

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Brethren, welcome to 2016! I trust everyone had an enjoyable New Year's celebration. May 2016 be filled with joy and happiness and all your resolutions become a reality, HA, HA; I stopped that many years ago. I also wish each of you, individually, the best this coming year and encourage you go forth as Masons to support your Lodge's endeavours. Membership in Freemasonry is an honour bestowed upon us as a guide to a good life of generosity, friendship, kindness and gratitude for what we have been blessed with. I also remind you of the situation of those who have been challenged with issues that has altered their lifestyle and manner of living. Please be supportive and helpful to those less fortunate than ourselves. They deserve our respect and assistance.

Brethren, Masonically, we should remind ourselves that, while laboring in the quarries, our duties toward each other is primary to the obligations we took when we first became members of this fraternity. Supporting our fellow man and specifically fellow Masons is a major influence on life's path which affects not only our families but those around us.

As we embark on a new calendar year let me, on behalf of the Deputy Grand Master and Board members, encourage you to consider the possibilities of engaging the Grand Lodge programs. Many Program Chairmen and Committee Members spend a significant amount of time working to develop and deliver this valuable information to improve your understanding of Freemasonry and to assist you and your respective Lodges with the ongoing operation of the Lodge. There are also programs that will provide guidance in the areas of education, membership and worthwhile

service to others ie. Blood Donors and Benevolence, to name just a couple. These programs will be of great assistance to the Lodges and their members when used. It has been proven in a number of situations that Lodges using Grand Lodge Programs enjoy significant success. While many Lodges are enjoying a meaningful experience in Masonry let us never forget there is always opportunity to improve. Brethren, these programs are not the end all and be all in Masonry but I know they can be of great assistance. Take some time and consider utilizing the information that Grand Lodge imparts to all of us.

Brethren, I also want remind you of Grand Master's project "PROSTATE HOPE". As you are aware our target is to raise \$1,000,000 for Prostate Cancer Research. Your consideration of donations as individuals, as a Lodge or as a District would be gratefully received and faithfully applied.

I also want thank all those who offered good wishes to my wife Barb when she had an unfortunate fall and broke her ankle. She is recovering carefully and your Grand Master has learned to be much more adept in domestic duties. Although I am far from accomplished I do have a much greater appreciation of the tasks our loved ones perform in a timely fashion, ensuring our daily lives are orderly, allowing us to go forward in life and pursue experience in our jobs, with our families and in spiritual activities. So if your day was not ideal or the Lodge meeting was not what you had hoped don't go home disgruntled or out of sorts ... GO HOME GIVE YOUR SPOUSE A HUG AND THANK HER FOR ALL SHE DOES!

John C. Green
Grand Master

From the desk of the Grand Secretary ...

Please ensure Lodge Semi-Annual Returns, due Jan 8, 2016 are submitted.

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.

REMINDER: D.D.G.M. Mid-term meet – January 30, 2016, 9am, Pickering.

Terence Shand
Grand Secretary

From the Deputy Grand Master ...

Brethren, January traditionally marks the turning of a page, the end of a Chapter and the opportunity for all us to re-commit to a daily advancement in our Masonic knowledge.

As it relates to our Craft, perhaps your resolution is to learn a new piece of ritual, or maybe this is the year you will decide to become part of the leadership of your Lodge by beginning the journey to the Master's Chair.

If you decide to follow-up your resolution by learning a piece of ritual, you may consider the part often called "the observation to the Senior Warden's comments in the first degree".

If you know that part already, perhaps a re-read at the start of the New Year would be timely, in particular the end of the paragraph which reads "it were better that one or both of you should retire than the harmony of the Lodge be disturbed"

In my opinion a Resolution for the Ages:

If you decide to pursue a leadership role in your Lodge, your District or your Grand Lodge, the College of Freemasonry needs to be part of your resolution. Under the Chairmanship of R.W. Bro. Brian Koivu and the Principal, R.W. Bro. Rick Cadotte, the College offers three courses; The Worshipful Master's Course, The Past Master's Course and the Masonic Arts and Sciences Course. The Worshipful Master Course and the Masonic Arts and Science Course are volunteer and not compulsory. The Worship Master Course will no doubt be a great assistance for your resolution to begin your journey to be Master of your Lodge and the Masonic Arts and Science course graduate is granted the use of the appellation "F.C.F".

The Past Master Course is designed for the Past Master who would just like to make a daily advancement in his Masonic Education. It is mandatory in the following three situations, as per the **Book of Constitution 2015**:

Sec.38(b): A candidate nominated for the office as member of the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of a "Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion" as offered by our Grand Lodge, College of Freemasonry on or before June 15, of the year seeking office.

Sec.38(c): A member appointed to the Board of General Purposes must be in possession of the said "Past Master's Course Certificate or Completion" to be eligible for re-appointment or election to office.

Sec.50(b): A candidate for the office as District Deputy Grand Master or Grand Registrar must be in possession

of a "Past Master's Course Certificate of Completion" as offered by our Grand Lodge, College of Freemasonry on or before June 15, of the year seek office.

The College has added to its curriculum a module on "Esoteric Studies" which may be taken as a module of interest and is not part of the established courses of study.

Whatever you decide on, keep in mind the words of a Brother regarding Resolutions:
"It isn't sufficient just to want, you've got to ask yourself what you're going to do to get the thing you want"

*Bro. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Holland Lodge No. 8, New York, NY*

The District Deputy Grand Master Orientation Committee, under the leadership of R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik, is designed to assist aspirants to the office of District Deputy Grand Master and their District Secretaries in several ways by informing them of their responsibilities to Grand Lodge, to their District and to themselves.

The Team accomplishes their work by using the current Book of the Constitution, the Book of the Work and other resource material. The use of PowerPoint and one on one verbal presentation assist but it is the answering of the many questions that proves most useful to the aspirants.

Many of the questions are different scenarios and begin with the words "what if ..." The experience Team takes their time to answer all questions and often will stop and ask the aspirant "does that answer your question?"

It is not unusual for DDGM aspirants to attend several years before their election to take advantage of the Team's knowledge.

The DDGM Orientation Team travels to 8 workshops across our vast jurisdiction from Brockville in the East, to Ridgetown in the West and North to Sturgeon Falls to deliver the information and reassurance to the aspirants to the position of District Deputy Grand Master and District Secretaries.

If you aspire to either position, take advantage of the DDGM Orientation Team presentations when they come to your area.

Brethren, can there be any doubt that these two Committees will advance your daily Masonic knowledge!

***Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master***