

# THE COMMUNIQUE

Published By

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

2015-2016 Issue 4

December 2015

## ***From the Grand Master***

Brethren, as the American Thanksgiving is now history and Black Friday has passed, we turn our attention to the Holiday Season. It is when we celebrate the spiritual meaning of this time of year and see smiles on the faces of children in many parts of the world. While these celebrations are a time for family and friends let us remember there are many who also face hardships and who require the benefit of our generosity for comfort and food. We should always attempt to provide for those less fortunate than ourselves. I encourage you to consider your respective situation in life and assist those in need.

Brethren, for those who have been receiving and submitting to the Reflections newsletter over the years let me inform you that Reflections will be discontinued in its present format. Due to a small subscription level Grand Lodge found it to be too expensive to print and issue it currently, however, Reflections will be continued as an insert in the Ontario Mason Magazine. There are many worthwhile articles that should interest many members and hopefully it will gain greater exposure in this manner.

I very proudly attended the World Conference of Grand Masters on behalf of your Grand Lodge in San Francisco and I can tell you it was a proud experience for me as Grand Master. There were more than one thousand Masonic delegates and observers representing approximately 60 countries

## ***From the desk of the Grand Secretary***

**Reservation at the F.R.Y.H. Toronto for the 2016 Annual Communication of Grand Lodge** is now available at the following email address: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/glafam2016> D.D.G.M.'s and B of G P. meet Monday, July 18 (roll call 09:30) until Noon, Thursday, July 21, 2016.

***NOTE:*** Your specific name ***must*** appear on the F.R.Y.H. "Group Rooming List" provided to this office, to be eligible for the G. L. per diem allowance.

Due to 2015 Constitutional changes, a new 2016 Nomination package has been developed. It contains; guidelines, nomination form, and a nominee information form, Those seeking Grand Lodge office in 2016; as Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Registrar, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or as a member of the Board of General Purposes, can obtain the package from: [office@grandlodge.on.ca](mailto:office@grandlodge.on.ca) ***See Reminder on overleaf ...***

in attendance. Although our numbers were small, M. W. Bro. Terence Shand and I were proud delegates representing our Grand Lodge. M.W. Bro. Garry Dowling was a member of the Planning Committee and was a capable moderator of one of the sessions. R.W. Bro. David Cameron presented a most interesting paper that was humourous and thought provoking. Although I may be considered prejudice I can tell you that David made us proud as part of the delegation of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. I also want to impress upon you how important Freemasonry is looked upon, by the world in general, as a fraternity that demonstrates universal co-operation, tolerance and good will in all continents of our world. Although I have been a proud Mason for several years my enthusiasm about the role Freemasonry plays in life today did increase my attitude about the influence we, as Masons, exemplify in what is quite often a troubled world.

Brethren we are fortunate that Freemasonry has penetrated our lifestyle and we move forward knowing this, in many ways, we often don't realize our fraternity exhibits Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth well beyond our borders.

From the Green House Barb and I wish each and every one of you and your families a joyous and Happy Holiday Season. Happy New Year and all the best in 2016.

John C. Green  
Grand Master

## ***From the Deputy Grand Master***

Brethren, the month of December is truly a month of contrasts, winter officially begins and another year ends. On December 21<sup>st</sup> the sun will be over the Tropic of Capricorn marking the beginning of the winter solstice and on December 31 at 12:00 we will mark the beginning of a New Year.

It is a month of tremendous joy as families and loved ones gather for the holidays. However, for some, it can be a time of great sadness. I think of the widow or widower who, for the first time or perhaps once again, faces the loneliness of not having that special someone by their side to enjoy the holiday.

As a Mason, it is our responsibility to remember those who will be alone, with a phone call, maybe a note in a card or perhaps setting another place at the dinner table, for we must always remember the wisest of us know not when we will be placed in the same predicament.

It was another busy month with various events. A Sesquicentennial Celebration in one Lodge; Election of Officers in another; DeMolay Appreciation Night; a Management Committee Meeting and the first meeting this year of the Past Grand Masters, just to name a few. All have been a learning experience for your Deputy.

Each month the Masonically Speaking Initiative suggests to our District Deputy Grand Masters to utilize three Committees as topics for short talks, official visit speeches or general conversation to help promote the good work of those named Committees. You are responsible for the research work and of course one suggested area to explore is the Chairman or Team Leader of those committees who have been identified. To date we have had moderate success but as my teachers always told me, "there is room for improvement".

This program is only a small part of what our **Communications Committee, under the leadership of R.W.Bro. Iain Wates, with R.W. Bro. John Hay as Management Liaison**, does each month. It consists of four components:

**Internal Communication - Team Leader R.W. Bro. Jim Sercombe:** work towards acceptance of nominations for Newsletters and the review of websites. They are also responsible see that all publications are reviewed and meet the publishing standard of our Grand Lodge.

**Website Management - Team Leader Michael Locke:** currently working on an upgrade / overhaul of our website, identifying what works and what doesn't. Although a slow process, we look forward to a more user friendly site in the future.

**E-mail Distribution - Team Leader R.W. Bro Peter Sialtsis:** this is our link with the District Deputy Grand Masters, who then distribute the information through their e-mail distribution systems.

**The Resource Digest:** combines all Committees' papers and announcements into one document which is sent out monthly.

**The Events Digest:** on a continuing basis sends out approved events such as Anniversary Celebrations and Receptions.

**Ontario Mason - Team Leader W. Bro. Dan Dignard:** a popular e-mail magazine which accepts Masonic articles from all over Ontario ranging from Education – eg. Reflections to Anniversary celebrations, historical Lodge meetings etc. told in verbal and pictorial form.

As one can readily see a large but very busy committee which works diligently to improve communications in and outside our Grand Lodge jurisdiction.

As we approach the end of 2015, I want to personally thank all Chairmen, Management Liaisons, Team Leaders and Committee Members who have worked so tirelessly for you, in the interest of our Grand Lodge, during this past year.

On behalf of Gloria and myself, please take time to enjoy the upcoming holiday season and above all be safe.

R.W. Bro. Paul E. Todd  
Deputy Grand Master

---

**Reminder ... DDGM Mid-Term Meeting** is January 30, 2016. Location and Agenda to follow.

Terence Shand  
Grand Secretary

On behalf of your office staff – Gail Nickerson, Stacey Birks, Kathy White, Jen. Manzer and myself, we thank all those transacting Masonic business throughout the year for your courteous dealings. We extend to all, our best wishes for a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season

