could best be called “cold applicants” where no one has knowledge of the applicant. He may have learned about us by media, books, TV, Internet or word of mouth. We have

applicants who show interest in Masonry on the Grand Lodge, District or Lodge web site.

Are we sometimes reluctant to follow up on these names because of our lack of knowledge of the potential applicant? Do we miss out on a potential applicant who may have a favorable opinion of our Institution? In both cases, whether applicants are known or unknown to Brethren, if the Five Steps form is followed and the Summary Report Checklist is completed and then given to the Committee of Inquiry, we will perhaps increase the chances of having a quality candidate.

The **First Step:** the initial response to receiving a name. In the Five Steps to Application program there are suggested questions and a script to use however it is often better if you use your own words. If you determine he is serious about pursuing a life in Masonry then you suggest a meeting.

Second Step: the first meeting which is really a give and take session. You learn what brought him to ask about Freemasonry and give him information about our structure, three degrees, dress code, physical layout of a Lodge etc. If you continue to have a favorable opinion, you may suggest a second meeting to introduce him to members of the Lodge.

Third Step: this meeting is not as structured, less formal; it is a chance to meet several members of the Lodge perhaps with the same interests. You are still learning more about the candidate and continuing to answer his questions. You then suggest that he and his partner attend several social events in the upcoming Masonic year.

Fourth Step: the potential applicant is invited to attend several Lodge banquets which are held before or after the meetings and perhaps a Ladies night or other social events. By this point he knows a number of the members; he understands the structure of a banquet, introductions, titles etc. You would then meet with the Master to make a decision on whether to invite the potential Candidate to complete an application for membership.

Step Five: If satisfied that the applicant has a favorable opinion of the Institution you present him with an application, obtain the sponsor signatures, explain to him the next steps. The application is then processed as per the Constitution.

To download the Five Steps to Application Program please go to the Grand Lodge Website, Members area, click on Membership, Lodge Resources where you will find the program to download.

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master